

T.C.

**Regular Meeting**  
**Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission**  
**Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 7:30 A.M.**  
**Vernon Town Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 14 Park Place**  
**Rockville/Vernon, CT**

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jeff Cohen at 7:35 A.M. Those present were Peter Olson, Jim Sendrak, Bill Breslau and Bill McGurk. Absent were Jill Merriam, Dan Kennedy, Bruce Kellogg, and Meghan Scranton. Also present was Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator and Mayor Dan Champagne.

2. Public Forum

Mr. John Rowe addressed the commission regarding an annual gathering of the Appalachian Mountain Club and wanted to know if there were any brochures that he could display on the greenways and trails throughout Vernon. Mayor Champagne stated that the Town Council will be reviewing and voting on a new "events" magazine in which the greenways and trails will be featured. The commission stated that they thought a tear out or additional brochure would be helpful in the future. After a discussion, the commission requested that Mr. Gately work with Parks and Recreation pursuing an updated, colorful, informational brochure.

3. Approval of Minutes from meeting on July 9, 2014

*A motion was made by Jim Sendrak and seconded by Bill Breslau to accept the minutes of the July 9, 2014 meeting as amended. Motion passed with one abstention.*

4. Economic Development Status Update

A. Current Projects

- 200 West Main St. – Mr. Gately reported that Building #4 is moving forward, site is progressing and the second round of funding is being sought.
- Loom City Lofts and Talcott Brothers Mill – The Talcott Brothers Mill is still dealing with financing issues; Loom City Lofts will have their closing hopefully by the end of the month.
- Park West Apartments- They are waiting for the Army Corps approval on the detention basins.
- Santini Development- 1108 & 1116 Harford Turnpike – The project as been approved to build 254 residential units at 1108 and 1116 Hartford Turnpike.
- Hartford Healthcare - There are plans for an outpatient care center ( former Adams grocery store) and they are waiting to finalize the lease.

- Grant Award – The Town has received a \$2M grant for the remediation and demolition of selected areas of the Amerbelle site.

Mr. Gately also updated the property at 19 Grove Street in Rockville.

5. New Business

- Town Planner – Mr. Gately informed the commission that the new Town Planner has started and her name is Brianan Nolan.

6. Old Business

A. Three year Plan discussion

- a. Signs – Mr. Gately shared a draft of the new signs for Vernon. He continues to move forward getting the approvals for the sign locations.
- b. Organic Advertising campaign – Mr. Gately stated that he continues to work on this campaign and is looking for community based 6 second videos to be produced about what “On the Move” means. Mr. Cohen will discuss further with Mr. Gately.

B. Community Outreach/ Events

- a. Next event- After a brief discussion, the commission decided they would plan for the Recognition event to occur in March 2015. Image Works has again volunteered to co-sponsor the event.

C. Marketing

Mr. Gately reported that he now has restarted to reach out to the communities. He reported that First Alliance is still engaged. Mayor Champagne also added that there will be a disc golf course located at the upper field area at VCMS.

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

Mr. Gately reported that there were no ribbon cuttings or ground breaking ceremonies. He informed the commission about the Star Hill Expo in Tolland on November 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM – 4 PM. If interested please let Mr. Gately know. He also stated that there will be a Candidate Forum sponsored by C&C Software on September 19<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 9:30 PM.

8. Adjournment – *A motion was made by Bill McGurk and seconded by Peter Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 A.M. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
*Peggy A. Jackle*  
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Recording Secretary