

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS REPORT 8/18/2011

Submitted by Joseph Seacrist

- 1. Sent attached letter to P&Z on behalf of the Watertown Economic Development Commission in support of the CVS proposal as unanimously approved by the commission at last month's meeting.**
- 2. Resolved a unfounded rumor concerning CVS needing to use part of the parking at Musgrove Field for their P&Z application.**
- 3. Received and read the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan from the COG as it relates to Watertown.**
 - A. Proposed changes to I-84 and Route 8**
 - B. Realign Route 73 in Watertown**
 - C. Route 63 in Watertown**
 - D. Route 73 in Watertown**

(See details of these projects in a copy of the recommended plan attached to this report). Full report available at:
<http://cogcnv.org/LRTP.html>
- 4. Spoke with a Shelton developer who is looking for 12-15 acres for light manufacturing. Emphasized the availability of parcels in the Industrial park which would meet his needs. He promised to consider that as a possibility. His original request was for property along route I-84, but I pointed out our proximity to route 84 from route 8.**
- 5. Spoke again with John Maxwell concerning his desire to purchase the former Henlopen property, and again put him in touch with the project manager in Denver.**
- 6. Was invited to participate in a focus group to determine the community needs for the new Superintendent of Schools for Watertown. Passed the invitation on to Chairman McGrail and Rich Dupont, the current Chairman of the Watertown/Oakville Chamber of Commerce.**
- 7. Customized CERC's "Promote your Property" promotional brochure for Watertown commercial real estate brokers. A copy is attached for your information.**

- 8. Continued to update the list of town businesses with almost all the phone numbers. The next step will be to obtain e-mail addresses and available web-sites for those businesses.**
- 9. Have been invited to speak at the Watertown Senior Center with the Town Manager and Chairman of the Town Council, to give an overview of economic development and answer any questions. The date will be set for sometime in early September.**
- 10. Helped coordinate and implement the shooting of portions of a film for the Animal Planet Network, using the former Heminway Park school, since the script called for an old school. The producer for the film is a former Watertown resident, who grew up in the town.**
- 11. Represented the Watertown Economic Development Commission at the weekly Farmer's Market during "Meet your Town Officials Saturday".**
- 12. Substituted John Manno and Don Orsini for Joe McGrail and myself at the annual Northeast Utilities Summer Networking Extravaganza at the Hartford Boathouse on the river in Hartford.**



July 22, 2011

Mr. David Minnich
Chairman
Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission
51 Depot Street Suite 502
Watertown CT 06795

Dear Chairman Minnich,

At its monthly meeting last evening, Thursday July 21, 2011, the Watertown Economic Development Commission voted unanimously to support the project to build a new CVS retail outlet on the site of the former Griffin School on Davis Street in Oakville.

The commission feels this is the best of all alternative suggestions for the use of this property. It will increase the property taxes to the town, remove what has become an essentially blighted location from the center of Oakville, and provide a new location for an already existing Watertown/Oakville/Waterbury customer base for CVS.

The commission sees this project as one of the main building blocks for the eventual retail re-vitalization of the intersection of Davis and Main Streets in Oakville.

The Commission strongly recommends that the Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission approve the zone change from residential to commercial for this property.

Sincerely,

Joseph McGrail
Chairman
Watertown Economic Development Commission

Cc: Raymond Primini, Chairman of the Town of Watertown Town Council
Charles Frigon, Town Manager
Members of the Watertown Economic Development Commission
Franklin Pilicy, Attorney
Joseph Yamin, Attorney