

Town Clerk

Regular Meeting Minutes
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, December 12, 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, Jim Sendrak, Bill McGurk, Jill Merrin, Meghan Scranton and Shaun Gately. Dan Kennedy and Bill Breslau arrived at 7:36 AM. Those absent were Vincent Shaheen and Bruce Kellogg. Mayor Apel was also present.
2. Public Forum – No one present to address the Commission
3. Approval of Minutes from meeting on November 14, 2012 – A motion to approve the November 14, 2012 minutes was made by Peter Olson and seconded by Meghan Scranton. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Administrative Items
 - A. Communications and Correspondence
 - EPA Grant – Support Letter
 - A letter was written by Jeffrey Cohen, Chairperson of the Economic Development Commission to support the Town’s effort to seek grant funding to assess, remediate and plan for effective and productive reuse of the historic district in the Vernon/Rockville area.
 - B. Other
 - No Report
5. Economic Development Status Update
 - A. Current Projects
 - Amerbelle
 - Mr. Gately has met with current owner. Process is moving slowly but stated that he will have more information next month. The property is currently being redeveloped as residential property.
 - 200 West Main Street
 - Ken Kaplan from Kaplan Computers has acquired the tax liens on the property.
 - 444 Hartford Turnpike
 - The property was the former Texaco site on Route 30. It is currently planned to be developed as a four/five unit retail center. It will be presented to Planning and Zoning on December 20, 2012.
 - B. Ribbon Cuttings /Events
 - Cumberland Farms – Ground breaking will be held on December 12, 2012 at 2 P.M.
 - OKI Asian Bistro – Ribbon cutting occurred on December 7, 2012 at Noon.
 - Stop and Shop – Located at 10 Pitkin Road will have a grand opening occur on December 14, 2012 at 9 A.M.
 - C. New Business Development -
 - Mill Town Business development event at ECSU
Mayor Apel has requested that the Town establish a liaison that will reach out to new businesses and local universities to develop future businesses in town.
6. New Business
 - A. Community Outreach/ Events
 - Recognition Programs
Mr. Cohen and Ms. Merriam continue to meet and stated that they are looking to hold the event in March in the evening. They will follow up before the next meeting.

- Broker/Developer/Business Showcase
Mr. Gately stated he is looking to hold the showcase in early summer perhaps in June. More details will follow.
- Job Fair
Mr. Sendrak updated the commission on the Job Fair which will hopefully be held in May. There was a discussion as to the town's website and its accessibility. A list of local businesses has been obtained and an introduction letter will be drafted to send to the local businesses informing them of the upcoming event. The commission suggested contacting the Chamber of Commerce and also reaching out to UConn and Eastern for advertising for the event.
- Startup Weekend – University Outreach
Mr. Gately will be moving forward with this concept.

7. Old Business

A. POCD Implementation objectives

- RDA/ Investing in Rockville/ Facades and design of Rockville –
Programs are still running but they are managing and meeting offsite. They are working on spring events.
- Branding – Mr. Gately continues to work with Rockville High School on the branding project.
- Enhancing Gateway- No updates as of this meeting.
- Talcottville Mill – They have submitted their application with the state of Connecticut and submitted their deficiency letters on December 19, 2012. They should hear something by mid-February to early March.
- Development of Exit 66 and 67 – Mr. Gately continues to work with the development of the property.
- Retention and Business Development – Once there is direction from branding, they will be able to move forward and Mr. Gately continues to make every effort to market properties in the Vernon/Rockville area.
- Parking Needs – Mr. Olson stated that there continues to be a parking issue on Park Street and with Citizen's Block.
- Update on Roosevelt Mills - Mr. Gately informed the Commission that this project will undoubtedly be one-third more expensive than what the property is worth. It is paralleling the same scenario as the Talcottville Mill. But the Town is hopeful due to the granted tax abatement.
- ESCU- Mr. Gately attended a conference featuring students from ESCU who presented various business plans.

8. Adjournment – *A motion to adjourn was made by Peter Olsen and seconded by Jim Sendrak at adjourn at 8:11AM. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy A. Jackle
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Recording Secretary


Approved 1-9-13