Town Clerk

Regular Meeting Minutes
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, September 11, 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 7:35 AM. Those present were Peter Olson, Bill Breslau, Jill Merriam, Bill McGurk, Meghan Scranton, Shaun Gately and Mayor Apel. Dan Kennedy entered at 7:38 AM. Absent were Bruce Kellogg, Jim Sendrak and Vincent Shaheen.

2. Public Forum – No one present to address the Commission

3. Approval of Minutes from meeting on July 10, 2013 – *A motion to approve the July 10, 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
      - 200 West Main Street
        Project moving slowly, still waiting for state funding.
      - Loom City Lofts and Talcott Brothers Mill
        They are hoping to receive their funding in October.
      - Kelly Road Hotel/3rd Floor addition across street
        The application for the third floor at the existing Holiday Express will be reviewed by PZC next week.
      - Branding – On the Move
        Mr. Gately reported that the town website is being redone to reflect the new branding.
      - Dollar General
        They are in the process of breaking ground.

        Mr. Gately added that Rockville Bank is building an addition to the Pitkin Road branch. He also stated that he continues to work on a number of projects.

6. New Business

   A. Zoning Changes – Village District
      - Mr. Gately reported that the proposed district zoning plan has been presented to the Design Review Committee and will be presented to the PZC soon. A question was raised pertaining to variances; Mr. Gately stated that the variances will be reviewed on a continuous basis.

7. Old Business

A. Three Year Plan

- The subcommittee Report
  - Present Draft Plan
  - Discuss Next Steps

Mr. Gately distributed a rough design of a sign to be placed in various locations throughout the town. He also distributed a "proposed" Gateway Signage Enhancement handout that displayed pictures of various locations throughout the town for signage. Funds are available for the signage project. Ms. Merriam agreed to work with Mr. Gately on this project. The next step is to get approval from landowners and also discuss with the Town Engineer as to regulations for the signage. Mr. Gately will get rough estimates of costs and bring them back to the commission for review. He also stated that the sign could be prepared by the Town's Public Works Department. The commission also recommended that a sign be made for Town Hall. A question was raised regarding the business frontages of the Rockville section of Main Street and Mr. Gately stated that signage offers were presented to the owners.

B. Community Outreach/Events

- Economic Development Showcase – Broker/Developer/Business
  The showcase will be held on October 9, 2013 with the similar format as the last two years and will be held after a brief scheduled meeting of the EDC. Food may be provided by Vernon Public Schools.
- Job Fair
  No report
- University Outreach
  Mr. Gately stated that he continues to reach out to the universities in the area.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill McGurk and seconded by Bill Breslau at 8:34 AM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy A. Jackle
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Recording Secretary