

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT 4/20/2023**

**Submitted by: Joseph Seacrist**

- 1. Have so far received only one applicant for the façade improvement program. It comes from the Watertown History Museum and a copy of the application is included in your materials for tonight's meeting.**
  
- 2. Helped a new business owner set up her single proprietor LLC and guided her through the necessary steps for notifying the town.**
  
- 3. Sent an email to the attorney for a proposed ~700,000sf distribution center in Middlebury. The citizens of that town have mounted a large campaign opposed to the plan. The point of my letter is to indicate that Watertown has a site suitable for such a proposal and that we anticipate little public opposition. I noticed that he had read my email, but to date I have received no response.**
  
- 4. Met again with a representative of a developer who is interested in purchasing an approximately 6 acre lot on lower Echo Lake Road in the business park. The site would be opposite the current Carby Corporation. The plan is to build a 85,000sf food distribution center on the property.**

- 5. The purchaser of the former Subaru property on Straits Turnpike paid \$1.6M for ownership. The current plan is to build a child day care facility on the property.**
  
- 6. Worked with the Director of Public Works to help identify some properties in town which would be suitable for a new Town garage. We identified several possibilities.**
  
- 7. Wrote a memo to the Town Manager, at his request, concerning the both short term and long term tax income possibilities from economic development activities.**
  
- 8. Continue to work with Planning and Zoning monitoring the progress of the developer of some 300 acres of property on Bunker Hill Road.**
  
- 9. Theraplant plans to reconfigure some of their space in their current location in order to meet the continuing market need for Cannabis since it has become legalized in Connecticut.**
  
- 10. Have communicated with the Watertown Chamber of Commerce concerning the refreshment of the current welcome to Watertown sign for service organizations, located at the corner of Route 262 and Buckingham Street.**

**11. P&Z has set two public hearings for its May meeting. One is for a mixed use application from the owner of the former auto parts store on Main street next to Nona Lucia restaurant. The other is for the establishment of a day care center at 795 Straits Turnpike, the location of the former Suburu car dealership.**