

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS REPORT 5/21/09**

**Submitted by Joe Seacrist**

- 1. At the direction of the EDC sent a letter to the P&Z commission and Mr Martin Connor, a representative of Hardrock Development, recommending that P&Z amend current zoning regulations to allow construction contractors in an I-R 200 zone. Our letter was received and read into the record at the next P&Z meeting. After some discussion the P&Z commission decided to not amend the regulations and to deny Hardrock Development this recommended use of their property.**
- 2. Discussed with Chuck Frigon his requirement to sign the contract with CGI communications for the web-site additions we discussed at the last EDC meeting. He has agreed to sign the contract, but must present it first to the town council for their approval. He intends to do that at their next Town Council meeting. I will attend that council meeting in case they might have any questions.**
- 3. Had lunch at the Waterbury Club with the new President of the Waterbury Area Chamber of commerce Lynn Ward and Jeff Rouleau their economic development assistant to see how we can better coordinate the work of the Watertown/Oakville chamber with the efforts of the EDC. Some good ideas were generated as a result, particularly concerning a Christmas or other merchant-driven event in town.**
- 4. Completed a spreadsheet for updated data on Watertown for the latest publication of CERC and EDDI on their state-wide site finder web-site. This is the most commonly used web-site for companies throughout the country to use in looking for sites for locating companies.**
- 5. Attended the annual Thomaston Savings Bank business persons breakfast at the Fairview Country Club in Harwinton. The featured speaker was Kevin O'Connor, the former US attorney for CT and former #2 in the Bush Administration Justice Department. This breakfast attracts more than 300 business customers of Thomaston Savings bank, including a number of Watertown Businesses. Sat at a table with Bill Dunbar of Copes, who was honored, and with other prominent Watertown businesspeople as well as Town Attorney Paul Jessel.**

- 6. Participated in the latest CEDS (Community Economic Development Strategy) with the Shelton Economic Development Corporation. In order for the Town of Watertown to ever receive any Federal economic development funds, we have to have such a strategy document as CEDS. Watertown as well as a number of other towns participate in the preparation of this regional strategy document.**
- 7. Received an assignment from Town Manager Chuck Frigon to help analyze how the town will use funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. Under this part of the Federal Stimulus act, Watertown will receive \$89,000 for energy efficiency and conservation efforts. This assignment was given to me, due to my former energy background with NU.**
- 8. At the direction of the Town Manager am working with other town departments to help with the potential re-location of the businesses on Knight street which continually flood from Steele Brook. A difficult task, since the businesses are reluctant to put forth any money for relocation, unless the Town ,State and Federal Government put forth most of the funds.**
- 9. Continue to help line up additional vendors for the upcoming farmer's market and work with Lisa Carew and the recreation department on marketing etc.**
- 10. Have phone calls into CT Dance studio for the availability of their studio for this fall's Meet and Greet.**
- 11. At the EDC's direction communicated with several state legislators concerning HSB 6636. More discussion on this under new business on this month's agenda.**
- 12. Updated and made current the list of businesses in Watertown, complete with addresses and phone numbers. The prior list did not have phone numbers. The next step will be to add e-mail addresses as I can find them.**