

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 2/17/2022

Presented by: Joseph Seacrist

1. Talked with and welcomed a new manufacturing business to Watertown. Spoke with the President of PACT LLC who has taken a lease on about 50,000sf in the former Emerson building on Buckingham Street. the following is a description from their website about what they manufacture.

“PACT is a manufacturer of sustainable packaging products for the Industrial and Moving & Storage Industries. Our use of corrugated in our patented process of cross-core lamination of triple-wall, double-wall and fiber board, allows for the production of light weight recyclable crates that are as strong as wood. These unique products are splinter-free, reusable, lighter to ship, easily set up and knocked down for storage.

PACT also manufactures PleatWrap (paper bubble) which is a sustainable paper wrap. PleatWrap has an engineered pleated center that is sandwiched between a tissue and a Kraft paper layer. PleatWrap gives superior corner protection as compared to its plastic competition and can be recycled after use.”

We are always happy to see a new employer in town. They are moving from their current location in Waterbury.

2. Met with the President of Heritage Woods, the 300 acre property on Bunker Hill Road. The meeting dealt with the process for achieving a renewal of their currently expired P&Z permit for the development of age appropriate Housing They are exploring the possibilities of appearing before the inland/wetlands commission to see if any regulations have changed since their last meeting.
3. The company seeking to purchase the former Sealy property in Oakville has formally closed on the property and are the current owners. They are awaiting a decision from the Superior Court concerning whether the zoning approved by P&Z will be sustained or rejected. Adjoining property owners have filed an appeal of the P&Z decision on zoning.

- 4. The ordinance sub-committee of the Town Council will hold a meeting this week to discuss the current noise abatement ordinance and to decide whether it needs to be revised.**

- 5. A new business applied for a Special Permit #2022-01 for car sales at 11 Falls Avenue, Oakville, CT in a B-C zoning district. P&Z decided to Schedule a public hearing for Wednesday, March 2, 202,**

- 6. Echo Asset, LLC, "O" Echo Lake Road, has filed a site plan application for development of an industrial building comprised of 4,800 s.f. of office space, 8,000 s.f. of shop area with associated parking for employees and vehicles. P&Z voted to table until action from the Conservation/Inland Commission does its work.**

- 7. A proposed text amendment to the Watertown Zoning Regulations from Attorney Michael McVerry to allow professional office uses by site plan/special permit within the R-20 zoning district limited to properties fronting on CT Route 6 (Woodbury Road) was defeated on a tie vote.**

- 8. A Site Plan/Special Permit#2021-06 application from Sasaki Associates, Inc on behalf of Taft School, 110 Woodbury Road, Watertown, CT, to install four (4) 70 foot sports lighting poles and lights on Snyder Field. Parcel ID Map 99, Block 58, Lot 7 was discussed. P&Z tabled the matter since it is currently before the Zoning Board of Appeals.**

- 9. A citizen has written to me about her concern that a new gun store has opened on main street. I checked with the Zoning Enforcement Officer and found that since it is a retail establishment it meets all the zoning requirements. The business did not need to go through any extra special review with regards to Zoning, it's a retail establishment like many other retail establishments. However, they were subject to strict scrutiny from the police department and from ATF on the state and federal level. They must go through a rigorous examination of the security of the weapons.**