

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR REPORT 8/20/09

Submitted by Joseph Seacrist

- 1. Received an update from the Senior Project Engineer for Fuss and O'Neil concerning the progress towards construction of the commercial construction debris transfer station proposed for the former Watertown drive-in property. His clients filed a soil remediation plan with the DEP last July. They expect to receive a notice of determination (decision) from the DEP in September of this year. After the DEP determination, which we assume will be an acceptance of the plan, then there will be public hearings, and after that, the project can proceed with construction in the Spring of 2010. They believe their plans are on track to be operational in the fall of 2010, depending on the DEP approval and smooth public hearings.**

- 2. Dates of October 14 and 15 have been set for the filming of 6 videos profiling several parts of the Town of Watertown on site in Watertown. Before shooting can start the Coordinator must:**
 - a. Collect pictures, brochures videos and other pertinent data currently available about Watertown and send to CGI by August 25.**

 - b. Write a series of bulleted information points for the announcer to cover in each of the 6 categories which are:**
 - 1. Welcome to Watertown**
 - 2. Education**
 - 3. Quality of Life**
 - 4. Real Estate and Relocation**
 - 5. Economic Development**
 - 6. Chamber of Commerce**

 - c. Prepare a proposed "Shot list" of sites which we would like the videographers to use during the filming session.**

 - d. Work with CGI to finish the final scripts and get them approved by the EDC and Town Manager three weeks before production begins**

 - e. Work with the video team to get them access to all the public or private locations they will need permission to use in their shooting.**

- 3. Talked with owners of a local upholstery shop about helping them with P&Z in their efforts to possible re-locate their business to another location on the same street. Volunteered to meet with them and P&Z to discuss the issue and to try to smooth the way for the possible re-location.**
- 4. Talked with a local banker who represents a large engineering firm currently not in Watertown. They are seeking 30,000sf of retail space on either Main Street or Straits Turnpike for one of their clients. Suggested several locations and will continue to work with them to see if we can get them located in Watertown.**
- 5. Listened to the attorney representing Valenti Motors concerning his disappointment with the P&Z's decision to deny an application to build a SAAB dealership on Straits Turnpike in the former walk-in medical center building. His position was the decision denies Watertown of jobs which would be created and additional car sales which would have been generated. He asked that I make the EDC aware of his concerns.**
- 6. Spoke at length with a potential renter of the former Sophies restaurant on Straits Turnpike. He is negotiating with the owner to possibly build an old English type of pub at the location. There are some issues with the location which he is trying to work out with the current owner of the property.**
- 7. Spoke with the current owner of a pizza restaurant in Waterbury, who would like to open an additional store in Watertown. We discussed several possible locations.**
- 8. Attended a Town Council meeting to ask for the approval of a resolution concerning the Watertown Renewable Energy Plant on Echo Lake Road. They agreed and voted to send the resolution to the Governor and the leaders of the House of Representative and the Senate. The resolution urged passage of legislation to make financing of the power plant more favorable, so construction can get underway ASAP.**

- 9. Revised the list of industrially zoned acreage currently available in Watertown along with its current tax assessment. Copies are attached here.**
- 10. Sean Williams and Rob Kane continue to try to get legislation favorable to the Watertown Renewable Energy plant funding through this session of the legislature.**
- 11. The governor vetoed the bill which would have provided a sign for the Watertown Business Park on Route 8 Southbound. It appears the legislature will not over-ride her veto even though Rob Kane also had a number of signs proposed for an “antiques trail” in the bill.**
- 12. Worked with Sean Williams and an electric consultant to get the consultant permission to access the town’s electric consumption for a proposed Energy Independence District for the Town.**