



TOWN OF VERNON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

55 West Main Street • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3637 • Fax: (860) 870-3683

Shaun Gately
Economic Development Director

Regular Meeting

APPROVED MINUTES

Economic Development Commission

Tuesday, July 13th, 2021 at 7:30 am

14 Park Place, 3rd Floor, Vernon CT

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
21 NOV 15 PM 1:02

1. **Call to Order** – A meeting of the Economic Development Commission was called to order by my Commissioner Cohen at 7:32 am. Additional commissioners present: Breslau, Kennedy, Adamson, Sendrak, McGurk. Also present were Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator and Leslie Campolongo, Project Coordinator.
2. **Public Forum** – There was no one present for public forum.
3. **Approval of Minutes - May 11, 2021** - Motion made by Commissioner Adamson and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve the minutes from May 11, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Economic Development Status Update** - Mr. Gately provided an update on the following projects
 - **Amerbelle Mill redevelopment** - The Town has taken possession of adjoining parcel, Daniels Mill and received notice of State funding of \$2 Million dollars to continue remediation of the site. Plans are to incorporate a hydro-power at the site.
 - **Golf Land renovation** - is underway. Hopes are for an additional phase at former movie theater at the back of the site. Ice cream shop is anticipated to be open at the end of the month.
 - **274 Talcottville Rd-** Square Peg Pizza plans are approved, construction has been delayed due to cost of construction materials and desire for design uniformity across all locations.
 - **Lucky Taco** - tentatively opening in August. Recently obtained liquor license for the site.
 - **Naek Rd. project application**– has received a wetlands permit for the development of 70 condominium units. The application will appear before the Planning and Zoning Commission later this month.
 - **Performing Arts** – Town is investigating an opportunity to partner with Sustainable CT to bring a 1-hr. humorous version of Shakespeare's' Henry V to the Central Park green in early August. The tentative dates are August 7 and August 8. This would piggy back on the towns' partnership with UCONN to bring arts to the downtown.
 - **Way-finding signage** – Discussion took place regarding the town's hosting signage for access to industrial park businesses which are difficult to locate. Mr. Gately is hopeful this will launch a larger discussion in the future.

- **Vacancies** – There are several vacancies along the Vernon’s economic corridor which are being filled.

5. New Business

- **Sustainable CT** – Work is underway and the Town’s initial application deadline is due in about 9 months.

Discussion took place about attendees to the Public Forum portion of the meeting, adjusting time of the Commission meetings, and conducting special meetings. Mr. Gately will keep the topic on the Agenda for future discussion.

6. Old Business

- **COVID Recovery** – The team continues to meet virtually weekly and has shifted operations to pop up clinics that serve the underrepresented and individuals living with disabilities.
- **Buy Local Campaign**-Mr. Gately distributed several mock ups of the “Buy Local Vernon” logos, QR Code, media material and vinyl clings for the program. The program will launch formally shortly. Mr. Gately expressed his gratitude to the Commissioners Adamson, Coe and Sendrak as well as Commissioner Cohen for their work on the Vernon Business directory website, and the catalog of items that will assist in the marketing/ social media campaign.
- **2022 POCD update** – A draft of the plan is now available on the Town’s website and public comment and review are welcomed.

7. Ribbon Cuttings/Ground Breakings/New Businesses:

- **Vivo Chiropractic** - Ribbon Cutting was held on May 17, 2021

8. Adjournment:

Commissioner Breslau motioned to adjourn the meeting Motion seconded by Commissioner McGurk. Meeting concluded at 8:33 am.

Respectfully submitted:



Leslie S. Campolongo
Project Coordinator