Special Meeting
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, September 14, 2011 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 at 7:35 AM.

Present were Jeff Cohen, Bruce Kellogg, Bill Breslau, Bill McGurk, Peter Olson and Vinnie Shaheen. Dan Kennedy arrived at 7:37 AM.

Absent were Jim Sendrak, Tim Ackert and Shaun Gately

2. **Public Forum**

There was no one present for public forum.

3. **Approval of Minutes from the meeting on August 10, 2011**

Motion was made by Bill Breslau and seconded by Peter Olson to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2011 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Administrative Items**

A. Communications and Correspondence
Jeff Cohen distributed a new contact list which was reviewed and revised. Information will be forwarded to Mayor's office for corrections

B. Other – None

5. **Economic Development Status Update**

A. Current Projects

Jeff Cohen informed the commission that there was going to be an Economic Development Fair to be held on October 12, 2011. He encouraged members to contact Shaun Gately if there were any questions or if they want to get involved. It was also determined that there is a scheduled EDC meeting that morning which should be cancelled.

176 Union Street formerly the "Big Tang" is under deposit and expected to close any day and its anticipated use is a restaurant.

343 Hartford Turnpike, the former Bennigan's, has been sold to a local doctor.

Talcottville Mill project is still alive and Shaun Gately has spoken with the project manager, who is hoping for a 2012 start, but there are a lot of loose ends to tie up.

Shaun Gately has been working on available resources and incentives for new and existing businesses and homeowners. One example was the Property Tax incentives which the Town will start advertising their ability to offer the incentives soon. The guidelines were presented to the Town Council at the August 16, 2011 meeting.

They are evaluating a 503B formation of a development company to assist in redirecting and disposing of Town owned and troubled property. Shaun was to meet with Hamden's director on September 7, 2011.

B. Potential Projects

Shaun Gately has been working on several potential projects which could include a Wendy's opening in Vernon. There are specific site requirements.

Shaun Gately has been in contact with the land owner of the old Block Buster location (135 Talcottville Road) and the Taco Bell location discussing possibilities.

Phase 3 of the environmental clean-up is in progress with regard to the old Exxon/Mobil (56 Talcottville Road) station.

There have been talks with several out of town companies who may have some interest in relocating to Vernon.

A letter was sent to the Department of Transportation to consider selling underutilized land at 60 Talcottville Road. A meeting was scheduled for September 8, 2011 to discuss the consideration.

Shaun is currently working on bringing a Solar Farm to town and is exploring town –owned land for sale and unused property.

6. New Business

A. Courting of new businesses

As mentioned above, there will be an Economic Development Fair on October 12, 2011 and it was suggested that it should be co-sponsored by the EDC.

Economic Development continues to work on getting help with other towns.

B. Business Award/Recognition Program
The Economic Development Department is currently working on starting an awards/recognition program.

7. Old Business

A. Job Board/Job Fair
Jim Sendrak has been pushing for a Job Board/Job Fair.

B. Incubator Space
The Economic Development Department is currently talking to UCONN to find out what is available concerning Incubator Space

C. Plan of Conservation and Development – Implementation Plan
Jeff Cohen distributed the "Draft" of the Implementation Element – Plan of Conservation and Development to commission members. He explained the purpose of the "draft" plan was to review the plan and determine what the priorities are and if they wanted to be involved. After a lengthy discussion and a partial review of the plan, it was determined that the EDC wanted to get more information pertaining to the plan and also be able to express some of their concerns to the Economic Development Department. This message was to be relayed to Shaun Gately.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Bill McGurk and seconded by Peter Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 AM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy A. Jackle
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Recording Secretary