

RiverPlace Scaled Down to Sagamore Crossing

by **Len Lathrop**

Jay Leonard, attorney for the Friel family and featured speaker at a business breakfast meeting, said the Sagamore Crossing project in Hudson needs the community's support to become a reality.

"We are planning, looking for support of the business community and the town; the Board of Selectmen must say this plan is good for the town," Leonard told the approximately 60 people at King's Court on Tuesday morning. The meeting was hosted by the Greater Hudson Chamber of Commerce.

Leonard stressed that this is not the former RiverPlace project and that the project team should listen to the concerns of the town as expressed by its citizens and selectmen and various boards. Leonard said the Friel family is approaching this project first from the point of view how the family can work with the town to improve traffic flow around the site.

Listening to the voices of the community, he said he heard that the former project was "too much on the site," "didn't respect residential community to the south" and



Attorney Jay Leonard, Project Spokesman for the Friel family addresses the attendees.

concerns about density and integration to the wetland and Merrimack River.

The first step in the development features a new roadway design with connection to the Executive Park on the north of the Sagamore Bridge, allowing traffic to access the new mall road and the bridge via a single-point diamond interchange being built under the bridge roadway. This mall road would create a parallel road to Lowell and River roads to help disperse existing traffic away from the current corridor. Initial conception plans can be found at a new Website:

www.SagamoreCrossing.com.

The newly named Sagamore Crossing project, while presented to be half the size of RiverPlace will include a lifestyle center, hotel and convention center, office park and an assisted living retirement campus.

Leonard said the plans are in the conceptual stage and this is one of the most important pieces of propriety for Hudson development. When asked how long it would take to complete, the project, Leonard answered about 10 years.