

20 Pine Street
Public comments 5

Dear Ms. O'Neil and Mr. Gustin,

I'm writing to urge you to support the creative redevelopment / adaptive reuse of the beautiful and iconic building at 20 Pine St in Burlington. Both the cathedral and Dan Kiley's exquisite landscape design are city treasures that ought to be cared for and valued for the gems that they are. Demolition of this former cathedral would be heartbreaking and ill advised.

I am not a Burlington resident but like many, come to the city for work and leisure. Like those who make the Queen City their home, I find the serene green space coupled with the cathedral building at 20 Pine an important landmark to be cherished and preserved.

Thank you.

Cornelia Emlen
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802-229-4919
Calais, VT

Dear Ms. O'Neil and Mr. Gustin,

The building and landscape at 20 Pine Street are significant cultural, historic, and architectural resources that should not be demolished.

As a former member of Cathedral Parish who long supported that church financially, I am appalled at the idea that such a beautiful and architecturally significant structure should be destroyed. The members of the parish were never in favor of closing, let alone demolishing, this building. It was a decision taken in stages over many years by the Diocesan and Parish clergy with little consultation with parishoners.

I believe the repurposed Cathedral and surrounding park could become an oasis in the midst of the "new" downtown that is slowly emerging in Burlington. Destroying this structure seems both wasteful and disrespectful of its history, a real loss.

Please encourage the owner of this property to give serious consideration to adaptive reuse and not destroy it.

Thank you.

Zsuzsanna Kadas
Shelburne, VT

Ms O'Neil,

I hope your New Year is off to a great start. I'm writing to urge the Development Review Board to vote No to the above referenced Subject. The property is of significant value to the community and should be preserved.

Not only is it important to the History of Landscape Architecture it stands as a monument to the previous Cathedral that was on this site.

Regards,

Robert D. Anderson, PLA, ASLA
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To Mary O'Neil

I urge the Board NOT to approve demolition of the Burlington Cathedral at tomorrow's meeting.

Its historic significance is great. Are we to continue, as a society, constantly forgetting our past and demolishing our past? Do you want that on your conscience?

The City's Design Advisory Board voted unanimously against demolition. Please take that decision seriously and confirm that the Burlington Cathedral should NOT be demolished.

Tracy Trisko
Registered Landscape Architect

Dear Ms. O'Neill,

I would like to entreat the Development Review Board to deny approval to demolish the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Burlington along with its significant treed landscape site.

You should know that I am not local to Burlington, and I did not participate in the original design or construction of the project. I am a plain old landscape architect (emeritus) currently residing in Oregon. However, I am moved to write to you because I believe so completely in adaptive re-use and in keeping our urban places vital and connected to history and to each other.

Certainly the Cathedral, together with its site design, is an important artwork worthy of preserving for future generations, but landscape architecture in particular does not grow into its own until decades after its installation. It would be a shame to sacrifice this mature landscape.

Now more than ever, we need to adapt and re-use existing buildings, particularly those so well designed for re-use, in order to avoid wasting materials for which the environment has already paid the high price of manufacture, delivery, and installation. And finally, I am excited, as a landscape architect, an artist, and an urban dweller, by the creative possibilities and creative

energy that is possible in considering new uses of existing buildings. It would be very difficult to design and construct a new building that would have the specific feeling of both the history and the possibility that re-using this building would have, and centering a new use within the mature trees would be priceless.

Thank you for your consideration,

Polly Furr
Landscape Architect
Venice Studio

Dear Ms. Oneil,

I have attached a letter in reference to my strong conviction that The City of Burlington must deny the application to demolish the cathedral and landscape at 20 Pine Street on the grounds that the building and landscape contain architecture and design of cultural significance that must be preserved as part of the heritage of Burlington and The State of Vermont. Please give serious consideration to the adaptive reuse of this landmark.

Sincerely,

Tom Volk



Tom Volk
Director Of Landscape Management
Summerhill Landscapes, Inc.

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Dear Ms O'Neil,

I have just learned that there is an upcoming vote in the Burlington Zoning Division which may result in the demolition of

Edward Larrabee Barnes' Cathedral. Please, please, please don't let this happen!! Mr. Barnes was one of my visiting critics at Yale in the 1950s. He was a wonderful mentor and a brilliant designer whose low-keyed personality and designs were refreshing and in contrast to the many "star"-chitects of his era and later. The simple barn-like shape of the Cathedral is the epitome of Barnes' architectural philosophy, and

with Kiley's simple landscaping, the combination... beautifully... says VERMONT to me.

Donald Witherill Velsey AIA

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