

**GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
March 13, 2012

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 6:45 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 6:45 p.m.:

Present: Christopher Bobbitt, Ryan Kennedy, Lovette Love-Stevens, Tushar Patel, Charles Lavine, Donald Little, Michel Franc, Reza Asgari, John Conroy, John Schloesser

Excused Absence: Karen Vincent-Lavanga, Danielle Delprato

Absent: Jags Vazirani, David Mizenko, William Zimmer, Kurt Koevenig, Bruce Nahan, Lawrence High School, Deborah Cherry, Board of Education Liaison

Also Present: Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate, Cathleen Lewis, Council Liaison, Donald Addison, Susan Snook, Secretary

**Welcome New Members:**

The Board members introduced themselves to the new members of the Board

**Election of Officers:**

Nominations were opened to the floor for Chairperson. Charles Lavine nominated Christopher Bobbitt for Chairperson. Chairperson Bobbitt accepted the position and it was a unanimous vote.

Chairperson Bobbitt opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Lovette Love-Stevens nominated Ryan Kennedy. Vice Chairperson Kennedy accepted the position and it was a unanimous vote.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The December 13, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Awards Program – Select Location**

Chairperson Bobbitt if Jude has received any offers for locations to hold the Award Program. It was mentioned that the Quaker Bridge Mall made an offer and a brief discussion about location in the mall, which will be one of the empty stores and about there could be a change in location based on tenant space. The Awards Ceremony is on Wednesday, October 10, 2012.

**Goals and Objectives:**

Mr. Kennedy stated in the past we worked starting an Outreach to new businesses and have an opportunity to do that; so one of our tasks is putting together a program to welcome new businesses and finalizing the welcome effort.

About six-months ago, Chairperson Bobbitt circulated a letter to the Board members for their input and it should be re-circulated and it was a short explanation of what the Board does and what we can do to help their business. Mr. Addison asked at what point we would initiate this welcome letter.

We struggle to find out when a new business do operate. The Fire Marshal's office gives us a list when a new business occupancies a building. Chairperson Bobbitt stated that Lawrence Township does not have a business license so we rely on the Fire Marshal.

Mr. Lavine gave a brief discussion regarding about the new business, Auxiliary Services, that came in where the old Biddle property on Whitehead Road. There was also a ribbon cutting for their new location on Route 1 for Woman's Space and they took the old building and renovated it and is now a two-story building and maybe that should be recognized.

Mr. Asgari suggested that since there are only about a half dozen new businesses, if we could meet with them and see what their requirements are and what would they expect from the Township and get a feel of what they need.

Mr. Kennedy stated before their actual opening the Chamber gets a notice of opening. Mr. Addison stated that realtors know the market and they are a good source for re-location or moving into the Township and a good place to start.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Route 1 Development about where the Route 1 committee left off and have some specific Route 1 goals and to keep the ball rolling and as a group set goals or regular mile stones to do items with the Route 1 development and keep this as a focus.

Mr. Little stated to try to create a design criteria along Route 1 (Whitehead to Circle) to help guide people with renovations and try to figure out how to business owners and interested parties together to have more discussions and keep the conversation going on how things can be approved.

Ms. Lewis stated it is still on the State docket for 2013 and this is the time to think about what the businesses are looking for and what the Township wants and looking to Main Street as a good example who wants to help other businesses in the Township and bring success forward.

In 2014 the Special Olympics are here in Town and this is a way for this Committee to reach out to the businesses and have the opportunity to show case all our businesses. There was a brief discussion about the 2014 Special Olympics and the Chamber has been working with them very closely with housing, transportation, etc. The Awards breakfast was held at Special Olympics last year and maybe we should hold a future meeting at their location to hold a outreach with speakers and/or a group meeting.

Mr. Little stated we should encourage GEPNA in Eldridge Park to go to the next step and to mark that neighborhood with sandwich boards and other ideas that might have. Growth & Redevelopment should encourage GEPNA.

There was a brief discussion about the Craft Cleaners and them doing something currently with the gas line, making sure the connections are sealed and they are removing the gas tank. There was also a brief discussion about the rehabilitation office across from the CVS. It was stated that it was approved by the Planning Board and it is an office building, adding a second floor; parking in the back and it will be an outreach program with no live in facilities.

**Meeting Speakers & Venues:**

Vice Chairperson Kennedy will reach out to Special Olympics for May or June to figure our goals. We also had an offer to hold a meeting at Mrs. G's. We should have meeting at different places for a different venue.

There was a brief discussion regarding the new development coming in by Mrs. G' with a WaWa, TD Bank and McDonalds. Mrs. G' will have to provide an access road in the back of the property so you will be able to make a left turn heading towards Route 1.

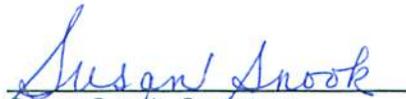
Chairperson Bobbitt stated he met someone in Retail Consultant who consults with Townships on how to pick the right retail and will be contacted to see if he is willing to speak at one of our meetings.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Addison stated that Mrs. G's is having a farm to grill event on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 3:00; if the date changes Mr. Addison will inform the Board members. There is also a Home & Energy Expo on Saturday at the High School.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 10, 2012.

  
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Susan Snook, Secretary

Growth & Redevelopment Committee

Fire Marshal's Office - Township of Lawrence  
February 2012 New Business Listing

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Name	Address	Phone
EDWARD JONES International Society for Pharmacoeconomics Jennifer Vazquez, LCSW	123 FRANKLIN CORNER ROAD and Outcomes Research 3100 Princeton Pike	SUITE 206 505 Lawrence Square Boulevard South Building 3, Suite H
MATH AND READING CENTER PRIDE STAFF PRWT SERVICES, INC.	564 LAWRENCE SQUARE BOULEVARD SOUTH 168 FRANKLIN CORNER ROAD 3131 PRINCETON PIKE	609-273-7292 609-586-4981 609-403-8505 609-482-3789
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC	130 Franklin Corner Road 989 Lenox Drive	609-803-2430 314-875-8714 314-875-8714

