



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360**

valerie@brookline.nh.us <http://www.brookline.nh.us>

Telephone (603) 673-8855
Fax (603) 673-8136

**Brookline
Economic Development Advisory
Committee**

Tuesday July 10, 2012 meeting
4 pm – Town Hall Meeting Room

Attended the meeting:

Dana MacAllister, Planning Board Representative
Melanie Levesque, Resident
Susan Adams, Resident
Timothy Stetson, Intern
Valerie Maurer, Town Planner

The Committee reviewed the notes from the last meeting held on June 5, 2012.

Melanie suggested having a round table inviting business owners. **Dana** said that Ron Pelletier might be willing to let us use his facility.

Review Goals for Intern

Dana presented the main goals that are part of the internship agreement:

- A comprehensive updated list of all businesses in the Town of Brookline, accomplished by direct, phone or email contact. The Intern will be encouraged to personally visit any businesses that have a storefront and conduct business with the public.
- An updated list of all properties in the commercial/industrial district, and if possible their current status (IE: occupied, vacant, for sale, etc.)
- Survey current businesses to ascertain any challenges or benefits to conducting business in Brookline.

Tim said that he already started contacting business owners and some of them are interested in participating to the Economic Development. He also discussed with them how they feel about running a business in Brookline and received some comments such as:

- Brookline is a business friendly town
- Brookline needs better attention for people to shop in town
- Sign ordinance should be looked into (too restrictive for commercial district)
- Brookline needs more promotion
- High taxes, not enough businesses to alleviate the burden

Dana said that the Planning Board is going to work on the sign ordinance, has already talked about it.

Tim said that he was going to work on the survey and will email the draft to the Committee for review prior to the next meeting.

Next steps, next meeting

The Committee discussed a former application that was withheld the day of the hearing for the development of the property across the street from Townsend Hill Road. **Dana** said that he tried to contact them but could not get a real answer as why they did not go on with the proposal.

The Committee discussed potential issues Brookline might have that could prevent larger developments on Route 13 and items to consider look into:

- The town runs exclusively on septic systems and does not have town water.
- It was noted that Hollis, for example, does not have sewers or town water but the Market Place on Elm Street has many retail shops and businesses, a retirement apartment building residence, a grocery store
- Townsend, MA, does not have sewers either. Still, there are a few large businesses there including Sterilite, Inc. and many small businesses.
- Proposing incentive, such as tax exemption (i.e. for one year), could be considered
- Businesses conduct traffic studies and the traffic might not be sufficient for some retailers/businesses

Dana said that the Committee should talk to the people who run the grocery store in Hollis.

Susan said that other small grocery stores chains could be contacted as well.

The Committee mentioned the traffic studies conducted throughout Brookline. The data are available on the NRPC website and are regularly updated. **Valerie** will also look for the traffic study that was conducted on Route 130 for the Sawtelle Rd subdivision.

The Old Home Days will be from August 16 to August 26, 2012. This leave time for the Committee to contact the persons in charge of the OHD, see if we can have a booth during the event.

The Committee discussed again having a “Business Meeting”, inviting Brookline business owners. **Valerie** will contact Ron Pelletier and see if he would be willing to host the forum on either Monday September 10 or Monday September 17, 2012 during the evening. A Monday might will not interfere as much with school and sport events as other days might.

Dana said that he will reach out to grocery stores in the area.

The Committee discussed having evening and day meetings in the future to suit everyone’s availability.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm

Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday July 31, 2012 at 6 pm - Town Hall, Meeting Room.