Town Clerk

Regular Meeting
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, December 11th, 2013 at 7:30 A.M.
Vernon Town Hall, 3rd Floor, 14 Park Place
Rockville/Vernon, CT

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DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order
   Meeting called to order at 7:34 AM by Chairperson Jeff Cohen. Those present were Meghan Scranton, Bill Breslau, Jill Merriam, Bruce Kellogg and Dan Kennedy. Bill McGurk arrived at 7:37 AM and Peter Olson arrived at 7:48 AM. Absent was Vincent Shaheen. Also present was Mayor Champagne.

2. Public Forum
   No one was present to address the commission from the public.

3. Approval of Minutes from meeting on November 13th, 2013.
   A motion was made to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2013 meeting by Bill Breslau and seconded by Bill McGurk. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Set meeting Schedule for next year.
   After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Bill McGurk and seconded by Dan Kennedy to approve the meeting dates for 2014. Mr. Gately stated that there needs to be an election of new officers for 2014 and suggested that this occur at the February meeting and that the commission also consider electing a vice-chairperson.

5. Economic Development Status Update
   A. Current Projects
      - 200 West Main St.
        - Mr. Kaplan continues to prepare one of the four buildings to be occupied by February.
      - Loom City Lofts and Talcott Brothers Mill
        - They are looking to close in the first quarter of 2014.
      - Kelly Rd Hotel/ 3rd floor addition across the street
        - The construction has been delayed and are hoping to start next week.
      - Dollar General
        - There is visual progress on the site with footings being poured.
      - 444 Hartford Turnpike
        - There is visual progress being made on the site.

6. New Business

A. CT Magazine discussion- Ranking criteria
   - *After a discussion, a motion was made by Bill Breslau and seconded by Meghan Scranton for the commission to write a letter to the CT. Magazine regarding the criteria of the rankings of towns and that regional amenities should be considered in the ranking process. Motion passed unanimously.* A copy of the letter will also be sent to Mr. Roe who spoke to the EDC at last month's meeting concerning the leisure and cultural rankings of town in the article.

B. Andy Fleischmann, President and CEO of Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters to discuss Fundraiser being held in Vernon.
   - With consent of the EDC, this agenda item was moved up in the agenda to accommodate Mr. Fleischmann. Mr. Fleischmann addressed the EDC about his organization Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters and the future fundraiser to be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the local bowling alley. He is looking to work collaboratively with the school system and the town to raise the awareness of Big Brothers Big Sisters. It was suggested that Mr. Fleischmann contact Mr. Engleson from Hockanum Valley Community Council to collaborate for future events and fundraisers. Mr. Gately will also send out an informational email to local businesses informing them of the upcoming event and the need for sponsorships.

7. 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 discussion with Suburban Subaru has been initiated and a call is into the DOT regarding state land.

B. Community Outreach/ Events.
   - Next event- March/ April time frame- Sponsor Search
     - Mr. Gately is still in pursuit of a sponsor for the event.

C. Zoning Changes- Village District Public hearing will be held on 12-19-13.
   - Mr. Gately stated that there will be public hearing on December 19, 2013.

Mr. Kennedy exited at 8:34 AM.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill McGurk and seconded by Jill Merriam at 8:35 AM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy A. Jackle
Recording Secretary