

January 31, 2012

Board of Selectmen
Town of Groton
Town Hall
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Chairperson Eliot & Members of the Board of Selectmen,

I am writing on behalf of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) about the Town of Groton's business/commercial permitting process. The EDC is aware of the Town's reputation as one that is difficult to navigate for businesses looking to expand within Groton or move to Groton. In fact, our recent monthly meetings have focused on the permitting process and ways that we might help us all to understand the reasons for our less-than-welcoming reputation.

To that end, we would like to discuss the permitting process with applicants who have tried and failed, over the last two years. We envision meeting with those willing to share their experiences with us, and at minimum, compiling information including the applicants' comments and feedback; optimally, we would hope to be able to make recommendations about ways to improve the process while ensuring that we continue to protect the Town from unwanted business growth.

We believe this endeavor is consistent with our charge: *The committee will facilitate a community dialog about the importance of a diversified local economy and to assist existing and new business enterprise in Groton to expand and to attract new businesses to town.*

The permitting process involves several Town committees, and we want to be certain that the EDC does not "step on toes." We are hopeful that you will agree that our intentions are consistent with our charge and that you will inform the relevant committees of our intent.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Rasmussen
Chairman, Economic Development Committee