
T H E F I R S T A N N U A L

Grafton Business *Breakfast* 2014

Presented By





Welcome

Welcome to the first annual Grafton Business Breakfast. This event is the first of what will become an annual tradition celebrating Grafton's business community and fostering a cooperative relationship between the Town and Business Community.

Grafton is a great place to do business. We are strategically located in central Massachusetts with easy access to major state and federal highways, including the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), I-290, I-190, I-495, and state route 146. In addition, the Town hosts an MBTA commuter rail station on the Worcester to Boston line.

The Town has a strong school system and diverse neighborhoods. The Town has a rich historical and cultural history. Grafton continues to have a strong commitment to open space, education, historic preservation, and economic development.

Whether looking for sites for village-oriented commercial/retail or office use, or to site larger office/light manufacturing and/or industrial uses, Grafton provides opportunity. The Town is part of the Blackstone Valley Economic Target Area (ETA) with available local and state incentives for investment. In addition, the Town is rated a "Platinum" Bio-Ready Community, and provides expedited permitting in priority development districts.

The Town is moving forward with initiatives to encourage businesses to grow and expand and for new businesses to call Grafton "home." We look forward to working with you and engaging in a dialogue to help strengthen the Town's business environment and make our Town even stronger.

Grafton Economic Development Commission

Agenda

7:30 AM - Registration and Networking

Continental Breakfast sponsored by Grafton EDC

8:00 AM - Introductions & General Program

Tim McInerney, Town Administrator

1. Grafton is Great: Live, Work, Play & Do Business in Grafton!

Doug Willardson, Assistant Town Administrator

*Mike Scully, Vice Chairman Planning Board & Economic
Development Representative*

2. Understanding Local Permitting Process

Joseph Laydon, Town Planner

Doug Willardson, Assistant Town Administrator

3. Regional Resources – Chambers of Commerce

Jeannie Hebert, Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

4. State Resources – Mass Office of Business Development

Rosemary Scrivens, MOBD

5. Working Together – Moving Forward: Discussion of How Grafton and the Business Community can work together.

6. Open for Ideas— Feedback and Q&A

10:00 AM – Adjournment



General Facts

- Population of 6+ million within 50 miles
- Easy Access to the Mass Pike, Route 20, Route 146.
- 60 minutes to Boston by commuter rail
- A regional hub of education with 16 colleges and universities

Business Facts

- Economic Target Area with available local and state incentives for investment
- A large, well-educated and highly skilled labor force
- Affordable office and industrial space
- “Platinum” BioReady Community
- Expedited permitting in priority development areas

Business Opportunities

- Centech Park
- Grafton Science Park
- Fisherville Mill Site

Grafton’s Advantage

- Low Tax Rate - Grafton has one of the lowest tax rates compared to neighboring towns (\$15.26 per \$1,000).
 - Local Tax Incentive Programs - Grafton Can support businesses through Local Tax Incentives.
 - AA+ Bond Rated Community
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Facilitating Development

- Coordinated Development Review Processes - Meet with various departments to identify permitting processes up front.
- Expedited Permitting - Available Sites in areas Zoned for Expedited Permitting (43D)
- Sewer and Water - Water and Sewer Capacity is available for supporting business development

Resources

Town of Grafton Website

- <http://www.grafton-ma.gov>

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

- <http://http://www.blackstonevalley.org>

Massachusetts Office of Community Development

- <http://www.mass.gov/hed/economic/eohed/bd/>

Mass.gov Start a Business—Step by Step Guide

- <http://www.mass.gov/portal/business/start-business/>

MassDevelopment

- <http://www.massdevelopment.com/>

Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

- <http://www.worcesterchamber.org>

Worcester Business Development Corporation

- <http://www.thewbdc.com>

Worcester Regional Transit Authority

- <http://www.therta.com/>



About the Grafton Economic Development Commission

The Grafton Economic Development Commission exists to promote and facilitate economic development and to enrich the quality of life by advancing Grafton's commercial, retail and industrial base.

About the Speakers



Tim McInerney, Town Administrator

Serving as Town Administrator since November 2008. He is member of the International City Manager Association and is one of 27 Credentialed managers out of 351 municipalities in MA. He organized weekly Development Team Meeting for businesses and residents to meet with land use officials on any development matter.



Doug Willardson, Assistant Town Administrator

Doug Willardson has been serving as the ATA since January, 2014. Prior to that he was the Budget Director for the City of Somerville where he worked on the team to help bring about the transformation of Assembly Square: a mixed-use, smart growth development that includes premium retail outlets, restaurants, residential space, state-of-the-art office and R&D space, a 12-screen cinema and a 200-room hotel.



Mike Scully, Vice Chairman Planning Board, Economic Development Commission Representative

Mike Scully was elected to the Grafton Planning Board in 2012, currently serving as Vice Chairman. He has served on numerous town committee's including Community Preservation, Emergency Management, the SuperPark Committee and the Economic Development Commission. He is a Product Owner at EMC Corporation & owns Mike Scully Design, a graphic design & small business marketing firm based in town.



Joseph Laydon, Town Planner

He became Grafton's Town Planner in February 2014, leading the Planning Department which supports the Grafton Planning Board and other committees. He has experience in coordinating development projects of local and regional significance, preparation of zoning bylaw amendments and fostering relationships with residents, business owners & state



Jeannie Hebert, Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

Jeannie Hebert has been President & CEO of the BVCC since April 2008. Under her leadership, the BVCC has grown and developed into a Chamber that works hard for business and economic vitality of the eleven town region of the Blackstone Valley. Prior work includes roles as Central Mass Tourism Director and a Small Business Owner.

Rosemary Scrivens, Mass Office of Business Development

Rosemary Scrivens has worked 18 years in the private sector as an Insurance & IT professional prior to entering the public sector in 2002. As a Regional Planner for 8 years at the Central MA Regional Planning Commission, she handled a broad array of transportation, community & economic development projects. Since June 2010 Rosemary has held the position of Regional Director for the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD) for the Central Region. She holds a BS in Regional Planning.



