



We are Milton residents who strongly oppose any plan to locate a Fire Station at the site of the Milton Art Center in East Milton. While we have great respect and appreciation for our Fire Fighters and public safety, we are joined in strenuous opposition to the proposed location plans for a new station in East Milton. Our reasons for opposing this location are:

1. We strongly oppose the demolishing of the historic East Milton Library building given to the Town by Nathaniel T. Kidder, and now in use as the home of the Milton Art Center, which is a vital, thriving community arts center. The Milton Art Center has been welcomed and supported by the immediate neighborhood and plays a critical role bringing the arts to community life. Offering art classes, birthday parties, lectures, music performance and art exhibits, this non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization is run by 50+ volunteers who donate their time to keep events free and low cost for the community.
2. We strongly oppose the destruction and paving over of the green park space that is part of the Milton Art Center, used as an outdoor classroom and for regular art center gatherings, where families can gather, and children run and play on grass. It is the only small park space on this side of the Square. There are over twenty children under the age of ten, living in the immediate area that use the space to gather, run around and play safely. It is the heart of the neighborhood, and a critically important green buffer zone to the noise, dirt, and bright lighting that is increasing in East Milton Square.
3. We strongly oppose a 4000 square foot Fire Station being built in the center of a long established, quiet and beautiful residential neighborhood, where many residents have significant investment in their properties. The proposed site is located directly next to and across from homes, without any distance to buffer day and nighttime noise, and lighting. The erection of a large industrial building and pave over of the green space would dramatically alter the character of the neighborhood. The impact upon the neighborhood quality of life, serenity and residential appearance, and upon resident property values would be substantial and destructive. Notably, not a single neighborhood resident or abutter was notified about this plan until it appeared in the Milton Times.

While we understand the desire for the Town to improve the station in East Milton, this proposed location is entirely unacceptable and will have a devastating impact upon a large number of residents – through the destruction of a beloved and beautiful neighborhood, and the dismantling of the Milton Art Center, which is perfectly suited for the site and is an important civic institution. We urge the Town to immediately abandon this proposal and commit the site to the Milton Art Center.