Town Clerk

Regular Meeting Minutes
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, August 8th, 2012 at 7:30 A.M.
Vernon Town Hall, 3rd Floor, 14 Park Place
Rockville/Vernon, CT

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
12 OCT 16 AM 10:34

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chairperson Jeffrey Cohen at 7:35 AM. Those present were Peter Olson, Vincent Shaheen, Jim Sendrak, Bill Breslau, Bruce Kellogg and Shaun Gately. Bill McGurk entered at 7: 38 AM. Jill Merriam entered at 8:20 AM. Absent was Dan Kennedy. Mayor Apel was also present.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from meeting on July 11th, 2012 – A motion to approve the minutes was made by Bill Breslau and seconded by Vincent Sheehan. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Administrative Items
   A. Communications and Correspondence
      - Mr. Gately informed the Commission that Jill Merriam will begin her new appointment commencing July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2017.
   B. Other – No report.

5. Economic Development Status Update
   A. Current Projects
      - 200 West Main Street has completed Phase I of the project and their application will be expedited.
      - Talcottville Mill project is waiting for funding from DECD. They are currently being held up by FEMA due to the possibility of being in a flood zone. They have already met with the Design Review, Planning and Zoning and Inland and Wetlands Commissions.
      - Amerbelle is currently looking to re-tenant the building. But they have to ensure that the building is secure and safe for future tenants. There is a possibility of DECD funding. UConn is looking to assign a graduate student to look at redesigning the building for future potential use. Other mills in the existing area are also in need a repair which could be incorporated in this project.
      - Subaru located on Hartford Turnpike is looking to renovate their façade and will be coming to the commission next month.
      - Cumberland Farms has been approved to relocate from the corner of Thrall and Talcottville Roads to Hockanum Boulevard and Talcottville Road. They are looking sell their previous location.
      - 56 Talcottville Road location is currently under negotiations with the Department of Transportation.

- Friendly's in Rockville has been purchased and will be leased as a church.
- Bennigan's on Hartford Turnpike is back on the market and is looking to be a two pad development site.
- Tractor Supply Company on Talcottville Road is under construction and is planning to open in November. There is a possibility that they might purchase the adjoining parcel of land.

6. New Business

   A. Community Outreach/ Events

   - Several ideas were presented to the Commission regarding a function to assist local businesses to move forward. The ideas ranged from recognizing local businesses through correspondence, sending out a newsletter with local happenings and updates, planning a Job Fair and holding an annual event for all the local businesses in town. After a brief discussion, it was decided to hold a Business Recognition event in the spring of 2013. A key element to the success of this event would be linking the local businesses and community leaders. Mr. Gately stated that there is a grant with potential matching dollars for municipalities to work with local businesses which is due in September. There would need to be a comprehensive plan in order to submit for the grant. This agenda item will be added to next month's agenda as an ongoing agenda item. Members were encouraged to bring their written plans to the next meeting or send them to Mr. Cohen.

7. Old Business

   A. POCD Implementation objectives

   - RDA/ Investing in Rockville/ Facades and design of Rockville – Mr. Olson reported that he has received two estimates on the painting of the brick facades in Main Street in Rockville. The estimates, between $ 3000 and $ 5000, would include power washing and painting the bricks only.
   - Branding - Jill Merriam has joined this subcommittee.

   The subcommittees were encouraged to continue to meet and update the commission at future meetings.

8. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Peter Olson and seconded by Jim Sendrak at adjourn at 8:35AM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy A. Jackle
Peggy A. Jackle
Recording Secretary