

GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2011

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, September 13, 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 7:40 p.m.:

Present: Chairperson Christopher Bobbitt, Vice Chairperson Ryan Kennedy, Lovette Love-Stevens, Michael Marion, Karen Vincent-Lavanga, Donald Little, Michel Franc, Reza Asgari

Excused Absence: Tushar Patel, Charles Lavine

Absent: Cami Granahan, Jags Vazirani, David Maffei, David Mizenko, Dennis Norton, William Zimmer, John Conroy, Kurt Koevenig, Pamela Mount, Councilwoman, Bruce Nahan, Lawrence High School

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

Approval of Minutes:

The August 9, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

New Business Welcome Effort:

Chairperson Bobbitt asked if there were any new businesses. Mr. Link stated that he did not receive a report from the Fire Marshal's office. So it is unknown if any new businesses opened.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated that he will talk to Randy at the Awards Program about their feedback on our Welcome Letter to the new businesses that open in the Township.

Awards Program:

Chairperson Bobbitt wanted to verify that Mark Edenzon will be the guest speaker at the awards program and will be hosting the program. The topic will be "2014 National Goals".

Chairperson Bobbitt spoke about sponsors. The following companies will be sponsors for the award program: Stark and Stark, First Choice Bank, and Brandywine. The following companies did not reply: Saker Shop Rite, RetroFitness, Mercedes Benz. Mr. Link stated that Saker Shop Rite and Retro Fitness might be a yes. Vice Chairperson Kennedy will ask his firm to be a sponsor if needed. Mrs. G's and Roma Bank are also mentioned.

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Vice chairperson Kennedy will reach out to First Constitution since they expanded and purchased branches; they might be interested; they were never a sponsor. They have a branch on Lawrenceville-Pennington Road.

Mr. Link stated that he would like to get the press release out and mention the sponsors as well as the winners. Mr. Link will mention the sponsors we have.

Chairperson Bobbitt opened the floor that we need presenters. Mr. Link mentioned that Councilman Bostock will present the New Small Business Award to the Purple Cow because he nominated them.

Mayor Puliti will present the Mayor's Award for Economic Development to Colonial Lanes. Chairperson Kennedy will present New Building/Renovation Award to Subs & Bites @ 2480 Route 1 Lawrenceville.

Mr. Asgari of Subs & Bites requested that the "and" in the minutes for his name will be changed to the "&" sign. It was noted and the award will be read as "Subs & Bites @2480 Route 1 Lawrenceville".

Lovette Love-Stevens will present the Business Service Award to The Romy Buerano State Farm Agency. Councilman Powers will present the Environmental Award to Councilwoman Mount. Chairperson Bobbitt will present the Podmore/Dwyer Historic Award to Fred Vereen, Jr. Chairperson Bobbitt will present New Large Business Award to Parsons Brinckerhoff.

Councilman Powers stated he is not sure if Mrs. G's will sponsor. Roma Bank was given the information; however, no response.

A question was asked how many sponsors are we short? Mr. Link stated that we have Stark & Stark; First Choice Bank; Brandywine. He also stated that Cami Granahan is working on Saker Shoprite and Christopher Bobbitt is working on RetroFitness and Ryan Kennedy volunteered his firm, if need be. Councilman Powers is working on Roma Bank.

Chairperson Bobbitt asked if there is anything more on the Awards Ceremony. Mr. Link asked the members who will be attending. Mr. Link stated that we supply the ticket at the door at the registration desk and identify yourself as a member and your name will be on the list.

It was stated that the Awards Ceremony is on October 4th at 8:00 a.m. at the Special Olympics on Princess Road.

Redevelopment Issues:

Councilman Powers stated that we are moving forward with Craft Cleaners. There is probably one underground storage tank on site and supposedly the roof collapsed. Councilman Powers stated that the taxes were not being paid. The Township is seeking a court order to allow us demolish the building. The Township does not want to take on the environmental issues. The Township would like to demolish the building for now; however, we have to see what is there and how much money will be left. The time table is looking at the winter.

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Green Map:

Chairperson Bobbitt stated that the Green Team received a grant for a mapping project for the environmental agencies in the Township; however, they would like the Committees to add to this map. So if someone went on line there would be a bunch of different things such as the Growth & Redevelopment could list the award winners. Councilman Powers asked if it was the same as "Google map"; where someone could look up the locations.

Mr. Link stated that there are icons for different sites and it will tell about the location, such as trails, etc. Mr. Link stated it is a joint grant with Princeton, Hillsborough, and Montgomery Townships. The idea is the clerks need to decide what Lawrence Township wants to do; where to focus our energies in what layers we want to start with the map; so the idea was to get a committee of committees together. We are looking to get two people from this committee, as well as the Greenway Committee, Green Team, Sustainable Lawrence, Environmental Resources, Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, Historian and Open Space. They were all asked if they wanted to participate; so the question Mr. Link put out to Growth & Redevelopment is are we interested in participating; if so, who would like to volunteer.

Mr. Little asked how long will the process be? Is it indefinitely or what. Mr. Link stated it could be a long term; however, the short term is to get what we are focusing on and then who is going to spend the time to do it.

Vice Chairperson Kennedy asked is there is a target date for meeting. Mr. Link stated early October around the 3rd or 4th, nothing really committed. Councilman Powers asked since we were the Township, we could do parks, could we do places like the Lawrenceville Farmers Market.

Mr. Link stated that Mr. Krawczun does not want to put businesses on the Green Map. Councilman Powers asked what we will bring to the table. Mr. Link suggested attending the first meeting to see where it was going and then decide if you would like to continue.

Mr. Little volunteered as well as Chairperson Bobbitt.

Other Business:

Mr. Marion asked about the status of Colonial Lanes. There was a lengthy discussion about what renovations were started, completed, what they are focused on.

Ms. Love-Stevens asked about the Sleepy Hollow. Since Hurricane Irene there were about 80 people evacuated. If Sleepy Hollow were to be re-built; it would have to be under today's codes. Our Construction Code Official is concerned about mold in the floor.

There was a lengthily discussion about what other businesses were effected by Hurricane Irene; such as the Ski Barn; Red Roof Inn, the home behind Party City, all hit hard from the storm.

Mr. Franc asked about the old Biddle Property on Whitehead Road; and it was discussed about what was going in.

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Councilman Powers stated about the Dunkin Donuts site on Whitehead Road. Council was talking with the owners and hopefully they are moving forward with the Dunkin donuts and apartments on the second floor.

There was also a discussion about Moriello Plaza and where 1st Constitution took the site and opened up a branch.

It was also mentioned that Hopewell Hospital is planning to open on November 6th. There was a lengthy discussion on the entrances, Scotch Road and about Trenton and the Princess Road site being too small; so they are 4x's bigger and it would never fit on the Princess Road site.

Ms. Love-Stevens asked about Rider University spray painted their initials on 295 by Exit 7A. Is something going to be done? A question also came up about the electric sign by Route 1 is at a bad location. It should be by Sloan Avenue, so you can exit if route 1 is backed up.

Councilman Powers stated that the Transportation Tax Fund has no money so adding a lane behind Red Lobster over the canal as an elevated highway to get to Route 95 and behind Toys R Us is not planned; there are easements for access, Mattress Giant granted an easement when they received their approval. It would have to be elevated because of the wetlands.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for the Award Ceremony on October 4, 2011.

No meeting will be held in November because of Election Day.

The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2011.



Susan Snook, Secretary
Growth & Redevelopment Committee