

T-C

**Regular Meeting
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, May 14th, 2014 at 7:30 A.M.
Vernon Town Hall, 3rd Floor, 14 Park Place
Rockville/Vernon, CT**

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
14 MAY 20 AM 10:55

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order
Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Cohen at 7:34 A.M. Those present were Peter Olson, Bill McGurk, Jim Sendrak, Jill Merriam, Bill Breslau and Meghan Scranton. Absent were Bruce Kellogg and Dan Kennedy. Also present was Mayor Champagne.
2. Public Forum
No one was present to address the commission.
3. Approval of Minutes from meeting on December 11th, 2013.
A motion was made by Bill McGurk and seconded by Bill Breslau to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2013 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Economic Development Status Update
 - A. Current Projects
 - 200 West Main St. – They are close to receiving their Certificate of Occupancy
 - Loom City Lofts and Talcott Brothers Mill – The Talcott Brothers Mill will have their closing in July; Loom City Lofts is currently on hold
 - Kelly Rd Hotel/ 3rd floor addition across the street – The Kelly Road 3rd Floor is almost complete; they are waiting on this completion before starting the project across the street.
 - 444 Hartford Turnpike - Project is moving along with three out of five already rented
 - Spare Time Bowling – They will be looking to expand their facility to include laser tag
 - Vernon Manor Health Care- The project is under contract
 - Park West Apartments- They are waiting for GAP funding to renovate the entire apartment complex and build a new clubhouse.
 - Santini Development- 1108 & 1116 Harford Turnpike – The application has been filed for 254 new units

There was a discussion regarding intermodal centers in Vernon/Rockville and an update was given by Shaun Gately. Mr. Gately also updated the commission on First Alliance.

5. New Business

- Town Planner – Mr. Gately informed the commission that Len Tunderman, the Town Planner had retired and they are currently accepting applications for his position. Mayor Champagne informed the commission about the idea of having a regional town planner and the sharing this person with other communities.
- IMPLAN Training – Mr. Gately attended a conference on software training relating to data input and how to apply variations for economic impacts

6. Old Business

A. Three year Plan discussion

- a. Signs – Mr. Gately has spoken to the State and will have approval next month for signage on all the state highways in Vernon/Rockville.
- b. Organic Advertising campaign – Mr. Gately discussed the possibility of getting the community and/or clubs involved on ways to promote Vernon/Rockville. A subcommittee of Shaun Gately, Jill Merriam, Jeff Cohen and Jim Sendrak was formed to address this campaign

B. Community Outreach/ Events

- a. Next event- March/ April time frame- Sponsor Search – Mr. Gately stated that he is looking for sponsorship. Several commission members volunteered assist with the sponsorships.

Bill Breslau left the meeting at 8:15 A.M.

C. Zoning Changes- Village District Public passed on 2-6-14.

Mr. Gately added that the Brownfield Assessment Grant from DECD was received in the amount of \$ 200,000 and funds will be used on a few different Brownfield properties in Town.

7. Ribbon Cuttings/ Ground Breakings/ New business's

- Jack and Alley's- It is located at 520 Hartford Turnpike and ribbon cutting was held on May 2, 2014.
- New England Jukebox – Moved from Manchester to Plaza 83 in Vernon
- Charlie's Fresh Catch - This store replaced the fish store located in Talcottville Flats
- Salvation Army- They moved to the K-Mart plaza- Ribbon Cutting was held on May 3, 2014.
- Dollar General- They are now open for business.

Mr. Gately will inform the Commission of upcoming ribbon cutting and ground breakings.

There was a brief discussion about the commuter parking lot located at Sacred Heart Church.

Mayor Champagne updated the Commission on the property on 19 Grove Street and the cleanup efforts from DEP.

8. Adjournment – *A motion was made by Bill McGurk and seconded by Peter Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 A.M. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Jackle

Peggy A. Jackle

