

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

4/15/2010

Submitted by: Joseph Seacrist

- 1. Led the annual Watertown/Oakville legislative Breakfast featuring Senator Rob Kane and representative Sean Williams on Tuesday March 23 at the Siemon building. Approximately 35 persons attended the session which covered progress toward legislation/ or lack thereof in Hartford. They both responded to questions from the audience.**
- 2. Met with an individual who is interested in opening a retail store in Watertown. He asked for my help in contacting the potential landlord on his behalf.**
- 3. Had several discussions with the John Hastings Real Estate firm in Westport CT who was interested in occupying 20,000 sf of retail space in Watertown. His client is unwilling to build new, and the town does not have in its inventory a currently available building of that size.**
- 4. Discussed with a representative of N.E. Resources in Danbury the possibility of his firm providing wood chips for the proposed Watertown Power Project. Put him in touch with Mark Mirabito, the Watertown Project Manager.**
- 5. Had several telephone conversations with the reporter for the Waterbury Republican, which resulted in subsequent articles about Watertown and the EDC being published.**
- 6. Confirmed with the project manager for the Watertown Commercial Debris transfer station that they still plan on breaking ground this summer for the facility, when DEP issues its final approvals. This station will be located on the back portion of the former Watertown Drive-in property.**
- 7. Discussed with a representative of a real estate firm based In Chicago, the potential sale of the Seeley property in Oakville. He subsequently made a trip to Watertown to see the property for himself.**
- 8. With Joe McGrail, and others had a follow-up meeting with the owner of the former Griffin School in Oakville concerning his intentions for the property.**

- 9. Met with Chuck Frigon, Town Manager, and Representative Sean Williams to discuss the technicalities involved in a revision to the EDC portion of the town web-site. Our budget plans for 2010-11 call for a revision of the web-site. Mr. Williams also works for Q-send, the provider for the town's web-site.**
- 10. Represented Watertown at the Litchfield County Board of Realtor's annual leadership breakfast in Torrington, where all the leaders of the towns in the Northwestern portion of the state meet with constituents.**
- 11. Attended the 120th annual meeting on the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce at the Holiday Inn in Waterbury. This was the best attended annual meeting ever, with about 280 persons attending. Watertown was mentioned for its Watertown/Oakville Chapter's contributions.**
- 12. Prepared a series of flow charts for the business sub-committee of the Town Council as a result of attending their first meeting to determine how the town might make it easier for potential businesses to find their way through the application processes of the various town Boards and Commissions. The preparation of the flow charts was a result of comments made at the first meeting. The second meeting is scheduled for April 26th.**
- 13. As a part of the Town Council business sub-committee as well, working with the Chairman of the P&Z Commission on ways to formalize in the zoning regulations, the opportunity for an applicant to have a site plan pre-application meeting with the entire P&Z commission to determine the commissions feelings about a potential site application, without formal commitment on either party.**