

## WHEN IS A BARGAIN NOT A BARGAIN?

I like a bargain as much as the next person. I'd always prefer to pay a discounted price on the goods I buy, but when is a bargain not a bargain? Is it a bargain to buy inferior, foreign made products at Wal-Mart at the expense of local business owners vying for our dollars? Is it a bargain to save a few dollars on groceries at Wal-Mart in exchange for an increase in taxes because our current police force will be unable to deal with the crime that the new store will generate? Is it a bargain to put up with one big box store when another will surely follow right behind it? Will you feel good about the money you saved at Wal-Mart when someone is hurt or killed traveling on a crowded Route 6 to get that special sale item? How about when Wal-Mart closes down at some point in the future? How big a bargain will that be when we have a 158,000 sq. ft. vacant building in the quaint, quiet town of Brooklyn? Economic development is good for ANY town, but does the economic benefit of a Wal-Mart store outweigh what will be lost of the natural beauty in the scenic town of Brooklyn? I don't believe so, and I encourage anyone who feels similarly to attend the Inland Wetlands public hearing on Dec. 9 at the Brooklyn School. This is obviously a busy time of the year for everyone, but if each of us could devote some time to this issue now, perhaps we won't be dealing with all of the negative repercussions of this misplaced megastore. Really, who among us can't find a bargain in one of the already existing stores in our area?

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