

GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM

February 10, 2009

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on February 10, 2009, 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 7:42 PM:

Present: Chairperson Christopher Bobbitt, Vice-Chairperson John Conroy, James Cordingley, Cami Granahan, Lovette Love, Mayor Mount, Tushar Patel, Michael Pratico, and Michelle Sternfeld

Excused Absence: Mikey Azzara, Ryan Kennedy, Robert Kulak, Ken Kiernan, and Leon Kaplan

Absent:

Also Present: Michael Powers, Council Liaison
Andrew Link, Principal Planner/Business Advocate
Danielle Hickey, Secretary

Election of Officers

Chairperson Christopher Bobbitt was nominated for Chairperson. There were no other nominees. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Lovette Love was nominated for Vice-Chairperson. There were no other nominees. The vote was unanimous.

This committee was also asked to nominate a liaison for the Rt. 1 Development Committee. Chairperson Christopher Bobbitt was nominated for this liaison position. There were no other nominees. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the December 9, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

Public Comment

None

Goals and Objectives

1. For this committee to work closely with the Rt. 1 Redevelopment Committee. The new Heritage Village apartment complex needs help with renting out the bottom shops. There has been discussion about putting parking on both sides of the Rt. 1, narrowing the mid-way, and having on-street parking. This will not happen for two years but will be funded by the DOT. The jug handle will be eliminated, and a round-about will take its place. Ideas for stores in the Heritage Village complex include a Dunkin Donuts, dry-cleaners, halo pub, etc.

2. To continue with the Awards Ceremony.

3. To work with the Small Business Task Force. Randy Hanks holds the meetings on Whitehead Road. This group would like to bring in some speakers, work with saving money on energy, make a directory to possibly publish (maybe in The Gazette), and promote the local small businesses. An idea for promoting the local businesses could be an incentive program to “buy local.” Ideas include, going to the Township website to get a 7% (tax) discount on your purchase. Other towns have a card that you get punched when you shop locally. The card gets punched. When your card is filled, your name is entered in a drawing. Some towns offer recycling incentives. Some towns have a debit card that only works in town.

Committee members are asked to do some “googling” on other township “buy local” incentive programs. Members could call the towns to see how much the set up/programs cost the district.

4. To discuss what types of groups this board would like to come in to speak or that this group would like to visit. A suggestion was made to hold the meetings at different locations/businesses in the community. If the board decides to do this, the Township Clerk will need to be notified of the meeting place each month.

Permit Process Booklet

The Permit Process Booklet explains how to get approvals. This booklet will be handed out individually and with the marketing packet that Mr. Link’s office will be putting together. Mr. Link is still in need of three advertisers for the Permit Process Booklet. The cost to advertise in the booklet is \$675 and \$750. Possible advertisers that were mentioned were Stark & Stark, Nini, First Choice Bank, American Water, Advanced Solar, and Home Depot. Advertisers that are secured for the book include: CMX, Clark, Caton, & Hintz, and Bristol Myers Squibb. Possible printing solutions include ETS and Mercer County Vo-Tech in Ewing.

Rt. 1 Redevelopment Committee Report

The Rt. 1 Redevelopment Committee has a lot of engineers looking at the project, however not too many of the suggestions are creative. There has been discussion of having an architect internship program to put the project together and hold a presentation with the planning board. This project could be a 40-80 hour internship project. There are 4 interns interested in this project. They would like to talk with Phil Caton to discuss this further. The project may need a couple of more interns. The Township did get some state funding before for this project but the money was put towards Heritage Village.

Some ideas for this project include making Graph Ave. a cul-de-sac. The Township also needs to figure out how to close some driveways on Rt. 1. This project could work on the design, land-use, and zoning for the rest of Rt. 1. The design of the buildings could possibly be developed using a Smart Growth Grant to also modernize the zoning ordinance.

Other Business

Thursday, March 12, 2009 there will be a Mercer County Economic Summit at the Conference Center at Mercer County Community College from 2-6pm. Committee members are able to attend if they confirm with Mr. Link.

There will be a Green Expo at The Lawrenceville School on March 14, 2009.

Mike McGrath, the organic gardener will be at Lawrence High School on March 21, 2009 at 2pm to give a talk.

There will be a community conversation breakfast from 9-12 on March 21, 2009 in the Music Building at The Lawrenceville School regarding Community Services.

There being no further business to come before the Growth & Redevelopment Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 P.M.

The next meeting will be held on March 10, 2009.

Danielle N. Hickey,
Growth & Redevelopment Committee Secretary