

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 11/19/2009

Submitted by Joseph Seacrist

- 1. Spent two full days with the videographer from CGI Communications. We shot at more than 30 locations around town for use in the Video Tour of Watertown section to soon be added to the front page of the town's web-site. Also met personally with Sean O'Neil their Director of sales, to reinforce that he understood the rules that the Town agreed to concerning CGI's sales efforts. Specifically that CGI would in no way state or imply that the town had encouraged anyone to advertise on the web-site. The Sales Director indicated they have three levels of pricing for advertising around the videos, \$900, \$3295 and \$4,995. Will make every effort to secure from CGI the more than two hours of raw footage they will not use in their official videos, for our potential future use. CGI will only end up using 6 minutes of the video.**
- 2. Attended the Groundbreaking, along with other members of the EDC, for the new Steele Brook Greenway on November 19. Have been attending meetings of the Greenway committee over the years, to emphasize the potential importance of such a finished Greenway to the future development of the downtown Watertown and Oakville sections of town.**
- 3. Met with a commercial appraiser who is working on an appraisal for the 400 Park Road building (former Winchester factory). She was unwilling to disclose her client, but said they were interested in getting a third party appraisal of the value of the property. I was able to put her in touch with the owner of the building, at her request.**
- 4. Met with Town Manager and Chairman of the EDC to discuss the future direction of the EDC.**
- 5. Arranged with representatives of the Buxton Corporation who are here this evening to make a presentation.**
- 6. Working with Tighe and Bond, who do our GIS system for the Town, to develop a series of maps of available private and publicly owned property which might be available for commercial/industrial development. Also requesting from them a large, laminated new zoning map for the wall in my office.**

- 7. Have been in continuing contact with the party interested in developing a solar energy farm in the business park. He believes that he has the necessary financing in place and is now interested in meeting with local manufacturers who might consume the energy produced.**
- 8. The Planning and Zoning Commission has approved, with conditions, the conversion of the former Walk-In Center on Straits Turnpike to a new car showroom. This will provide additional jobs, and will occupy a formerly vacant building. Good news all around for the town's business community**
- 9. Met with members of the management team from the Remote Automation Solutions division of Emerson Process Management, based in Watertown, at their request, to discuss their future greater involvement in the Watertown/Oakville community.**
- 10. Met with a local businessman who represents a religious congregation interested in buying the former Christ Church property on the green. I was able to put him in touch with the owners of the property, the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut and the contact information for the Bishop in charge.**
- 11. Met with Dr. Dick Dwyer, when he dropped into my office, concerning his plans for the potential private ownership of the current Town Hall. Listened carefully and indicated that the EDC had taken no official stance on the Town Hall to date.**
- 12. Continuing to work on locations and dates for the annual EDC meet and greet.**
- 13. Have personally (not in the name of the EDC) nominated a small business in town for consideration for a Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce Harold Webster Smith Award for small business of the year.**

- 14. Was Master of Ceremonies for the 46th Annual Meeting and Award Luncheon of the Watertown Oakville Chamber of Commerce, of which I am Chairman of the Board. The event was yesterday at the Watertown Golf Club and the recipient of the Community Leader of the Year award was Peter Baker, CEO of Crystal Rock/Vermont Pure Holdings based here in Watertown.**

- 15. Attended a meeting with a consultant, Town Manager, and Purchasing Manager concerning his firm's ability to help the town apply for a block grant from the Federal Government stimulus program for improving energy efficiency.**