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BROOKLINE BANCORP INC  
Form 8-K  
March 02, 2006

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 1, 2006

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BROOKLINE BANCORP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|   |                       |   |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Delaware  | 0-23695               | 04-3402944                              |
| -----   | -----                 | -----                                   |
| (State or other jurisdiction<br>of incorporation) | (Commission File No.) | (I.R.S. Employer<br>Identification No.) |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| 160 Washington Street, Brookline, Massachusetts | 02447-0469 |
| -----   | -----      |
| (Address of principal executive offices)        | (Zip Code) |

(617) 730-3500

-----  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not applicable

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(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Agreement  
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On February 28, 2006, Brookline Bancorp, Inc. announced that it signed a merger agreement to increase its ownership interest in Eastern Funding LLC from approximately 29% to 86% through a cash payment of approximately \$16.2 million, excluding related transaction costs. It also announced that it hired William R. MacKenzie as senior vice president in charge of commercial lending.

See exhibit no. 99.1 attached hereto for the press release relating to these matters.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

BROOKLINE BANCORP, INC.

Date: March 2, 2006

By: /s/ Paul R. Bechet  
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Paul R. Bechet  
Senior Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

The following exhibits are furnished as part of this report:

| Exhibit No.<br>----- | Description<br>-----   |
|----------------------|--|
| 99.1                 | Press release of Brookline Bancorp, Inc. dated March 1, 2006 |