

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 4/28/2011

Submitted by: Joseph Seacrist

- 1. Spoke with the project manager for the Commercial Demolition project planned for Frost Bridge Road. They have published in the local papers the required public notification of their intention for remediation. We are still awaiting a response from Rep. Sean Williams and Sen. Rob Kane as to their ability to help move the DEP a little faster on the application for remediation.**
- 2. Have completed the necessary steps to add all available Commercial and Industrial properties currently on the market, to our EDC web-site. Using this link : <http://cercwidget.zoomprospector.com/ed.asp?search15=0980490&s=900> anyone interested in commercial/industrial properties in Watertown can find them immediately. This was done by our association with CERC and our membership in their site-finder program.**
- 3. The applicant for a new café in the former Sweet Basil's location has been granted permission for an application for a liquor permit from the Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission. The P&Z has apparently decided to proceed with the application as a "like kind and use" or continued restaurant use, thus not treating it as a new zoning usage application.**
- 4. The public hearing for the application for a commercial shopping center on the corner of Straits Turnpike and Bunker Hill Road is coming up next month at P&Z. Concerning this project I have put Charlie Luke, owner of Farmington Valley Power Equipment in touch with Dave Thoreau at Drubner. As you might remember, Charlie has been looking for a number of years for a Watertown location for his John Deere dealership, wanting a location on Straits Turnpike.**
- 5. The Watertown Economic Development Commission in conjunction with CL&P and the Watertown Farmer's Market will again hold a lighting fair, which will offer town residents vastly reduced prices on new energy efficient appliances as well as light bulbs. Tentative date is July 23 at the Town Library parking lot.**

- 6. The Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission heard a preliminary proposal from a resident who would like permission to build a restaurant and pool hall at 120 Falls Avenue, an abandoned factory. The factory has been empty for a number of years, and would use would require a zone change from residential to commercial.**
- 7. The P&Z has given final approval to the application for a yoga studio in the Watertown Meat Center building on Main Street.**
- 8. On the corner of Straits Turnpike and Bunker Hill road, the P&Z has given permission for the construction of a new canopy and sign at the gas station and Frankie's hot dog stand. This was requested, since the brand of gasoline is changing from Mobil to Shell.**
- 9. Taft school has applied for several pergolas to be placed next to their tennis courts to protect spectators from the sun.**
- 10. Global Plastics Recycling which bought the former Alves Precision engineering building on Commercial Street has applied to the state for a permit to re-cycle scrap plastic from plastic plants around the state and the area. This new business has been very successful before they realized they needed a permit from the DEP. This green technology will prevent tons of scrap plastics from ending up in landfills. Global Plastics has extended an invitation to Chuck Frigon, Joe Seacrist and any members of the EDC who would like to tour their facility.**
- 11. At the request of the Thomaston Economic Development Commission, I spoke to the Commission about our process in getting CGI corporation to put the video tour on our web-site. Thomaston is considering using CGI and wanted to know our experience with them. The discussion became more wide-ranging covering a number of additional topics which Economic Development Commissions tend to have in common. It was a very useful visit.**
- 12. Spoke with Joseph Yamin concerning the potential usages for the former Griffin School. He is hopeful a new project can be started there very soon.**

- 13. The New millennium Corporation has applied for a zone change to the Watertown P&Z for a project at the corner of Nova Scotia Hill Road and Buckingham Street. The property is now zoned as R-30 and they are proposing change the zoning to R-G which would allow for a much more dense usage. This would allow instead of 30 homes, as many as 65.**
- 14. Working with Joe McGrail on a potential letter to the Sealy executives concerning the future of their building at the corner of Riverside and Main Streets in Oakville.**
- 15. Preliminary indications concerning the EDC budget for next year show that no changes have been made as of this date. However, as we all know the Town Council has required the Town Budget to be lowered by an additional \$200,000, so final decisions are still to be made.**