

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 2/16/2023**

**Submitted by: Joseph Seacrist**

- 1. Have developed an implementation plan for the Façade Improvement Program to be implemented in April 2023. More will be discussed under item 7a. of tonight's agenda. Have developed a one page flyer which can be emailed or mailed to all businesses which face Main street in both Watertown and Oakville. Will distribute the proposed flyer at the meeting tonight.**
  
- 2. Have completed and authorized the publishing of the new and revised video tour of Watertown which can be accessed from the home page of watertownct.org. there are 1. Welcome; 2. Quality of Life; 3. Parks and Recreation; 4. Public Safety; 5. Economic Development; 6. The Village of Oakville; 7. Community Development. They should be available for publishing to our home page in about a week.**
  
- 3. A continuous version of the video tour, without section breaks will also be made available to us for separate use as a promotional video of Watertown.**
  
- 4. Our proposed budget is scheduled to be presented to the Town Council next Tuesday 2/21/2023 for their review .**
  
- 5. Held a telephone conversation with the new owners of the former Fornier properties on Main street in downtown Watertown. They seem eager to cooperate with the EDC for our proposed suggested types of businesses to welcome to town.**
  
- 6. The owners of Ten Acres Mall (formerly the K-Mart plaza) have listed for lease the former ION bank building. I had a meeting with Mark Masoud and a property broker about potential uses for the property.**

- 7. Planning and Zoning has received a final report from Planimetrics concerning the history and proposed actions on the former Sealy property. The P&Z ha continued a public hearing on the project for its March meeting. They made a Motion to Continue the Public Hearing to the March 1, 2023 Regular Meeting. Attorney Pilicy provided a letter dated February 1, 2023 for an extension of time to complete the Public Hearing to March 1, 2023 to provide a conceptual site plan as part of the application. As a part of P&Z's plans for the Planned Development regulation possible revisions they will consider a proposal to adopt model regulations for Planned Development Districts. They will Schedule a public hearing for March 1, 2023.**
  
- 8. The new owners of Utitec in the business park have listed a portion of their currently unused property for the proposed storage of semi trailers and other vehicles. Have talked with P&Z concerning whether or not this would be an approved use of the property. Utitec was recently acquired by an investment firm called Snowball Enterprises based in Brooklyn New York which was quoted in an article in the Hartford Business Journal concerning their view that towns like Watertown will be the next investable commercial properties in the future. A copy of the HBJ article will be passed out at tonight's meeting.**
  
- 9. The P&Z received an 56 Echo Lake Road LP & MR, LLC site plan application to convert 8,456 of existing Industrial space to residential use. The location is directly across the street from the Echo Lake entrance to the Town Hall. decided to table the site plan application to the March 1, 2023 Regular Meeting.**