

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT FOR 9/16/10
Submitted by Joe Seacrist

- 1. Received the attached resolution of support for the EDC from the Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission, several days after their last meeting.**
- 2. Attended with Jack Traver and Suzanne Church the Builder's Institute session on Economic Development and the proper use of land use boards on August 31st in Waterbury at the Holliday Inn on East Main Street. The speakers did a good job of making what could be a very dry subject interesting**
- 3. Representing the Watertown Economic Development Commission, Spoke to the Watertown Rotary Club yesterday, September 15, to give them an update on Economic Development Activities in the town during this past year. Was well received and was able to respond to a number of good questions.**
- 4. Sent an invitation to town leaders including the Town Council and members of the Planning and Zoning Commission to attend this evening's meeting to hear Mr. Santy speak about the advantages of Watertown joining CERC.**
- 5. Alerted the members of the Economic Development Commission to an upcoming quarterly meeting of CEDAS at the former Fairfield Hills State Hospital in Newtown.**
- 6. Also passed on to the members of the commission an invitation to hear a debate between the two candidates for governor on October 7 at the Connecticut Convention Center.**
- 7. Spoke with Mark Mirabato, project manager for the Watertown Power Project concerning the progress with the wood chip burning power plant scheduled for Watertown. The DPUC has decided not to change the project's contract with CL&P from a market rate contract to a cost of service contract. This significantly impacts the possibility of the project getting the financing it needs to go forward.**
- 8. Spoke with a developer who was interested in whether the town had foreclosed on any commercial/industrial property, which he was willing to possibly buy for the taxes owed. Told him I knew of none so far, which is good news.**

9. Spoke with the head of the Watertown Fall Festival Committee concerning his request from the EDC or the Watertown Chamber of Commerce for a contribution to fireworks for the event.



Town of Watertown Connecticut

51 Depot Square Business Center
Suite 502, Watertown Connecticut 06795-2200
Planning and Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation
Commission/Inland Wetland , Agency

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission supports the Economic Development Commission's request to the Town Council for a \$33,000 budget appropriation this fiscal year in addition to the part time salary for the position of the Economic Development Coordinator; and

WHEREAS the P&Z Commission recognizes that adequate funding is needed to support the EDC mission for business retention and business growth in Watertown, particularly important to our town in this economy; and

WHEREAS it is commendable that the Watertown Town Council supports the EDC mission and at the recent budget referendums \$6,100 for the EDC annual budget in addition to the part time salary; and

WHEREAS the additional \$26,900 budget request is not a new request. It is a modest amount of money for, in part, the Economic Development Coordinator and the Economic Development Commissioners to attend conferences and meetings to speak with business executives to encourage them to locate and expand their businesses in town, and for communication improvements to the EDC website. The Town of Watertown must grow its nonresidential sectors to lessen the burden of property taxes on current residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS during municipal elections last November the P&Z Commission was encouraged by Town Council candidate pledges of support for business retention and business growth.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission this first day of September 2010 encourages the EDC to accept the invitation of the Watertown Town Council Chairman to come again to the Town Council and make their budget request. The P&Z Commission suggests the Town Council not raise taxes to fund

this request, does not micromanage the EDC, and lets the EDC carryout their mission that will better the welfare of our community in the manner the EDC deems most effective with a \$33,000 budget in addition to the part time Economic Development Coordinator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Administrator for Land Use / Zoning Enforcement Officer is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Town Manager, to the residences of Town Council members, and to the Economic Development Coordinator for transmittal to the Economic Development Commission.

[Adopted unanimously by Watertown Planning and Zoning Commission on September 1, 2010]