

THE BEDFORD BANNER

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Chamber & Planning Board Work Together for Passage of Article 6

By Christine Pinney

Article 6, a Zoning Bylaw Amendment which deals with Site Plan Design in the Limited Business District and General Business District was recently passed at Town Meeting. Initially the Chamber opposed Article 6 due to the vagueness of many of the stipulations in the amendment, and that it had been drafted without any input from the business owners and developers in town.

Due to the Chamber's opposition, the Board took an active role to get the Chamber's voice heard. A live inter-

view was conducted on the Chamber's cable show, by Host Maureen Sullivan. The planning board was represented by Janet Powers, Sandra L. Hackman and Richard Joly. The Chamber was represented by Pam Brown and Shelly Moll. The Chamber's opposing position also received press in the Bedford Minuteman and the Boston Globe.

Concerns were voiced to the Planning Board at a meeting on March 20, 2007 by Christine Pinney, Pamela Brown and Sheldon Moll. Shortly

thereafter a series of meetings and discussions occurred between the Planning Board and the Chamber to discuss and address these issues. Because of this dialogue, numerous improvements were made to the language of the amendment. The new draft provided more clarity around the steps required of developers as well as around the guidelines for development. With the changes in place, the Chamber changed its stance on Article 6 and President Lea Ann Knight read a statement of support at Town Meeting.

The Chamber applauds the effort by the Planning Board to make this amendment more palatable for businesses in town and is also pleased with the Planning Board's appointment of Steve Spector as the Chamber Liaison.

What Are Business After Hours Networking Events?

Business After Hours are monthly networking programs sponsored by and hosted at area Chamber member establishments.

We are often told by our members that providing them with real networking opportunities is perhaps the most valuable membership benefit the Chamber can provide. That is just what Business After Hours is all about. It is an opportunity for members to get together, meet each other, exchange business cards and NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK!

Here are some basic reasons why networking can make a difference for your business:

- Business people are more inclined to do business with people they know
- Business people are more inclined to refer friends, family and customers to someone they know
- Business After Hours provides an excellent opportunity to get your company name, products and services out there – to make yourself and your company known
- Business After Hours is a great way to meet potential customers and increase your customer base. It is also an easy way to find the services you need or have been looking for right in your own backyard
- Business After Hours are set in a relaxed, fun atmosphere

So don't hesitate. Bring your business cards and your smile to the next scheduled Business After Hours and give networking a shot!

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Are you Receiving the Benefits of your Chamber Membership?

Are you sure your company or organization is receiving all of the benefits of Chamber membership? Look at the list below and place a check next to the programs/events your company participates in. You may be surprised at the opportunities you are missing.

- I submit news briefs or promote my business in the "Business Spotlight" section of the Chamber Newsletter.
- I have been a guest on the Chambers Cable show "Chamber Connections."
- I keep my business information current with the Chamber for referral list (Note: The Chamber does not refer non-members. If someone asks about an on-member business, they are informed that business is not a member, therefore we have no information regarding that business.)
- I promote my business by taking advantage of specialty advertising opportunities, such as the town planner, the Chamber map, and our web site.
- I display my business cards on the Chamber Board in the town center.
- I network with my fellow Chamber members by attending the Annual Dinner, Monthly card exchanges, Flavors of Bedford and other events.
- I participate on Chamber committees.
- I call on the Chamber when I need assistance or information on local business issues.
- I have utilized the export certificates of origin.
- I display my Chamber Plaque where customers can see it.
- I have showcased my business by holding a monthly mixer.

CHAMBER CALENDAR



May 10 7:30 a.m.	Chamber of Commerce Directors Meeting <i>Bedford Police Station</i>
May 17 12 noon	Working Women's Alliance <i>Fitch Room, Town Center (NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE)</i>
May 22 7:30 p.m.	Spring Business Meeting with Martha Coakley <i>Marty's Furniture Store/Melrose, MA</i>
June 5 5:00 p.m.	Sovereign Senior Prom Stroll <i>Bedford Town Common</i>
June 7 7:30 a.m.	Business Forward <i>Arlington Town Hall</i>
June 14 7:30 a.m.	Chamber of Commerce Directors Meeting <i>Bedford Police Station</i>
June 21 12:00 noon	Working Women's Alliance <i>Fitch Room, Town Center</i>

- I have sponsored Chamber events throughout the year.
- I have checked the Chamber Insurance to see if I could be saving money.
- I have informed the Chamber office of my website or any changes in my current listing.
- I have utilized the free member listings and labels.
- I do business as often as I can with other Chamber members.
- I encourage other businesses to participate and take advantage of the benefits of being a Bedford Chamber of Commerce member.

Well how did you do? Out of the 17 items listed, to what extent are you taking advantage of your Chamber membership benefits and participating? Your Chamber membership cannot benefit your business without your participation.

The Bedford Chamber of Commerce is at your disposal as a vehicle to enhance

your business and the community serves. If you would like information on any of the services listed above, please free to contact the Chamber office.



Memorial Day

The Bedford Chamber of Commerce
invites you to a

Spring Focus Meeting

featuring

**Martha Coakley,
Attorney General of the Commonwealth**

Join members from over ten area chambers for this
informative and relaxing networking opportunity
generously sponsored by Marty's Furniture

Date: Tuesday, May 22nd, 2007

Time: 5:30 –7:30 PM

Place: Marty's Furniture, 99 Washington St., Melrose

Cost: \$10 members, \$20 non-members

You won't want to miss this dynamic program!

Generously Sponsored by **Marty's Furniture** of Melrose

Appetizers, beer, wine and soft drinks will be served

To make reservations, please complete and return this form to Bedford Chamber of Commerce, 12 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730 or email us at **bcoc@bedfordchamber.org**. You may also pay on line with a credit card at www.bedfordchamber.org

Company: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Attendees: _____

Check Made Payable to the Bedford Chamber of Commerce



delivers . . .



A Multi-Chamber Event

Arlington, Bedford, Billerica, Brookline, Cambridge, Concord, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Newton-Needham, North Suburban, Peabody, Reading-North Reading, Somerville, Stoneham, Waltham, Watertown-Belmont, Wellesley, Wilmington, Winchester

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2006

7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Arlington Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington Center

\$10 per Chamber member \$20 per visitor

**Go from Baffled, Isolated, Derailed and Overwhelmed
To Focused, Inspired, Connected and Educated**

REVITALIZE YOUR DREAM!

Visit the exhibits, attend the seminars, network and hear from an accomplished dreamer.

Visit www.businessforward.biz for complete details about the Expo and seminars.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Trish Karter, President and CEO of Dancing Deer Baking Co., Inc.

As CEO and cofounder Trish Karter has found a way to marry her creative, artistic, environmental, community and business interests. Dancing Deer has received many accolades and honors including Inc. Magazine's listing in the top 100 Inner City companies (2001, 2002 and 2003), 2001 and 2005 Chamber of Commerce Award for Excellence, Fortune Small Business Best Bosses Award 2005 and Boston Business Journal, Innovator of the Year 2006.

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

Brookline Bank • Citizens Bank • Community Newspaper Company

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Leader Bank • RCN

Sign me up for the June 7 Business Forward Expo. Enclosed is my check for \$_____. (\$10/\$20 pp)

I would like to bring _____ guests. Enclosed is my check for \$_____. (\$10/\$20 pp)

Please complete and return the section below with a check to Bedford Chamber of Commerce, 12 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730. You may also pay online with a credit card at www.bedfordchamber.org

NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Checks should be made out to Bedford Chamber of Commerce.



Welcome To New Members

Bedford Marital Arts International
44 North Road
Bedford, MA 01730
781-687-8850

Personal training in the Marital Arts, also offered is a "Weight loss for life" program

Bedford Personal Empowerment Center

12 Reed Lane
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-0516

Helps people to actualize their desire for change on any level

The Entrepreneur's Source

210 South Road
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-0466

Consulting on small business ownership and services

Membership Renewals

Millipore Corporation
Summit Health & Fitness
Town Planner
Dr. Oscar DePriest, DMD, PC
Law Offices of Robert D'Auria
CMT Realty Partnership
North Road Chiropractic
Spencer Company
Know Fat Lifestyle Grille
Dalya's Restaurant
QEI Incorporated

Sovereign Senior Prom Stroll

The Chamber of Commerce will be holding the 10th annual Senior Prom Stroll on June 5, 2007. Sponsored by Sovereign Bank, the event is held on the Town Common and includes a class picture and an old fashion Prom Stroll. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Chamber office at 781-275-8503.



Sovereign Bank
Senior Prom Stroll 2006

Bedford Chamber of Commerce
Photo: Jan van Steenwijk

The Bedford Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

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Bedford, MA 01730
Tel. (781) 275-8503
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www.bedfordchamber.org

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

President: Lee Ann Knight
Executive Director: Maureen Sullivan