Town Clerk

Regular Meeting Minutes
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, April 10, 2013 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 7:41 AM. Those present were Peter Olson, Meghan Scranton, Bill Breslau, Bill McGurk, and Shaun Gately. Jill Merriam arrived at 7:55 AM. Those absent were Vincent Shaheen, Bruce Kellogg, Dan Kennedy and Jim Sendrak.

2. Public Forum – No one present at public forum.

3. Approval of Minutes from meeting on March13, 2013 – *A motion to approve the March 13, 2013 minutes was made by Peter Olson and seconded by Bill McGurk. Motion passed unanimously.*

4. Administrative Items
   A. Communications and Correspondence
      - No report

5. Economic Development Status Update
   A. Current Projects
      - Amerbelle
        - Mr. Gately is still working with the firm on their renovation plans for the plant but there is nothing to update commission on.
        - 200 West Main Street - The State of Connecticut is getting closer on a verdict with funding for this project.
        - Loom City Lofts and Talcott Brothers Mill –Loom City is waiting for closing date and Talcott Brothers Mill project is still discussing financing.
      - Kelly Road Hotel
        - The Town of Vernon has approved to re-map the site and bring the new wetlands mapping to the Wetlands Commission for approval.
      - OPM
        - State POCD – Nothing to report at this time.
      - Branding
        - The branding for the Town of Vernon is "On the Move." This can be utilized in all departments of the town.

6. New Business
   A. Community Outreach/ Events
      - Recognition Programs
        Approximately forty (40) people attended the Recognition Program that was held on March 28, 2013 at Key Hyundai. Mr. Cohen reported that there were many new faces in the crowd. It was well received and both Mr. Cohen and Ms. Merriam were thanked publicly for their contributions to the success of this event.

      - Economic Development Showcase
        The showcase will be held on October 9, 2013 after the regularly scheduled EDC meeting. After a brief discussion, there was a consensus that a "Save the Date" should go out for this event and that the owners of the mill renovations should be invited. This event is being sponsored by two commission members Bill Breslau and Meghan Scranton.

- Job Fair
  There was an informational meeting held on April 9th with approximately six (6) attendees. It was stated that MCC had just held their Job Fair and that perhaps the Vernon Job Fair might be too close from MCC's Job Fair and the Fall might be a better time to hold a Job Fair. After a discussion, it was determined that an educational workshop would be a good kickoff prior to the Job Fair. The educational workshop, which will be held on Saturday June 8, from 9AM to 1 PM at the Vernon Adult Education office, will include resume writing, "how to prepare and how to dress for an interview."

- University Outreach
  Mr. Gately continues his discussions with CCSU, ECSU and UConn business professors and is trying to get in touch with MCC for entrepreneurial discussions.

B. Three Year Plan Discussion
   - Timeline
   - Goals
   - Next Step

After a brief discussion, the commission requested that Mr. Gately put together a list of ideas that could be considered as EDC goals for the Three Year Plan; the commission will then discuss and prioritize the ideas at next month's meeting.

7. Old Business
   A. POCD Implementation objectives –
      - 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

These objectives will be discussed at next month's meeting under the Three Year plan.

8. Adjournment – *A motion was made by Meghan Scranton and seconded by Peter Olson to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 AM.*

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy A. Jackle
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Recording Secretary