



# TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM

150 CONCORD STREET ■ MEMORIAL BUILDING ■ FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702-8325

Dear Landowner and Development Community,

Become part of the **Permit Framingham: Plan – Build – Grow** initiative by locating and growing your business in Framingham.

The Town of Framingham is excited to announce the significant strides it has taken to become a business friendly community. Framingham was once able to rely on its central location, infrastructure, and accessibility to transportation as a way to attract businesses and development. However, times have changed, technology has modified the way we do business and the economic recession opened the eyes of the Town. Although the Town could not mitigate the impacts of the economic recession, the Town did take the economic downturn as an opportunity to redesign its permitting process and bring Framingham to the forefront of the permitting process.

After the Town became a Chapter 43D: Expedited Permitting Community in 2013, the Town decided to recreate its entire permitting process. The Town envisioned a permitting process that was easy to use and navigate for all projects, no matter the size.

To determine where the Town needed to make adjustments to the permitting process, the Town first identified difficulties in the permitting process. These difficulties presented as detours and/or roadblocks for businesses that would have otherwise chosen or expanded in Framingham. After a long review of the old permitting process, modifications were made. The result was the development of the Develop Framingham Handbook (Handbook).

The Handbook was developed by Town staff from various departments who worked in collaboration to develop a Five Stage Planning and Permitting Process. The Five Stage Planning and Permitting Process clearly and efficiently guide applicants through the five-steps, which can be found in Chapter Three of the Handbook.

The Handbook was not developed to remain in book format, but rather to evolve into an interactive website where applicants can fill out applications, submit plans, and find answers to their permitting questions. The Handbook and the Five Stage Planning and Permitting Process can be found on the front page of the Town's website, under Plan – Build – Grow. The Plan – Build – Grow movement guides developers and landowners through the permitting process from the concept and planning stage through to final occupancy of the project.

The development of The Handbook process helped to identify other important Town resources that are necessary for the Town to allow for better land use practices. These resources include:

- Recodification of the Framingham Zoning By-law to include a Table of Uses and revisions to outdated By-laws;
- Revisions to the Framingham Master Land Use Plan to be consistent with the Town's land use goals and revisions to outdated By-laws;
- Becoming a 43D Expedited Permitting Community. Since becoming a Chapter 43D Expedited Permitting Community, Framingham has committed to approving all permits – even outside the Chapter 43D Expedited Permitting Priority Development Sites within 180 days where possible;
- Review of the Town-wide Parking Requirements;
- Development of neighborhood master plans; and
- Coordinated efforts to become an electronic permitting community.

Although these are significant achievements in a short amount of time, Framingham is still not done yet! There is still much more that needs to be done to ensure that Framingham remains a business friendly and welcoming community for all who Choose Framingham.

It is with great hope that The Handbook and the **Plan – Build – Grow** website will assist developers and landowners at any stage of the licensing and permitting process who choose to locate here in Framingham.

The Town of Framingham looks forward to working with you, so you can become a part of **Permit Framingham: Plan-Build-Grow**.

Sincerely,

Robert Halpin  
Framingham Town Manager

[www.chooseframingham.com](http://www.chooseframingham.com)



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