Regular Meeting Minutes
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 7:30 A.M.
Vernon Town Hall, 3rd Floor, 14 Park Place
Rockville/Vernon, CT

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1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chairperson Jeffrey Cohen at 7:35 AM. Those present were Peter Olson, Bill Breslau, Bruce Kellogg, Jill Merriam, Meghan Scranton and Shaun Gately. Those absent were Vincent Shaheen, Jim Sendrak, Bill McGurk and Dan Kennedy. Mayor Apel was also present.

2. Public Forum – No one present to address the Commission

3. Approval of Minutes from meeting on October 10, 2012 – *A motion to approve the October 10, 2012 minutes was made by Peter Olson and seconded by Bruce Kellogg. Motion passed unanimously.*

4. Administrative Items
   A. Communications and Correspondence
      - No report
   B. Other
      - No Report

5. Economic Development Status Update
   A. Current Projects
      - Amerbelle
        - Ownership has transferred from not for profit status to a private developer. Preliminary status is to redevelop the site. More details will follow.
      - 200 West Main Street
        - Tax liens were sold to Ken Kaplan from Kaplan Computers who is planning to acquire the space for a tech center to be utilized for acquisition and recycling of computers.
   B. Ribbon Cuttings
      - Tractor Supply
        Official ribbon cutting ceremony November 15, 2012 at 8:00 AM. There appears to be more interest to develop in this area along Rt. 83.
      - Fancy Feet Pet Grooming
        - Opened last month, business includes a doggy daycare.
      - Suburban Subaru
        - Will be redoing the façade of their building commencing this month.

   C. New Business Development -
      Mr. Gately stated the Town has applied for an OPM grant in the amount of $ 500,000, which is a matching grant that could be used for improving the facades of the buildings in downtown Rockville. The question needs to be asked of the downtown Rockville business owners if they want to invest in the improvement of their buildings through this grant.

6. New Business
   A. Community Outreach/ Events
      - Recognition Programs
        Mr. Cohen and Ms. Merriam have met and are looking to hold the event in early March. They have obtained two sponsors and are looking for a third. They want to have a speaker along with displays of new products. They will be contacting the Secretary of State's office to obtain a current list of business in the area. They will follow up before the next meeting.
      - Broker/Developer/Business Showcase
        Mr. Gately stated he is looking into connecting with Eastern Connecticut State University to assist with sponsoring this event, due to the fact that they have a connection with Rockville.
      - Job Fair
        Mrs. Jackle reported that Mr. Sendrak and she have discussed the plans of the Job Fair and are looking to hold it in May of 2013. They received a list of businesses from Mr. Gately, but will also be contacting the Secretary of State's office to acquire an up-to-date list. They want to hold the event at VCMS. Advertising can be obtained through "Patch", the Reminder and the Journal Inquirer. They also want to utilize the Town's website to advertise the event. More information will follow at the next meeting.

7. Old Business
   A. POCD Implementation objectives
      - RDA/ Investing in Rockville/ Facades and design of Rockville –
        There is not much to report. They will be running their program remotely due to winter costs.
      - Branding – Mr. Gately was in contact with the Superintendent of Schools and has collaborated with Skinner Road School and Rockville High School. His plan is work with certain civic groups within the schools to hold a slogan competition.
      - Enhancing Gateway- This relies on branding and will go hand in hand once the branding has been established.
      - Talcottville Mill – They are currently waiting for funding.
      - Development of Exit 66 and 67 – This also relies on branding but issues prevail with these exits due to development and sewer issues.
      - Retention and Business Development – Once there is direction from branding, they will be able to more forward.
      - Parking Needs – This still remains to be an issue in Rockville.

8. Adjournment – *A motion to adjourn was made by Peter Olsen and seconded by Bill Breslau at adjourn at 8:18 AM. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy A. Jackle
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Recording Secretary