

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 5/20/2021

Submitted by: Joseph Seacrist

- 1. Worked on the Restaurant Revitalization Fund with the much appreciated leadership of Zaiga Antonetti. She was instrumental in helping set up a zoom meeting with the Executive Director of the CT. Restaurant Association.**

- 2. Sent emails to all restaurants in town who have available emails to remind them of the criticality of the RRF deadlines and to urge them to get their applications for the fund on the opening day for applications. The first to receive consideration were women owned, veteran owned and economically disadvantaged owned businesses.**

- 3. The 28B fund for the above noted businesses was open to them exclusively for the first 11 days. On the first day applications surpassed the allocated funds even before other small restaurant owners were considered. It appears to be doubtful that Congress will allocate more funds for this grant program.**

- 4. Spoke at the last P&Z public hearing meeting on behalf of Chairman McGrail who was not available that night. The public hearing considered the text amendment to rezone the former Sealy property. There was a significant number of mostly abutting property owners participating via Zoom. The P&Z decided to keep the public hearing open until their next monthly meeting.**

- 5. Checked with AdvanceCT about the standing of Watertown in consideration for a possible large manufacturer of electric charging stations for electric automobiles. AdvanceCT has put forward Watertown as a considered location. AdvanceCT indicates they will know more about Watertown's status by the end of this week 5/21/2021.**

- 6. Attended the Grand Opening of Renacer Healthy Club located at 320 Main Street in Oakville. The merchant sells healthy smoothies as well as other healthy food items.**

- 7. Was pleased to see that in addition to the new store at 320 Main Street in Oakville, there are two previously vacant storefronts also occupied. One is a nail salon and the other is a cosmetology salon.**

- 8. Received and reviewed a slide show issued by Governor Lamont concerning how local governments will share in the large Federal funds as part of new funding. A portion of the slide show was devoted to Economic Development. Here is the link to the slide presentation.**



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- 9. Based on early feedback from some members of the EDC sub-committee I suggested to the firm retained to re-work our EDC website, that they visit the Southbury website and see how Southbury handled Economic Development. This could serve as a potential model for our use. Southbury has also served as a model for our new town website.**