

GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
November 12, 2013

The following are the informal minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building, Lower Level Conference Room; there was no quorum.

The informal meeting started at 7:05 pm.

The September 10, 2013 minutes will be on the next agenda.

**Present:**

Christopher Bobbitt; Ryan Kennedy; Lovette Love-Stevens; John Conroy; John Schloesser; Danielle Delprato; J. Andrew Link, Liaison; Donald Addison; Susan Snook, Secretary

**Absent:**

Jags Vazirani; Michel Franc; Howard Nelson

**Excused Absence:**

Cathleen Lewis, Council Liaison; Tushar Patel; Karen Vincent-Lavanga; Charles Lavine; Donald Little; Reza Asgari; Jose "Max" Ramos; Melissa Saunders

**Brief Summary of Discussion:**

Mr. Addison presented an immediate press release from the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce, copy attached and a family owned business employs ten (10) people either full or part time. Lawrence Township has one of the unique businesses "Just Strings" which is very successful because nobody else does this type of work. Mr. Addison stated this campaign is to encourage people to do businesses with family run businesses. It was requested that a full presentation be put onto the December agenda. This is a major launch and will be reaching out to the communities.

Chairperson Bobbitt stated the Special Olympics task force met and next year is the State's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will have a pop up store; the location is not determined and will be selling NJ 350 stuff that deals with Mercer County.

Chairperson Bobbitt asked about the company that printed the maps. John Schloesser displayed an example provided by Resorts Map.com. A discussion was also held about setting up a meeting with the businesses to inform them what will be going on about road closures and traffic backups and what the pop up store means. Lawrence is just going to be a host for the 2014 Special Olympics.

Ms. Delprato stated that 1<sup>st</sup> Constitution is still interested in doing an open business meeting and we need to pick a date and format. They also requested a list of the businesses to send out invitations. It was stated the Mid Jersey Chamber holds these types of event that are held every month as long as you are a member of the Chamber and they should reach out to Mid Jersey Chamber.

Vice Chairperson Kennedy stated that they would be able to host our Board for a meeting in January or February at their branch on Lawrenceville-Pennington Road and get them more involved with us and we can help them. Ms. Delprato will talk to them and see if they are interested in such a meeting possibly in February.

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Ms. Mount came to the meeting to announce the Township is considering a recycling program for a recycling for food waste which could be a great thing and the Township could save lots of money because the food waste is half of the weight which is mostly water. The Township pays for trash by weight so if you take out the weight it doesn't cost as much. Princeton has been trying to do this for a couple of years and it is succeeding but it is going slow. The big hang up is they have to haul the waste to Delaware because that is where the compost facility is.

Rumor is that Mercer County is going to put their own food recycling effort together and Rob Wisniewski who is going to have a food waste recycling project (has the building, has approvals and ordered the machine) and will be doing fermentation (which is different than composting). Township Council is trying to figure out how to do this and was to take a vote but because there are two options of what to do with the food, it may be a lot cheaper than hauling it to Delaware so they did not want to lock themselves into a fee that Central Jersey has come up with thinking they have to haul all the stuff to Delaware so negotiations are continuing.

This is going to save a lot of money for the Town because we spend 2.5 million on trash a year and might create a whole new type of business with this compost and then selling the compost to do stuff with the composite. This is the first time in the history of man that we made dirt on a big scale. Ms. Mount would like the Board's support because we need an effort to sell this. There are two big problems: Lawrence Township has never had to pay separately for the trash because it is through the tax structure so people are not used to it and it is expensive about \$220 a year which comes to \$17 a month.

Princeton is having their food waste to Delaware and we could use ours locally. A farmer could not use this compost because there are grass clippings which have pesticide residues in the compost and some situations that has been harmful to crops. Mr. Wisniewski is very particular on what food waste he gets because you have to be careful of pesticides and will not be selling to local farmers. Ms. Mount described the procedure of testing the compost material. The building is on Whitehead Road and is about six months to one year away and Mercer County Improvement Authority has approved the idea and is currently at New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Mount stated the Town needs at least 300 people to start out before the food waste company can start picking up because of trucks travelling all around the Town.

The trash cost to take to the landfill costs \$199 per ton and food waste is \$65 per ton because that could be sold and something could be done with it. The other problem this would eliminate or reduce is that the food waste makes methane gas as it decomposes and methane is terrible for the air; so if it is composited in the machines with a controlled situation you can capture the gas before it hits the air which can made into fuel or gas. Ms. Mount stated the cost will get you the container and Mr. Krawczun is not sure what the savings would be yet. The Mercer County Improvement Authority is still paying off the incinerator debt that costs about 600 million and Mr. Krawczun's concern is even though we have less stuff going to the landfill, the County will just raise the fee so they end up with what they get now because they are paying off the debt.

There is a meeting on November 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building. The speaker is Janet Pelletterri, Princeton Recycle Coordinator for the Government.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on December 10, 2013

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Susan Snook, Secretary  
Growth & Redevelopment Committee

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