

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

3/18/2010

Submitted by Joe Seacrist

- 1. Spoke with Lynn McHale, who is organizing a Watertown Merchant's Association and offered the help of the EDC in any way we can be supportive. She was pleased to hear that we would be participating.**
- 2. Activated the "Video Tour of Watertown" series of videos on the town web-site. Followed up the premiere with e-mails to hundreds of local merchants and businesspeople, letting them know of the opportunity to use the videos in promotion of their own businesses. Received several positive e-mails from prominent businesspeople including Carl Siemon, the President of the Siemon Company praising the EDC for taking the lead in promoting Watertown.**
- 3. Talked with a broker from John Hastings Inc. in Fairfield County who is looking for 20 to 25 thousand square feet of retail space for a client who wants to be in Watertown. Will continue to follow-up this lead.**
- 4. Met with a businessperson who is interested in starting a dog grooming business in town. Reviewed all the available retail plots with him, and put him in touch with several property owners who have available space.**
- 5. Spoke with a person who wants to start a woodworking shop in Watertown. The Santamaria property on Link Field road seemed to please him, so I put him touch with Bob Santamaria.**
- 6. Worked with Joe McGrail and Chuck Frigon to prepare the Economic Development Budget for 2010-2011. McGrail and I appeared before the Budget subcommittee of the Town Council to present the proposed budget on March 16th.**
- 7. Will attend the Town Council business sub-committee meeting on Monday March 22, sponsored by Kace Duplisse to strategize and brainstorm about ways to make the application process for new businesses for streamlined for the Town.**
- 8. Continue to work with the Watertown Renewable Energy group to help guide the progress of their power plant. Currently they were before the DPUC for what's called a "re-opener" which allows the DPUC to consider re-opening the previous contract with CL&P. Seam Williams tells me that the DPUC has indefinitely postponed**

their future hearings. This can be a problem for the plant, since they need the DPUC approval to get a shovel in the ground by December 31, 2010. If they can break ground by then, they will receive \$30 million from the federal Stimulus package.

- 9. Will be hosting the annual Watertown/Oakville Chamber of Commerce legislative breakfast to be held next Tuesday 3/23/10 with Representative Williams and Senator Kane at the Siemon Company on Siemon Drive in Watertown.**
- 10. Sent the EDC letter of support for the P&Z initiative to seek support for a medical needs study for the town to the Town Council. The Town Council then delegated to the Business Sub-committee of the council.**
- 11. Met with a representative of the Waterbury Chamber of Commerce to show him the destroyed "Welcome to Watertown" sign, currently at the town garage and to seek the chamber's help in replacing it. He has promised to have the sign maker examine the damaged sign to determine the nature of the damage.**