

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 11/20/08

Submitted by Joe Seacrist

- 1. Spoke with the Vice President of Gar-San concerning their desire to build a 12,000 sf new building on Mountain View Road in the business park. The VP and the architect indicated that P&Z had told them that construction businesses were not allowed in an IR-80 zone and that they could not build there. At the VP's and architect's request I spoke with several people at P&Z and the Chairman of the EDC. The Chairman of the P&Z indicated that Gar-San should make arrangements to come before the commission on an informal basis, describe what they wanted to do, and the commission would give guidance and possible consideration to allowing the building.**
- 2. Had a discussion with the owners of the Lombard Plaza on Main Street about their appearing before the EDC to present their proposal for expanding their business. They were scheduled for the last meeting, but have subsequently indicated that they were withdrawing their request and have chosen to take legal action against the P&Z instead.**
- 3. Met with Senator Kane and representative Williams at their request concerning the dire financial situation of one reasonably large Watertown manufacturer. They were interested in any help the Town could provide. After discussion with Chuck Frigon and Joe McGrail, it was decided that the EDC would send a letter to the Connecticut Development Authority indicating the long history of this company in Watertown and urging the CDA to give all due consideration to the company's request from the CDA for immediate operating capital. The Watertown/Oakville Chamber of Commerce will send a similar letter to the CDA.**
- 4. Had discussions with the owner of the Overhead Door Company of Danbury, who would like to lease the greatest portion of the former Velocity Printing Plant on New Wood Road. He asked my help with P&Z who have indicated that he could not sell or have a showroom for sales at the property, since it is zoned industrially. The owner indicated to me that he would be primarily assembling and storing garage doors for potential customers in this area. He and I are currently continuing our discussions with P&Z to hopefully get their approval for this business.**

5. Worked with Jim Panzykowski of Binswanger and the Corporate VP for Real Estate and engineering for Oster to help move along the final plans for the purchase of the former Oster Building to Eyelet Tech LLC, currently located in Wolcott. P&Z was requiring a Mylar copy of the original site plan for the property, requesting that a propane tank not on the original site plan be included in the revised site plan. The problem with the original site plan is that it was done a number of years ago, and the person who would be responsible for updating it, signing it, and putting an original seal on the Mylar has since passed away. After some discussion with P&Z the issue was resolved and the zoning approval to sell the property was granted. The closing on the property should be soon.
6. Met with Rich DuPont of Resource Development Associates of Waterbury concerning his services in the training area for local manufacturers. He is scheduled to address the EDC at this meeting.
7. Met with Senator Kane (via conference call), Representative Williams, Chuck Frigon and Joe McGrail to provide an update on local business happenings. It was decided that this group will try to meet individually with the local CEO's of Watertown's largest employers in the next several weeks to get feedback from them about their company's future role in the growth of Watertown. I have drafted a letter of invitation which will be sent early next week. The goal is to get this feedback before the next legislative session starts in January.
8. Had a phone discussion with George Carter who represents Seeley Corporation. He had heard of possible commercial use of the former Griffin School and wanted an update on the progress, since he felt it might affect the potential sale of the Seeley property.
9. Was the keynote speaker for the Watertown Foundation annual dinner Thursday December 6, 2008.
10. Continue with discussions with Jim Mullen, representing the City of Waterbury, concerning the possible re-alignment of the town line between Watertown and Waterbury.

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED THE LATEST COLUMN FOR THE TOWN TIMES

THE ECONOMIC VIEWPOINT

By Joe Seacrist, Economic Development Coordinator, Town of Watertown

HOLIDAY SHOPPING IN WATERTOWN/OAKVILLE

The Downtown Watertown/Oakville merchants as well as all Watertown area merchants are busily getting ready for the upcoming Holiday season, and are really counting on the community for support particularly this tough year. As you probably know, it's the smaller hometown businesses which make up the lifeblood of the community. They are the backbone of support when it comes to the soccer teams, swim teams, football, robotics, churches, hospitals, pageants, ziti dinners, theater groups, private schools, and more and deserve your support. Please make sure you check out the "Dickens of a Christmas" section of the Town Times for a complete offering from the merchants. If it's been a while since you've strolled down Main Street, take a walk and see the amazing array of products available. Supporting your local merchants means creating and keeping jobs locally.

LEGISLATORS/TOWN OFFICIALS TO FACT FIND FOR BUSINESS

Senator Rob Kane, Representative Sean Williams, Town Manager Chuck Frigon, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission Joe McGrail and this writer, will be calling personally on the local CEO's of the major manufacturers in Watertown in the next several weeks. The goal is to get their assessments of the local economy before the next legislative session starts in January. Clearly the largest employers and the largest taxpayers in town will exert significant influence on the local and state revenue forecasting for 2009 and beyond, so it is critical that they team with the local and state representatives in order to make realistic revenue forecasts for the next few years.

WATERTOWN RENEWABLE POWER PLANT SET FOR GROUND BREAKING

Tamarack Energy's Watertown project known officially as WRP for Watertown Renewable Power has received all of its needed state and local permits and plans to break ground probably in the spring of 2009 if not earlier. This is the wood chip powered 30 megawatt electricity generating plant to be located in the Watertown Business Park on Echo Lake Road. If you're wondering specifically where it is located, drive downhill from the intersection of Park Road and Echo Lake Road (towards the former Watertown Drive-in) for a half mile, and the plant location will be on your left. There is a sign announcing a past public hearing at the entrance to the property. The plant will sit back between 500-1000 feet from

Echo Lake Road. The WRP will be one of the largest taxpayers in the Town of Watertown.