

GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 12, 2011

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, at 7:30 p.m., in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building, Lower Level Conference Room.

Statement of Proper Notice

Adequate notice of the regular meeting of the Lawrence Township Growth & Redevelopment Committee has been provided by filing an annual meeting schedule with the Municipal Clerk, and by filing the agenda with the Municipal Clerk, posting prominently in the Municipal Building, and mailing to the Trenton Times, the Trentonian and the Lawrence Ledger.

The roll was called as follows at 7:50 p.m.:

Present: Chairperson Christopher Bobbitt, Vice Chairperson Ryan Kennedy, Cami Granahan, Michael Marion, David Maffei, Charles Lavine, Michel Franc, Michael Powers, Council Liaison

Excused Absence: Tushar Patel, Karen Vincent-Lavanga, Pamela Mount, Councilwoman

Absent: Lovette Love-Stevens, Jags Vazirani, Donald Little, David Mizenko, Dennis Norton, William Zimmer, John Conroy, Kurt Koevenig, Bruce Nahan, Lawrence High School

Also Present: Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate, Susan Snook, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

The June 14, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business Welcome Effort:

Chairperson Christopher Bobbitt will send the letter to the members out end of this week. Chairperson Bobbitt stated that he spoke with Joyce Copleman and she is very excited for the award name change. Chairperson Bobbitt stated that he will keep Joyce in the loop and will give her tickets to the Awards Ceremony.

Chairperson Bobbitt received an e-mail from Mayor Puliti who stated that he would like the Mayor's Award to be given to the Colonial Bowling Lanes. There was a brief discussion about the renovations that should be completed by October 1st.

A question was raised about it receiving the Mayor's Award because it is not a new business.

A brief discussion was also held regarding the new businesses in the Township. The Purple Cow; the Artist Network, and a house on Cold Soil Road doing major renovations were mentioned as possibilities to receive awards.

The Awards Ceremony date was discussed again and the date is October 4, 2011. It was also stated that is was confirmed for the date; however, place is still unknown.

Leonardo's II received an award in 2009 for community service because he did a lot of fund raisers.

Vice Chairperson Kennedy asked if the nomination forms have been sent out which they have. Mr. Link stated that Brandywine offered to be a sponsor again. Mr. Link stated that a press release regarding nominations has also been sent to all the media.

Growth & Redevelopment Committee
July 12, 2011 Minutes

The Historic Award is a tough award. It was suggested that it be given to the Brearley House because they are celebrating their anniversary and will be handing out cake at their party.

Mr. Lavine stated that there are a couple of new businesses in Lawrence. There is a David's Bridal in the front of Mercer Mall where Fortunoff was located. There are still three (3) other stores available. There is an environmental project at Rider University where they are installing a solar field on the ball field adjacent to I-95 at the back of the baseball fence. It was also mentioned that the Lawrenceville School is also preparing to install a solar farm.

Vice Chairperson Kennedy stated that BMS is also completing their section of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail. He also mentioned trying to tie in the Lawrence Card Program to give initiative to businesses.

As far as sponsors go, Chairperson Bobbitt suggested that we call everyone from last year. The going rate is \$275.00 for sponsoring and \$300.00 for the Mayor's Award. A brief discussion on which members will make telephone calls to some sponsors.

An award was offered to PC Richards and they declined because they were too busy. A question came up about going back to September and October of 2010 to be considered a new business.

Redevelopment Issues:

Councilperson Powers brought up the Craft Cleaners site. The Township is requesting permission to enter the property with the goal of demolishing the building. Councilman Powers also mentioned that we are applying for a grant for the demolition.

The goal for starting the redevelopment on Route 1 will be in 2013.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated he received an e-mail from Councilwoman Mount that NJ Future is having a focus group on July 20th at 200 Princeton South Corporate Center on redevelopment issues in Mercer County. It relates to issues facing Mercer County; the changes in 10 – 20 years. The goal is to come up with how people perceive redevelopment issues and to put a book together to help officials make things run smoothly. They have grant money. If you would like to attend, you must register through e-mail at www.njfuture.org or call 609/393-0008, Ext. 110.

Other Business:

GEPNA is doing another survey in the Eldridge Park area to see what their needs are using the same questionnaire they used last year. GEPNA is also working on having a neighborhood watch because of Marco's Jewelry beings robbed.

We did not get results from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection on Pit Stop. It was also mentioned that the building cannot be knocked down until we get New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection approvals. There was contamination in the well water located at the three (3) houses behind the Pit Stop; since then the property owners now are connected to city water.

The next meeting will be held on August 9, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Susan Snook, Secretary
Growth & Redevelopment Committee