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## Choose Framingham A Newsletter of the EDIC



### Welcome to the Choose Framingham Newsletter

#### ***A Letter from Mike Gatlin, Chair, Framingham Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC)***

Dear Friends,



The Framingham [Economic Development and Industrial Corporation](#) (EDIC) was established two decades ago in part to stimulate economic development in the Town of Framingham. We have known for a long time that Framingham is a location uniquely qualified to foster innovative new businesses while continuing to support the business goals of some of the region's largest employers.

What has become exciting for EDIC in the last few years is the enthusiasm we are seeing in Framingham to promote the Town as a business-friendly community. After spending several years trying to dispel dated perceptions of Framingham, we are beginning to see a new energy within the region and among the business community about Framingham as the right place to locate or expand their businesses. With the success that Town Manager Bob Halpin and Community and Economic Development Director Art Robert are having in advocating for the Town, EDIC finds itself in the enviable position of following their lead in investing in new opportunities and following creative ideas for the community.

EDIC is happy that we are playing an active part in this renaissance for Framingham by helping to turn ideas for businesses in Framingham into reality. For instance, we were pleased to assist with the development of the Deluxe Depot Diner, which is not only aiding in revitalizing downtown Framingham but is also helping to reuse one of the town's historic buildings in a creative manner. You will be reading a little more about the work we are doing to empowerment the Town's neighborhoods, including the important areas of Saxonville and Nobscot. We want to ensure that residents of all of Framingham's neighborhoods feel emboldened to develop plans that make sense for their communities.

It is an exciting time to be living in Framingham, as we see both long-term plans coming to fruition and new ideas being developed. We look forward to hearing your ideas for community and economic development opportunities going forward. If you have any questions, please feel free to email the EDIC at [chooseframingham@framinghamma.gov](mailto:chooseframingham@framinghamma.gov).

Sincerely,

*Mike Gatlin, Chair*

*Framingham Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC)*

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## **Jack's Abby to Expand in Downtown Framingham**

[Jack's Abby Brewing](#) makes award-winning, hand crafted beer. Since opening their doors in 2011, the brewery has put Framingham on the map of places to visit if you are a dedicated beer connoisseur. Owned and operated by three brothers - Jack, Eric, and Sam Hendler - Jack's Abby is the kind of innovative business that the Town of Framingham is seeking to foster.

So the Division of Community and Economic Development was happy to work with the brewery when they expressed an interest in expanding their operations in Framingham. We were able to connect them with the owners of the Dennison Manufacturing Company complex, who were looking for tenants for this historic part of Framingham's industrial past. In December, Jack's Abby announced that they will be occupying a 67,000 square-foot-space at 100 Clinton Street, where they will open a restaurant and a taproom as well as expand production for their beer, which they currently sell in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, and Pennsylvania. The proposal for the expansion is currently before the Town of Framingham's Planning Board.

In particular, we are excited to see this kind of economic development - and a burgeoning restaurant scene - in downtown Framingham. Jack's Abby will join the Deluxe Depot Diner, which opened in December 2014, and Pho Dakao, which opened in March, as exciting new dining establishments that are drawing residents and visitors to downtown Framingham. As noted in this recent [Worcester Business Journal](#) article, the Town contributed to the

development of those businesses by providing funds through both the EDIC and Community Development Block Grant money that helped "helped restaurant owners pay for signage and façade improvements."

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### **EDIC Undertakes Strategic Planning Process for Saxonville and Nobscot**

Once the center of Framingham's agricultural and farming life, the Nobscot neighborhood is now populated by single family homes and small businesses. At the other end of north Framingham, nestled near the Sudbury River, Saxonville is a former mill village reflective of the region's Industrial Revolution past. Both are neighborhoods cherished by residents and business owners alike.

For those reasons, the Town of Framingham EDIC is undertaking a strategic planning process that is focused on creating a strategic economic development plan for the village commercial centers at the heart of Saxonville and Nobscot. The plan is focused on identifying actions that will lead to appropriate and constructive economic investment in both of these critical neighborhoods. The strategic plan will look to answer three basic questions for Saxonville and Nobscot:

- \* What should the village commercial center be?
- \* How should it look?
- \* How do we get there?

The Town of Framingham is looking forward to receiving ideas and input from residents of these neighborhoods regarding the kind of development they would like to see. To that end, we will be hosting a series of public meetings over the next several months. We held our first Nobscot meeting on Monday, February 23rd and will be holding the first meeting on [Saxonville](#) on Thursday, February 26th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Erika Oliver Jerram at [ateoj@framinghamma.gov](mailto:ateoj@framinghamma.gov) or by phone at 508-532-5455.