

Town Clerk

Regular Meeting Minutes
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 7:30 AM
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 7:38 AM. Those present were Peter Olson, Bill Breslau, Bruce Kellogg, Jim Sendrak and Shaun Gately. Those absent were Vincent Shaheen, Jill Merriam, Meghan Scranton, 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 January 9, 2013 – *A motion to approve the January 9, 2013 minutes was made by Peter Olson and seconded by Bill Breslau. Motion passed unanimously.*
4. Administrative Items
 - A. Communications and Correspondence
 - Mr. Gately reported that he had received information from the DECD regarding the property at 200 W. Main Street and that he continues to have conversations with the owner on how to proceed with the funding.
 - There is a proposal with Planning and Zoning to extend modifications to signage throughout the town, which will allow for more uniform signage. Signage would be portable with the expectation that the signage would be displayed during business hours only. Mr. Gately is talking to local fabricators regarding the cost for the uniformed signage. The proposal is still in the planning stages but the Town will be moving forward with the concept.
5. Economic Development Status Update
 - A. Current Projects
 - Amerbelle
 - Mr. Gately is waiting for the preliminary renovation plans to Amerbelle from the developer. He confirmed that the sprinkler system has been winterized.
 - 200 West Main Street
 - The State of Connecticut is still leaning toward loaning the money for the renovation, however the question still remains as to when and how much. The Town is trying to assist Mr. Kaplan in acquiring this information.
 - Branding
 - Mr. Gately states that there will be a subcommittee meeting and he reconfirmed that he has reached out to the schools for ideas on branding, expressing that the branding for the Town should be something relative to the future of the Town.
 - Kelly Road
 - Mr. Gately reported that the Town Council granted the abatement for the property and the brand of the hotel may change.
 - Roosevelt Mills
 - Mr. Gately has a call into the DEC to inquire about the funding for the project. There is a zoning change to modify the driveway access for easier maneuvering.

- Used Car Dealerships
 - Mr. Gately stated that there will be a zoning change to remove used car dealerships and only allowing new car dealerships to have a used car dealership.

6. New Business

A. Community Outreach/ Events

- Recognition Programs

The date and location have been selected, the event will be held on March 28, 2013. There needs to be a further discussion relative to the budget for this event.

- Economic Development Showcase

Mr. Gately stated he had originally thought about holding the event in June, but due to the upcoming Recognition Program event and the Job Fair, he felt that the Fall would be more appropriate for the showcase.

- Job Fair

Mr. Sendrak distributed a copy of the online application that was created for the Job Fair. The letter will be ready to send to the local businesses once it has been determined who will collect the information. The event will be held in late May or early June. The form will be sent to EDC committee members so they can distribute to local businesses when the occasion arises.

- University Outreach

Mr. Gately has been meeting with the local colleges, CCSU, ECSU and UConn business professors to discuss the development of incubator space. He continues to discuss the need to attract business owners to Vernon.

B. Three Year Plan Discussion

- Timeline
- Goals
- Next Step

Mr. Gately distributed Mr. Breslau's recommendations for the EDC Three Year Plan. After a brief discussion, Mr. Gately requested that the committee continue to think about the goals of the Three Year plan and be prepared to discuss them at next month's meeting.

7. Old Business

A. POCD Implementation objectives – There were no updates concerning the POCD implementation objectives stated below.

- RDA/ Investing in Rockville/ Facades and design of Rockville
- Branding
- Enhancing Gateway
- Talcottville Mill
- Development of Exit 66 and 67
- Retention and Business Development Parking Needs

8. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy A. Jackle
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Recording Secretary

