

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

June 8, 2021

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The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. using Uberconference.

Statement of Adequate 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.

Roll Call:

Present:

Charles Lavine
Maria Connolly, Vice Chairperson
Peter Ferrone
Andrew Frank, Chairperson
Stavros Papafilipakis
Teresita Bastides-Heron
James Kilduff
Alan Di Sciullo
Ryan Kennedy
Gregory Johnson, School Board Liaison
Cathianne Leonardi
Melissa Clark
Edward Freeland

Absent:

Brian Vaughn
Chris LaFlamme

Excused Absence:

Tushar Patel
Joan Brame

Also Present:

Christopher Bobbitt, Council Liaison
Jeffrey Radice, Secretary

Minutes:

May 11, 2021 minutes were approved.

Committee Discussion:

The Growth and Redevelopment Committee discussed the role of the committee moving forward and how they can best help the community. Duplicating the role of the Planning Board is not the goal of this committee.

The committee discussed ideas on how the schools can be higher rated. School Board Liaison, Gregory Johnson spoke in length about the challenges of the 2021-22 school year. Acquiring substitutes has been one of the biggest hurdles for the Lawrence Township Public Schools. The committee brainstormed better ways for the school district to acquire more substitute teachers and aides.

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The committee spoke about arranging a smaller sub-committee to speak about brainstorming new responsibilities for the group. A few members of the committee then recapped what the responsibility of the group has been over its history, going back to the origin of the committee. In previous years the Growth and Redevelopment Committee would hold various 'networking events' in order to grow local businesses. This is something that the group may look to revisit post-pandemic.

In previous years, the monthly Growth and Redevelopment meeting had occasionally been used to mediate controversial business topics between residents, council and administration. A suggestion to be a home for this type of conversation was revisited.

A quick discussion regarding the location of the incoming recreational marijuana dispensaries was had. The group discussed details of the most recent ruling by Town Council as to where these dispensaries will be located.

The committee talked about ways to highlight businesses from all parts of town. A few ideas that were discussed were a 'Restaurant Passport' and a Facebook page that highlights town businesses.

Update from Council Liaison, Christopher Bobbitt:

Councilman Bobbitt gave an update on the new medical marijuana business in town. He also spoke about the grand opening of the Lidl grocery store.

Other Business:

None.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Radice
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved: _____