



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
Town of Vernon Economic Development Commission
Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 at 7:30 A.M.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82421932671?pwd=amo5K.29pbTZTaEFpNmhwaE80azNBQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 2193 2671

Passcode: zMSK1 7

or Dial

1 (646) 876 9923

Meeting ID: 824 2193 2671

Passcode: 801432

APPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Commissioner Bill Breslau opened the meeting at 7:33 am. Also presented were Commissioner Kellogg, Commissioner Sendrak, Commissioner Cohen, Commissioner Coe, Commissioner McGurk, and Commissioner Kloter. Also presented were Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator.
2. **Public Forum:** There was no one present from Public Forum.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Approve draft minutes from November 9, 2021.
Motion to approve minutes made by Commissioner Kellogg and second by Commissioner Kloter.
Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Economic Development Status Update:** Mr. Gately provided an update on the following projects:
 - **Amerbelle Mill redevelopment** - Town continues meeting with the developer. The town received a DECD grant and is waiting for a contract from the State to move forward with the project. Additionally, the Town submitted an application for EPA Clean up funding to remediate Daniel's Mill and expects to hear back from the agency in the following months.
 - **Golf Land renovation** - is under way. Their parking lot suffered from the last flood and they experienced some material losses. The town has more work to do in the area and needs to work with its enforcement department to move the renovation forward. Phase 2 discussions are to bring first a restaurant and cafe with a BBQ menu.
 - **274 Talcottville** - salon construction is underway
 - **Square Peg Pizza** - construction has been slowed but is moving.
 - **Lucky Taco** - opened in November 2021 and is doing well after experiencing a hard time with staff shortage.
 - **Wine Cellar** - property in the Hartford Turnpike is under construction.
 - **Habitat for Humanity ReStore** - will be opening in about one week and they will sell new and gently used furniture with the mission to support affordable housing around the world.
 - **Naek Rd.** - has passed Inland Wetlands Commission and Planning Zoning.

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 OCT 12 PM 1:06

- **Performing Arts- Cultural District** - Mr. Gately asked permission to talk about the Cultural District later while he discusses the Sustainable CT updates.
- **43 South Frontage** - The property was cleared over the summer to conduct a survey and the Town is expecting to receive their application soon.
- **Sewer discussion:** The discussion that takes place right now is the sewer planning.
- **Self Storage** - facility for 90,000 sq. ft in progress.
- **Sustainable CT** - Mr. Gately is still working to update the Sustainable CT certification and outline the difficulty to accomplish some of the actions with the COVID-19 scenario. He is having the help of a sustainability intern that is exclusively working with the program. He is hoping that other Departments in town will be focusing on their actions as well. Also, the Town is planning on submitting the Certification in April.
- **Cultural District** - A discussion took place about forming a Cultural Commission.

5. **New Business:** Commissioner Cohen asked for an update about new business. Mr. Gately explained that new business is for the agenda.

6. **Old Business:**

- **Sustainable CT** - EV webinar to be held on 02/24/2022 at 6:00 pm.
- **Buy Local Campaign** - Vernon's Buy Local ads are running on Social Media and there is no desire to end the campaign. Mr. Gately will also try to reach out to every business in town and he is trying to secure more funding to improve the campaign. Additionally, about one week ago he started tracking the traffic at the website's campaign and will keep the Commission apprised of the results. Commissioner Coe mentioned that would be nice to add a business card to the campaign. Cohen agreed and suggested the creation of a generic Buy Local business card with the Economic Development office contact information in case people want to call a specific number. Mr. Gately will send an email to commissioners asking for the information that they want on the card.

7. **Ribbon Cuttings/Ground Breakings/New Businesses:**

- Lynn's Deli and Delights- 2-4-22: Store event this Friday 11th
- Habitat for Humanity- 2-15-22: Store event on the 15th

8. **Adjournment:**

Commissioner Bill McGurk motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Breslay. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 am

Respectfully Submitted:


Leslie Campolongo
Recording Secretary