

GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
May 10, 2011

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, May 10, 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 7:45 p.m.:

**Present:** Chairperson Christopher Bobbitt, Vice Chairperson Ryan Kennedy, Cami Granahan, Lovette Love-Stevens, Michael Marion, Karen Vincent-Lavanga, David Maffei, Planning Board Representative, Donald Little, Pamela Mount, Councilwoman

**Excused Absence:** Tushar Patel, Charles Lavine

**Absent:** Jags Vazirani, David Mizenko, Dennis Norton, William Zimmer, John Conroy, Kurt Koevenig, Michael Franc, Michael Powers, Council Liaison; David Donahue, Board of Education Liaison, Bruce Nahan, Lawrence High School

**Also Present:** Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate, Rob Wisniewski, Director of Sustainable Development, Donald Addison, Steve Jennings, Brandywine and Susan Snook, Secretary

**Approval of Minutes:**

The April 12, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated that the reason Cheryl was invited to attend the meeting was because at the last Awards Ceremony a survey was handed out asking what the concerns were. The results of that survey were traffic issues, such as parking and access to transportation.

**Cheryl Kastrenakes, Executive Director; Greater Mercer TMA:**

Cheryl introduced herself and thanked everyone for inviting her. TMA is the Transportation Management Association and their focus is producing transportation options.

There was a discussion basically about transportation issues and what types of transportation you would like to offer the residents of the Township as well as getting businesses to relocate to the Township.

There was a brief break so the members could introduce themselves to Ms. Kastrenakes.

GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
May 10, 2011

Ms. Kastrenakes stated that Transportation Management Association (TMA) is the feet of the street; they work together with non-profit organizations; State of New Jersey; New Jersey Transit and New Jersey Department of Transportation.

The discussion went back to Ms. Kastrenakes stating the TMA's goal where there is no congestion. They try to promote ride sharing, telecommuting and shuttles they work with. There is a program where they try to get two or more people to drive to work; an employee can contact TMA to see if there are any matches by using their hardware.

Councilwoman Mount asked about high school kids driving to school and the school should try to get a school pool for students. However, the schools need to regulate how many students drive.

A question arose about buses and where they have empty seats; parents who drive their children to school and do not shut off their cars. There is also an issue about elementary children riding with high school students.

TMA also started a new program for "safe walking to school". However, there is a limit of 2 miles for walking and they look at how busy the street is. There is also the problem with "Stranger Danger" and liability issues to the schools when children walk or ride bikes, especially for elementary up to third grade.

Don Addison stated that the Red Cross has an issue about Route 1 traffic and they recommend carrying extra water and snacks in your car. They stated if there is an accident on Route 1 and it was 90° out – what would you do if an emergency vehicle could not get there in time? It would be hard for any emergency vehicles to get down Route 1.

Is there anything to do to focus on the Route 1 traffic? TMA is trying to chip away at it like car pooling and van pooling. There is a 7 – 15 passenger van, a third party that handles the maintenance, gas, insurance of these vans, will pick you up and take you to work and home again, which is the most cost effective way to travel. The only problem that people find with van pooling is what about going out for lunch or if there is an emergency at home and you need to get there fast. You must be registered for this emergency ride through the van pool.

Karen Vincent-Lavanga stated that New York has a share-a-cab by plugging into the cell phone, where you are and where you are going and people may share the cab. You text message that person and introduce yourself and then share the ride.

Shuttle Development is not available in this area; however; there is one in Hamilton, where people can catch the van and will take them to the train station. Councilwoman Mount stated we are working on local solutions to work with New Jersey Department of Transportation and New Jersey Transit on massive bus shuttles. Rider uses the same idea as well as Princeton University.

Mr. Jennings of Brandywine stated they are going greener and is trying to promote for van pooling. They were trying to work with N.J. Transit to change their bus route; however, N.J. Transit would not make a change so the buses would go to Brandywine.

GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
May 10, 2011

Working from home is decreasing because some businesses are not that flexible. When Squibb and ETS were approved by the Planning Board, they approved flex time because they did not want 2,000 vehicles on the roads, especially on Route 206 all at one time. There are at least 2,000 people that visit Squibb every day.

There is a van company who provides a shuttle for 7 -1 5 people; there is fee for this service; however, the benefits are that you do not put miles on your car or the wear and tear on your car, estimated at 40 miles a day on your car. Driving alone it is estimated that you will spend \$9,310 a year while the cost for van pooling is a lot cheaper. You have to have a lot of people to go to the same location. TMA uses a zip code and do a visual. Then people realize how many people travel to the same place everyday.

There are negative impacts, like lunch, so some businesses would be affected; however, some places have a zip car for just this purpose.

Ms. Kastrenakes stated that driving alone assuming \$3.75 a gallon for gas, driving 40 miles each direction will cost \$9,310/year; take the same trip in a van the savings will be \$3,472.

TMA also has transportation for seniors and handicap as well as the visually impaired; there is a 2-day notice for a rider and there is a fee; as well as people who need a ride to the Hamilton Train Station.

Councilwoman Mount stated that on June 11, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. at the Police Building, there is a group that is focusing on one (1) neighborhood each year. It is called "Lets Move Lawrence". Starting at the Loveless Tract at 9:00 and at 10:00 at the Trolley Track to Central Park to Ewing at Spruce Street. We are trying to focus on one (1) neighborhood a year.

Councilwoman Mount suggested that everyone sign up for TMA news letters from their web site. It will be helpful in seeing what TMA is doing.

It was an unanimous vote of the Board members not go through the rest of the agenda because of the time.

The next meeting will be held on June 14, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.



Susan Snook, Secretary  
Growth & Redevelopment Committee