

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 1/21/2021

Submitted by: Joseph Seacrist

- 1. Working with AdvanceCT reformulated their previous proposal for marketing vacant land in Connecticut and helping to “brand” Watertown and its image. A copy of the new proposal is being emailed to you separately.**
- 2. Had a telephone meeting with the Town Manager, Director of Parks and Recreation, the Director of Public Works and our contact with CGI in Rochester NY concerning the latest proposal from CGI Corporation for placing free pole banners throughout the town. As a result of this meeting, the Director of Public Works had one of his techs make a map of all the town owner light poles in town. The map is completed and in my possession.**
- 3. Working with a local commercial real estate broker concerning the possible building of an upscale gasoline/convenience store at the corner of Buckingham and route 262. They may be filing an application for a tax incentive for this project.**
- 4. The former BMW of Watertown has now permanently relocated to Waterbury, leaving their former property on Straits Turnpike temporarily vacant. We have been aware of this pending move for more than a year, and have talked with several potential buyers/leasers for their possible use of the property.**
- 5. Along the same lines, the current Subaru car dealership on Straits Turnpike has started construction for their new location on Straits Turnpike in Middlebury. Their Watertown location does not have the necessary additional room for future expansion.**
- 6. Spoke with the new owner of the former Bradshaw property on Main street in Oakville on two issues. First, means of preserving the very old former coal company sign on the property for its historical value to the history of Oakville. We will continue to discuss with the owner the various means of preservation possible. Secondly, the new owner indicates he is planning to redo the former showroom into several small retail locations. Concerning**

the property across the street where the historical sign is located, his current plans are to redo the six double doors on the barnlike property into six small retail locations as well.

- 7. Spoke with the new owner of the former Country Cinema about his previously announced plans for a major renovation of the venue. He has indicated that he is applying for a building permit this winter so he can start on the renovations in the spring.**

- 8. Have begun discussions with a web-site developer to help design a separate web-site for Economic Development. It will be designed for immediate integration with a newly designed whole town web-site whenever that project is completed.**

- 9. Continue to monitor the progress of Sealy concerning the sale of their property in Oakville.**