

Business Development Sub Committee Meeting

March 22, 2010 Swift MIDDLE School Library

Attendance:

K Duplissie Chairman

E. Undercuffler, Paul Rinaldi, Joe Seacrist, L. Black

D. Minnich, D. Rossi, T. Winn, D. Orsini Absent: Ken Demirs

Kace Duplissie began by asking the group for a consensus on how to simplify the permit process for residential and commercial building and/or renovating in Watertown. Dom Orsini suggested flow charts be drawn to determine where the pitfalls occur when going through the processes. J. Seacrist was going to begin to draw up those charts and present them at the next meeting.

Electronic forms over the Internet were also discussed. Although using Pay Pal or something similar to that to pay for the various permits would be an advantage, there are legal ramifications, i.e. signatures and accompanying drawings, etc. that would need to be sent as well. However, being able to download various forms is a good idea and will be looked into further.

A Regional Enterprise Zone was discussed. It was determined that there would be no benefit to Watertown to share a regional zone.

The Economic Development role was discussed. At the present time, it is a part time position with Joe Seacrist the one to solicit business and to be, basically, the first contact for coming into Watertown. Currently Mr. Seacrist is in a reactive mode rather than a pro-active mode. The EDC budget should enable the EDC to take perspective clients out . The EDC also needs to update the website to be more business oriented.

A tax abatement program was discussed, including the CT program. It has been said by someone from the aerospace industry here in CT that CT is the worst state to do business with. So there is a state wide problem. Politicians care about jobs. Companies pay taxes. Companies also bring in people and retail follows people.

Main Street was discussed. Our local businesses give back to the community and we will invite local businesses to discuss ways of improving their businesses this summer. Parking was definitely an issue.

In conclusion, Watertown needs to be more business friendly. A sign "Move to Watertown a 5 year abatement program" was put forth. Someone (Joe Seacrist) needs to be the "go to" person for us and needs funds to travel (minimally) and funds for updating the website and a new brochure.

The next meeting will be in April. There was no public participation.

Kace Duplissie

Town Council and Chairman of Bus. Development.