

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Moving Downtown Forward was the focus of the last year. Community forums, committee meetings and hard work from the Main Street Program chairperson Sylvia Poulin kept the project moving and it was finished ahead of schedule. The strategy for downtown calls for a combination of design and economic development tasks to create a public space that is inviting and lends itself to generating new retail experiences and shops.



### *Bickford Place*

The City Council created the first public private commercial partnership downtown by giving 97 Main Street to TKB Properties, Inc. They are working quickly at creating three new retail spaces and six residential apartments on the second floor of their building and they are looking to be finished in the fall. This is a great first project for downtown. This effort also inspired a Downtown Day of Caring with over 80 volunteers coming to spruce downtown up for summer. It was a great day for the community. The Moving Downtown Forward Committee is focusing on the gateway to downtown for the upcoming year and hopes to have many improvements completed by next spring.

The Route 110 Phase II Realignment Project has started with the demolition of several properties along the new route.

More properties are scheduled to be demolished in the fall and advertising for construction of the project is slated for Summer 2013. This project is four decades in the making and it is great to see things finally coming to fruition. Many individuals have played a role in making this happen along the way. This roadway will provide a more direct route to the Notre Dame Arena, a nice gateway to Jericho Mountain State Park, and move the traffic out of the neighborhood it currently cuts through. This is a great project for our community.

Any citizen wishing to participate can come forward to volunteer for one of the many boards in the community. The Planning Department is home to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and the Berlin Industrial Development and Park Authority. All three boards encourage citizen involvement and welcome the community to participate or observe during their meetings. Visit the City's website and Facebook page regularly for information about our meetings; view the Moving Downtown Forward Strategy for Design and Economic Development, the City's Master Plan, Zoning Ordinance or other Planning & Zoning documents.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pamela E Laflamme*

City Planner

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<http://www.facebook.com/BerlinNewHampshire>

Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer: Joseph Martin

Planning Board Chair: Ernest Allain

Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair: Dana Hoyt

Berlin Industrial Development and Park Authority Chair: Michael Caron