

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 10/20/2022**

**Submitted by: Joseph Seacrist**

- 1. Attended last week's Inland/wetlands commission meeting along with EDC members Traver, Migliarise, and McGrail. The developers of a proposed major warehouse/distribution center appeared in an informal presentation (meaning they have yet to submit a formal application) to get an impression on whether the inland/wetlands commission would welcome such a project. The commission appeared to think positively about the proposal.**
- 2. Had several pre-presentation meetings with the principals and others involved in the above noticed project to anticipate possible public reactions to a public announcement. These meetings were important since the proposed structure would be the largest building in Watertown and would contribute significant tax revenues to the town if approved and built.**
- 3. Have sent the proposed façade improvement program to the town attorney for legal approval and for any suggested changes which would make the suggested program even better.**
- 4. Spent two consecutive days with the videographers from CGI Corporation taking them to many locations in the Town so they could take appropriate videos for the new and revised "Video Tour of Watertown" presentation on our website. We also did videos of the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief, the Town Manager, and the Superintendent of schools on the subject of Public Safety**
- 5. Spoke to a representative of an approved licensee for the retail sales of Cannabis who was asking whether Watertown had any restrictions on the retail sale in our town. When Watertown approved the growth and sales of medical marijuana for Theraplant it was based on an agreement that the town would not allow for retail sales here. I relayed that information to this company's representative.**

- 6. Communicated with another developer who is interested in trying to obtain a potential tax incentive for a low income housing project in town. He indicated that his firm is currently negotiating with an existing low income property owner in town to purchase the property and rehabilitate it. He would not indicate to me which property he is talking about. This issue is up for further discussion on tonight's agenda.**
  
- 7. The Watertown/Oakville Chamber of Commerce had a dinner this week to honor their outstanding member for the year who is Bob LaBonne Jr. They also honored the Ivy for the outside beautification award, and the owner of Martino's pizza as the unsung hero of the year. The dinner was held at the Grand Oak Villa in Oakville.**
  
- 8. The Planning and Zoning Commission tabled two different proposals for a bed and breakfast permit until their November meeting. They postponed action pending consideration of both projects by the inland/wetlands commission.**
  
- 9. The owners of Chubbas two locations in Watertown and Thomaston have listed their business for sale with Brian Godin. The asking price is \$575,000.**
  
- 10. The former Mitsubishi dealership on Straits Turnpike will soon be occupied by another car dealer.**
  
- 11. The former Heminways restaurant on Main Street in Watertown will soon re-open for food service/**
  
- 12. The former Cumberland Farms restaurant on Main Street in Oakville will re-open in December as a new food service establishment called "Underground Records Café" which will sell pastries and coffee and also sell old vinyl records for sale.**

**13. This weekend, most of the 40 businesses in the old pin shop in Oakville will sponsor an open house for the public to visit and purchase goods manufactured there.**