

Vernon Township Economic Development Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

The Statement of Compliance was read and the Salute to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Carl Contino

Jason Pierce

Jennifer Lubliner

Keren Gonen

Beth Ziba

Michael Gelfand

Sally Rinker

Susan Berkley

Nicholas Pirro was absent.

Sally Rinker opened the meeting for public participation with Keren Gonen second. No public present. Carl Contino motioned to close the meeting and second by Keren Gonen.

Vote on Chairperson:

The nominations were Sally Rinker and Jennifer Lubliner for the position of Chairperson. A ballot vote was taken, collected by Recording Secretary, Debbie Coulson and tallied. The vote was tied.

Discussion among members ensued. Decision was made to let both nominees speak about their qualifications for the position.

Jennifer Lubliner: has been chairperson for 2 years. She worked with businesses. Her goal is to all work together, she is non political and works well with others. Jennifer also has experience in corporate management.

Sally Rinker: Started with the EDAC in 2008, was mayor. She is a business person and familiar with contracts, properties, mission statements and goals. She believes the mayor should sit on the board. EDAC should be tied to the Mayor and is very important in getting prospects for Vernon businesses. She made a list of Commercial properties. Sally believes the Chairperson should be available all day in town to visit businesses and ask how they are doing and assist in problem solving.

A second ballot vote was taken. The Recording Secretary, Debbie Coulson, collected the votes and tallied them. The vote was tied.

Carl Contino made the motion to toss a coin. Beth Ziba seconded. A coin was given to the Recording Secretary. Heads is Jennifer Lubliner, Tails is Sally Rinker. The coin was tossed, and tails won. Sally Rinker is the new Chairperson of EDAC. She is taking over the position now.

Vote on Vice Chairperson:

Carl Contino nominated Jennifer Lubliner for Vice Chairperson, Jason Pierce second. All in favor. Jennifer Lubliner is Vice Chairperson of EDAC.

Vote on 2023 minutes of January 12, 2023.

Sally Rinker made the motion to accept the minutes, Mike Gelfand second. Present at that meeting to vote was Carl Contino, Jennifer Lubliner, Beth Ziba, Michael Gelfand, Nicholas Pirro, and Sally Rinker. All present in favor.

Meeting Dates:

The EDAC Meeting dates are as follows:

March 21, 2023

April 18, 2023

May 16, 2023

June 20, 2023

July 18, 2023

August 15, 2023

September 19, 2023

October 17, 2023

November 21, 2023

December 19, 2023

January 16 2024

Intern/Mentor program

An outline of the DECA Mentorship Program was handed out to the members.

This included the purpose of the program, what is expected in the 10 week program, and final outcome. A list of weekly topics and presentation outline was included. The students will be partnered up with a business. Dominic Lo Presti runs the DECA program. We now have 5 students in the area of food, clothing and mobil detailing.

Discussion concerning expanding the area of communication and including the Board of Education to tell parents so that we could have more students. At this point we should start with the five students this year to see how the program runs. Community Service is important. Some of the areas of interest are clothing/ marketing possibilities are Stephanie Scilingo. Food interest could be with Daily Bean or Fox and Bear Lodge. McAfee Hardware is also available.

Keren Gonen said the program is ready to go and will send it on to Dominic LoPresti. Jennifer Lubliner thinks we should kick it off with a meeting on March 20, 2023.

Keren Gonen will talk to Dominic LoPresti for a special meeting. Daily Bean closes at 6:00 but will open for parents and students.

A motion was made by Susan Berkley to approve outline, second by Beth Ziba.
All in favor.

Goals:

Keren Gonen said we will make a list of area businesses, divide up the businesses, visit and ask 3-4 questions. Sally Rinker said the personal human connection is important.

Beth Ziba said we should have a map of block and lot with zoning commercial/ industrial/recreational areas. Keren Gonen said we have it on paper but we need it online.

Sally Rinker stated that she will talk to the mayor about putting info on the website that is already done, such as a business guide.

Sally Rinker said we need the Mayor and council to work and be business friendly.

Michael Gelfand stated that we need to give a business a reason to come to Vernon. A retired Professor in Rutgers can do a study for marketing in Vernon for \$40,000.

Sally Rinker stated that maybe bringing the EDAC and the chamber before the Council would motivate them. Any budget request needs to be in the next two weeks. We can talk about a special meeting availability with that topic only.

Michael Gelfand said we can rally others to the meeting.

The other 2023 EDAC Goals were discussed one by one.

Going to business owners that do not have time to go to meetings .

Beth Ziba mentioned a user friendly data base of available properties.

Start up the DECA Program.

Order current marketing materials for now and Sussex County day.

Committee reports:

Sally Rinker introduced new member Jason Pierce. Jason has been living in Vernon 3 ½ years and is originally from West Milford. He wants to help Vernon. He is a Video/Photographer.

Sally Rinker asked if everyone signed a Conflict of Interest Agreement form.

A motion was made by Michael Gelfand to adjourn the meeting at 9:09, second by Keren Gonen. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Coulson