

1

THANK YOU RICK. FROM THE TOWN OF NEEDHAM, WELCOME. WE ARE ALL EXTREMELY EXCITED ABOUT NEEDHAM BECOMING A COLLEGE TOWN AND ABOUT YOU JOINING OUR FAMILY. NEEDHAM IS A FAMILY TOWN AND ITS SUCCESS IS BASED ON VOLUNTEERING AND WORKING TOGETHER—THE LIFEblood OF MUCH OF OUR EFFORTS AND SUCCESS.

WE HOPE YOU ALL WILL ALSO BECOME PART OF OUR FAMILY AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SUCCESS AS WE PLAN ON CONTRIBUTING TO YOURS. I AM VERY EXCITED ABOUT YOUR ARRIVAL, WHICH HAS BEEN EAGERLY ANTICIPATED—NOT JUST BY RICK AND DUNCAN, BUT BY THE ENTIRE TOWN. SO WELCOME.

FOR THE PARTNERS, LET ME BRIEFLY REPEAT SOME COMMENTS ON THE HISTORY OF THIS AREA. WELLESLEY USED TO BE PART OF NEEDHAM—IT SPLIT OFF IN 1883 AND BECAME ITS OWN TOWN. BY THE WAY, THE NEEDHAM-WELLESLEY FOOTBALL RIVALRY BEGAN THE NEXT YEAR, 1884, AND IS THE OLDEST IN THE COUNTRY—GAMES ARE PLAYED EACH YEAR ON THANKSGIVING AND THE SERIES IS CLOSE TO EVEN. HISTORICALLY, IN 1917, ROGER BABSON BOUGHT MUCH OF THE LAND BETWEEN GREAT PLAIN AVENUE AND FOREST STREET, WHICH RUNS PARALLEL ON THE FAR SIDE, CONTINUING WELL INTO WELLESLEY. MOST OF THE NEEDHAM PORTION OF THAT LAND HAD HISTORICALLY BEEN CLEARED LAND USED FOR CORNFIELDS. HE BUILT A SINGLE STRIP AIRPORT

ABOUT WHERE THE CURRENT RUGBY FIELD SITS AND CREATED A SMALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN THE LITTLE BRICK BUILDING OVER THERE. MOST OF THE REST REMAINED AS OPEN SPACE.

WHEN IT CAME TIME TO ESTABLISH A POST OFFICE, HOWEVER, HE ESTABLISHED THAT IN WELLESLEY AND MOST OF THE CONSTRUCTION FOR BABSON COLLEGE WAS ADJACENT TO THAT SITE, ALSO IN WELLESLEY. HISTORICALLY, ACROSS FOREST STREET FROM THE POST OFFICE AND BABSON COLLEGE WAS THE AREA WHERE, IN THE 1800S; NEEDHAM HAD PLACED ITS POOR FARM FOR THE INDIGENT. TODAY, THAT AREA IS KNOWN AS THE WELLESLEY COUNTRY CLUB. THEY HAVE COME A LONG WAY.

SOME YEARS AGO, A PORTION OF THE NEEDHAM LAND WAS LEASED TO THE NORTH HILL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY UP THE HILL, FOR BUILDING THAT FACILITY. NOW BABSON HAS SOLD A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE REMAINDER TO THE OLIN FOUNDATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS NEW ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

I WAS FORTUNATE TO GO TO A SMALL ENGINEERING COLLEGE, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE'S THAYER SCHOOL, WHICH WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE TUCK BUSINESS SCHOOL IN THOSE DAYS—MUCH LIKE OLIN PLANS TO DO WITH BABSON. MY EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, WAS A HALF A CENTURY AGO. YOURS IS ABOUT TO START. BOTH AS A GRADUATE ENGINEER AND A SELECTMAN, THIS COLLEGE

IS VERY EXCITING TO ME. THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO THE TOWN, THE NEEDHAM SCHOOL SYSTEM, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN NEEDHAM, AND THE GENERAL ACADEMIC WORLD OF ENGINEERING ARE IMMENSE. ADDITIONALLY, HAVING AN ENGINEERING COLLEGE LOCATED IN NEEDHAM WILL AID THE PRESTIGE OF OUR TOWN AND WILL PUT NEEDHAM ON THE WORLDWIDE ACADEMIC MAP.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR HAVING FAITH IN OUR TOWN AND I COMMIT THE TOWN TO CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO MAINTAIN THE LINK WE HAVE BEEN FORGING AND TO ENHANCE IT TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL OF US. THANK YOU, WELCOME TO NEEDHAM AND GOOD LUCK.