

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 8/19/2010

Submitted by Joe Seacrist

- 1. Held several conversations with the attorney for the Corey Shaker agreement to buy the former Crestwood Ford property. He had some concerns about a water problem on the property. I had discussions with the Town Manager, the Town Engineer and the Town Zoning Enforcement Officer to determine the extent of the problem. It was determined that there is a groundwater problem with the property which will have to be rectified. It was agreed that the Town would do everything in its power to try to make sure that the problem was fixed, while considering the financial ramifications for the new owners. The Shaker family intends to change the former Crestwood Ford location into a new KIA dealership. Planning and zoning has already approved the site plans in order to meet the needs of the State Department of Motor Vehicles.**
- 2. Attended the August 7 session of the Farmer's Market which was billed as meet your local officials' day. Manned a booth as the EDC coordinator and met several citizens who were interested in the Economic Development of the town. As you may know, the Market Manager for the Farmer's Market has designated each day of the Market with a theme. Attendance was good on August 7.**
- 3. Talked with the principal owners' representative about the progress towards completion of the Commercial debris transfer station proposed for the former Watertown Drive-In site. They have hit some snags with the DEP, which has little or nothing to do with this particular project, but with new legislation which was passed since this project was proposed. As it stands now, the owner, in order to move the project forward, will have to submit a second application to the DEP at an additional cost of a \$15,000 application fee. The owner of the property is currently deciding whether he wants to take that step or not.**
- 4. Have agreed to be the speaker at the September 15 meeting of the Watertown/Oakville rotary club.**
- 5. Confirmed with CERC that their President will be present at our September meeting to speak about the benefits of the Watertown Economic Development Commission joining as a full member of CERC.**
- 6. The Governor and the State of Connecticut has announced that it will bond the \$1 million funds to develop an architectural plan for the**

construction of its bus maintenance facility to be located at the former Watertown Drive-in property, a project which has been languishing for more than 5 years. This came as a surprise since the project had not been included in the five year budget for the state DOT, so almost everyone thought it was a dead project. The funds, however, are for the plans and not for the construction and completion of the project.

7. Spoke with Karen Baldwin, Watertown Superintendent of Schools, about the possible use of one of the schools for a Watertown/Oakville Business Expo. The purpose of such an expo would be to familiarize the citizens of Watertown with the goods and services provided by the merchants and businesses in town. She indicated she thought that would be an appropriate use of the facilities, and that the only possible cost might be some custodial overtime, depending on when we would like to hold the expo. She indicated that we should use the existing system of booking the school when we have decided on a date.
8. Reviewed a copy of the Town Times "Meet the Merchants" separate issue from August 5, 2010. This is a wonderful collection of advertisements for the town merchants and could work nicely with a business expo. Will suggest to the EDC that we find a way to perhaps re-print a number of these issues for distribution around town and as handouts for the Business Expo.
9. There are three opportunities for members of the Watertown Economic Development Commission to gain more knowledge concerning the field of Economic Development. They Are:
 - The Community Builder's Institute to be held on August 31 in Waterbury. So far three members of the Watertown commission and the EDC coordinator have signed up to attend. There is no additional charge after the first three, so if more members would like to attend it would be free. The session runs from 4:00 until 9:00 with a dinner included, and will be held at the Holiday Inn on East Main Street.
 - The 33rd annual New England Economic Development Course, one of 14 regional courses, to be held in Portland Maine from September 13-16 at the Clarion Hotel. The course is accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) which is the premier EDC Association in the world.
 - Transformational Leadership in Economic Development, the Northeaster Economic Development Association's annual

workshop from October 17-19 in Providence RI at the Renaissance hotel in Providence. This course is also accredited by the IEDC and both this course and the course in Maine can lead to the official designation as a CEcD, or Certified Economic Developer.

10. Brochures for all the above are available from the EDC Coordinator.

11. The EDC Coordinator and the Chairman of the Watertown Economic Development Commission have been invited to an invitation only networking event for all Connecticut EDC Commissions to be held on Wednesday August 25 at the Mountain Ridge Resort in Wallingford. The even is sponsored by the Economic Development Department of Northeast Utilities.

12. Spoke with Darryl Newman of Planter's Choice nursery, with two locations in Watertown, about arranging for the annual 2011 meeting of the Connecticut Nurseryman's Association to be held In Watertown. I'm helping with locations.