

Regular Meeting
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, November 13th, 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

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Cohen at 7:32AM. Those in attendance were Meghan Scranton, Peter Olson, Bill McGurk, Bruce Kellogg and Mayor Champagne. Jim Sendrak arrived at 7:34 AM and Bill Breslau arrived at 7:37AM. Absent were Vincent Shaheen, Jill Merriam and Dan Kennedy.

2. Public Forum

Mr. John Roe, 70 Valley Falls Road, Vernon addressed the commission regarding an article in a recent Connecticut magazine regarding the ranking of towns. The criteria addressed education, economy (per capita income), crime, civic engagement and leisure culture. His concern with the criteria is related to the culture of Vernon/Rockville and that it needs to be changed. He suggested that the commission propose a change to the staff related to the article.

3. Approval of Minutes from meeting on October 9th, 2013.

A motion was made by Bill Breslau and seconded by Jim Sendrak to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2013 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Economic Development Status Update

A. Current Projects

- 200 West Main St.
Mr. Gately reported that Mr. Kaplan continues to work on the property.
- Loom City Lofts and Talcott Brothers Mill
The funding continues to be delayed and it could be approved early next year. The estimates for the Talcott Brothers Mill are over budget and they are pursuing new quotes.
- Kelly Rd Hotel/ 3rd floor addition across the street
The 3rd floor addition was approved by Planning and Zoning last week and construction should start next month
- Dollar General
They have broken ground for the new store.
- 444 Hartford Turnpike
They have broken ground on this project.

Commission inquired about the new light on Talcottville Road which will be live in approximately three weeks. The mayor also stated that the project in Rockville is progressing.

5. New Business

- A. Zoning Changes- Village District subcommittee is being formed. Mr. Gately stated that the Village District overlay will be in two zones not three and subcommittee has been formed. Planning and Zoning, Design Review and the Historic Commission have been working on a draft of the overlay. The final draft of the overlay will be presented to the Planning and Zoning commission for a vote within a month.

6. Old Business

- A. Three year Plan discussion- Met with the Town Engineer, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Director of Public Works to discuss sign initiative.
- a. Mr. Gately stated that a discussion with Suburban Subaru has been initiated.
 - b. Mr. Gately has a call is into the Department of Transportation regarding state land and is awaiting their response. He will also check with the Town Engineer.
- B. Community Outreach/ Events
- a. Economic Development Showcase- Broker/ Developer/ Business- October 9th 2013.
Mr. Cohen thanked Mr. Gately and the sponsors for the event. There were fifty-five (55) attendees. The food supplied by the Vernon Board of Education was good and the leftovers were given to the shelter. Business and property owners were engaged and event was well received. This was one of three events sponsored by the Economic Development Commission and was considered to be success.
 - b. Next event- March/ April time frame
There was a discussion regarding the next event in the spring of 2014. There was consensus that the recognition night should occur next spring. Mr. Gately stated that there needs to be a budget, sponsors and a location for this event. He will report more at next month's meeting. It was stated that in lieu of purchasing a booth at the Manchester Community College Job Fair next year, the commission provide transportation from several locations throughout Vernon/Rockville for residents to attend the job fair. Mr. Sendrak stated that the commission might want to consider doing the "Prep for Employment" again next year.

Mr. Kellogg left at 8:14 AM

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Bill McGurk and seconded by Peter Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 AM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Jackle

Recoding Secretary

