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Special Meeting Minutes
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, December 14, 2011 7:30 AM
Vernon Town Hall, 3rd Floor, 14 Park Place
Rockville/Vernon, CT

11 DEC 16 AM 10:15

DRAFT

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:35A.M. Present were Jeff Cohen, Bruce Kellogg, Peter Olson, Jim Sendrak, Bill McGurk and Shaun Gately. Tim Ackert arrived at 7:36 A.M. , Bill Breslau arrived at 7:38 A.M. and Dan Kennedy arrived at 7:42 A.M. Absent was Vincent Sheehan

2. Public Forum

There was no one present to speak at Public Forum

3. Approval of Minutes from the October 12, 2011 meeting

Minutes to be approved at next month's meeting

4. Administrative Items

- A. Communication and Correspondence – There was no report.
- B. Other
 - i. Economic Development has moved to 55 W. Main Street, Rockville and the Ethics Policy has been prepared for signature.

5. Economic Development Status Update

- A. Current Projects
 - i. Solar Farm - Green Skies is entering into a power purchase agreement to construct a solar farm adjacent to the waste water treatment plant. Although there are some hurdles, they are expected to bring in a savings to the town.
 - ii. Transportation Modal – Mr. Gately informed the commission that the Greater Hartford Transit Authority is proceeding with their plan to construct a transportation modal which will be located next to the Hartford Turnpike commuter lot. There was a brief discussion pertaining to the downside of their proposal and to the different locations of the modal. Bruce Kellogg left at 8:00 A.M.
 - iii. Loom City Lofts – There was a meeting with the new administration and the developers of the property. The project will be moving forward with a projected start date in 2012.
 - iv. Talcottville Mill – The owner and project manager have been in contact with the Town and the projected start date is 2012.

- v. BR&E (Business Retention and Expansion) - Mr. Gately has continued to work on this project, meeting with five to six companies a week. He informed the commission of the small business express that is available through the new Job Bill which proves to be financially beneficial for small businesses.
- vi. Vernon Economic Development Corporation – A new non-profit corporation was formed to work on the area’s perception dealing with economic development without having to go through the commission. They have already started on two projects listed below.
 - Façade Project - Conceptual drawings are being worked on and the Corporation is now looking into the costs, grant availability and fund raising ideas.
 - Mills, etc. – The Corporation is hopeful that the mills will fall in line.

6. New Business

A. Courting of New Businesses

- i. Economic Development Fair 10-12-11 – recap of issues and highlights- Mr. Gately stated that he had no name tags, and did not highlight the individual properties. There was a good turnout due to the follow-up calls and emails and that DECD recapped the State incentives.
- ii. New Prospect outreach – Mr. Gately informed the commission that there are issues that he is continually working on. He is meeting with schools and school to business and is pushing to have the zoning regulations rewritten. There needs to be a plan to define exactly who the town is and what it should be recognized for.

B. Business Award/Recognition Program – there was no report on this program

C. Set Meeting Dates and Times for the Upcoming Year – A motion was made by Tim Ackert and seconded by Jim Sendrak to accept the meeting dates and times as presented. (2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30am in the Council Chambers) Motion passed unanimously.

7. Old Business

- A. Job Board/Job Fair – There was a discussion on how to coordinate a job board for the town and whether or not it should be expanded to other towns in the area with Vernon/Rockville being the hub. There was a discussion about forming a subcommittee however, it was decided that this be put back on the next agenda under New Business.
- B. Incubator Space – The commission felt that this could be dealt with through the POCD plan. Dan Kennedy left at 8:33 A.M.
- C. Plan of Conservation and Development – Implementation Plan – It was discussed that the list of 20 points should be sent to the commission members and they can choose a couple of points to work on. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill McGurk and seconded by Peter Olson at 8:35 A.M. . Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Jackle

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Recording Secretary