

# Application for Community Design Charrette Program

**This proposal is hereby submitted on behalf of:**

Name of Organization Applying: Town of Brentwood Date: 11/21/2022

Name & Title of Officer Authorized to Sign: Jon Morgan, Selectman

Signature of Officer Authorized to Sign:  \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: 1 Dalton Road

Town/City Name: Brentwood Zip Code: 03833

Telephone Number: (603) 642-6400 Email Address: jmorgan@brentwoodnh.gov

What is the date of your latest Master Plan? Updates underway currently - latest update 2018

**On separate pages, please address the following:**

- **How would you describe the community project for which your group or Town is asking Plan NH to provide assistance?** Please provide any appropriate information about the site's or area's geographical location, limits, and historic significance, current uses or unique features. Please indicate who owns or controls the use of the project site or area. How would the project enhance the health and vitality of your community?
- **What changes are occurring your community** that are having an impact on how you think about your future? How could this project address one or more of them? (Ex.: changing weather patterns, demographic changes, economic challenges, more)
- **Your Town has four distinct, yet inextricably-linked sectors:** Social, economic, environmental, and governance. What vision does your community have for each of these, and what kinds of recommendations (for the target area or project) coming from the charrette process could support these visions – as well as the Vision Statement that is in your current Master Plan?
- **Just as the four sectors (above) are interwoven,** different sections of your community are also inter-related. Looking at your target area/project, what influence might it have on other parts of town, and how do other part of town affect this target area? Further, does this target area have any influence or impact on your bordering towns, or do they have any influence or impact on this target area/project or your town in general?

Please also provide letters of support indicating consensus amongst the leadership and governing boards within your community. Consistent, unified cooperation from your governing Boards (Ex.: Select Board, Planning, Zoning, Conservation, Economic Development, etc.) is critical to the success of the project, and we cannot consider projects that these governing boards do not support. Unless otherwise discussed, a fee of \$6,000 will be required on or before the first day of the charrette.

**Proposals can be submitted to Plan NH in PDF format.** Please do not hesitate to call with any questions, or to discuss a project you have in mind.

**Contact:** Tiffany Tonomi McNamara Executive Director • (603) 452-7526 | [tiffany@plannh.org](mailto:tiffany@plannh.org)



1. How would you describe the community project for which your group or Town is asking Plan NH to provide assistance? Please provide any appropriate information about the site's or area's geographical location, limits, and historic significance, current uses or unique features. Please indicate who owns or controls the use of the project site or area. How would the project enhance the health and vitality of your community?

The Town of Brentwood is interested in Plan NH assistance through the Community Design Charrette Program to assist with a redesign of the centrally located "Brentwood Rec" located at 190 Rte. 125. The site currently has a two-story facility with a small commercial kitchen, two floors currently used for various activities ranging from town voting and occasional meetings to karate lessons to weekly senior center activities and summer camps with a maximum capacity of 275. Additionally, there are six fields, a large covered pavilion, various trails, a concession stand, an iron working stand, and a section used for archery. Generally, the only bathrooms available for public use are outdoor portable toilets.

The Recreation Committee, the Economic Development Committee and the Selectboard of Brentwood strongly believe that a redesign of "Brentwood Rec" will result in improved community quality of life as well as enhancing Brentwood as an attractive location for employers and their talented workers. We believe, as stated in the 2018 study *Promoting Parks and Recreation's Role in Economic Development*, "Investments that strengthen quality of life can spur sustained economic growth that attracts talent, which in turn supports business attraction and development."

We collectively envision this centrally located area can be the site for large community gatherings, celebrations, events, concerts, Farmer's Markets, sports tournaments, etc.

2. What changes are occurring in your community that are having an impact on how you think about your future? How could this project address one or more of them? (Ex.: changing weather patterns, demographic changes, economic challenges, more)

Over the last 20 years, Brentwood has experienced tremendous growth, having gone from a population of 3,197 in 2000, to 4,596 in 2020, an increase of 44%. Brentwood's median age is 42, and the town has approximately 2.8 persons per household, representing a 10% higher figure than the state average.

The statistically significant population increase has created a strain on some town resources, specifically the fire and police departments. There have also been growing calls for additional community services/activities for seniors, youth sports, etc. Many families send their children to neighboring communities for youth sports/activities.

There is much interest in renting Brentwood facilities from outside towns, groups and leagues, however prices must be reduced and demand dampened due to the lack of lighting and lack of decent public restrooms.

3. Your Town has four distinct, yet inextricably-linked sectors: Social, economic, environmental, and governance. What vision does your community have for each of these, and what kinds of recommendations (for the target area or project) coming from the charrette process could support these visions – as well as the Vision Statement that is in your current Master Plan?

Heavily relying on statements from our generally outdated Master Plan

**Social:** Brentwood values having a community where rural character is well balanced with positive social engagement. Several of the areas prioritized in the 2005 Master Plan Vision Statement involved social aspects such as: Volunteerism, Creating a Sense of Community, Lifelong Learning, and Communications.

**Economic:** Relevant to the economic front, “Infrastructure” was the priority listed as being of greatest importance for consideration as the community moved forward from 2005.

**Environmental:** Conservationism, aquifer/surface water protection, recreational trail development, and open land protection are frequent areas of interest, discussion, and prioritization in Brentwood.

**Governance:** Our citizen led town government is a point of civic pride. Townspeople are generally very engaged in community decision making.

Several aspects of our Master Plan are currently being reworked in partnership with the Rockingham County Planning Commission and several new updates are expected this year. The latest “Community Vision Statements” developed in September 2005 interestingly reflected many of the same themes the 2021/2022 Economic Development Committee survey revealed recently. For example - the idea of “retention of rural feeling” as well as a “town center with sidewalks” seem to parallel findings from the 2021/2022 survey and were listed in 2005 as the number 1 and 2 issues respectively in 2005. Additionally, the official “Community Vision Statements” refer to community interest in (selectively chosen as related/potentially related to a Community Recreation Center redesign):

- Preservation of open land and public access to woods, water and fields
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Public neighborhood gathering spots
- Large auditoriums for town meetings
- Planned community shelter in case of disaster
- More bike trails
- Social activities for teenagers
- Social activities for college students
- Community trail system

4. Just as the four sectors (above) are interwoven, different sections of your community are also inter-related. Looking at your target area/project, what influence might it have on other parts of town, and how do other part of town affect this target area? Further, does this target area have any influence or impact on your bordering towns, or do they have any influence or impact on this target area/project or your town in general?

Looking at your target area/project, what influence might it have on other parts of town, and how do other part of town affect this target area?

A comprehensive redesign of the Brentwood Rec could have tremendous community wide influences on several aspects of town development reflective of the short and long term visions of Brentwood as described in both 2005 and again, unofficially in the 2021/22 Economic Development Committee survey.

As stated in the National Recreation and Park Association Report Promoting Parks and Recreation's Role in Economic Development, "Strong park and recreation departments generate significant direct and indirect economic impacts through their employment and spending...(and) can also shape their community's quality of life, building a sense of place that makes an area more attractive to employers and talented workers. Investments that strengthen quality of life can spur sustained economic growth that attracts talent, which in turn supports business attraction and development."

The Economic Development Committee of Brentwood believes that the outcome of the charrette process could lead to increased community interest in developing enhanced recreational opportunities available to the town and beyond for "The Rec." This, in turn, could lead to the redesign of the facilities and offerings leading to exponentially greater community interaction and activities available for all ages (e.g. concerts, regional field use/ sports tournaments, food truck nights just to name a few). Additionally, also of note, a redesigned "Rec" would lead to greater revenue generation opportunities for re-investment into community programs.

Further, does this target area have any influence or impact on your bordering towns, or do they have any influence or impact on this target area/project or your town in general?

We anticipate that a redesigned "Rec" would allow for greater regional use, particularly in the area of field rentals, regional activities (e.g. concerts, farmers markets, etc), and beyond. This project has the potential to develop Brentwood's portion of State Route 125 as a destination rather than a transit point.



## TOWN OF BRENTWOOD

Brentwood, New Hampshire 03833

Office of Selectmen  
1 DALTON ROAD

Tel: (603) 642-6400 x10  
Fax: (603) 642-6310

Plan NH  
273 Corporate Drive  
Suite 100  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

November 25, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Brentwood Select Board is grateful for Plan NH's consideration of conducting a charette for the Brentwood Recreation Facility, otherwise known as "The Rec," located on the Stephen Arkell Highway/N.H. Route 125.

The Board believes this process will be a significant step forward in developing a new vision for The Rec that celebrates Brentwood's rural character while simultaneously enhancing the property's possibility to become a thriving hub for the community.

This Board unanimously and enthusiastically supports a Brentwood Rec specific charette and commits to encouraging other community members to participate in the process as well.

Grateful regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Artimovich', is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Artimovich  
Town of Brentwood Selectboard Chair

Economic Development Committee  
Town of Brentwood, NH  
1 Dalton Road  
Brentwood, NH 03833

Plan NH  
273 Corporate Drive  
Suite 100  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

December 02, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Brentwood Economic Development Committee is grateful for Plan NH's consideration of conducting a charette for the Brentwood Recreation Facility, otherwise known as "The Rec," located on the Stephen Arkell Highway/N.H. Route 125.

The Committee believes this process will be a significant step forward in developing a new vision for The Rec that celebrates Brentwood's rural character while simultaneously enhancing the property's possibility to become a thriving hub for the community.

This Committee will be leading the charge in town to promote awareness of and encouraging resident participation in the charette process, which we understand may be conducted during a weekend in mid-May 2023.

This Board unanimously and enthusiastically supports a Brentwood Rec specific charette and commits to participate in the process as well.

Grateful regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Morgan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jon Morgan  
Brentwood Economic Development Committee, Chair

Planning Board  
Town of Brentwood, NH  
1 Dalton Road  
Brentwood, NH 03833

Plan NH  
273 Corporate Drive  
Suite 100  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

November 25, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

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The Board unanimously and enthusiastically supports a Brentwood Rec specific charette and commits to encouraging other community members to participate in the process as well.

Grateful regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristin Aldred, PhD  
Town of Brentwood Planning Board Chair



Plan NH  
273 Corporate Drive  
Suite 100  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

December 1, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Brentwood Recreation Commission is grateful for Plan NH's consideration of a conducting a charette for the Brentwood Recreation Facility, otherwise known as "The Rec," located on the Stephen Arkell Highway/N.H. Route 125.

The Commission believes this process will be a significant step forward in developing a new vision for The Rec that celebrates Brentwood's rural character while simultaneously enhancing the property's possibility to become a thriving hub for the community.

The Recreation Commission unanimously and enthusiastically supports a Brentwood Rec specific charette and commits to encouraging other community members to participate in the process as well.

Grateful Regards,

Andrew Gray  
Brentwood Recreation Director