

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, November 13, 2018

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 6:44 p.m. in the Lawrence Township Municipal Building, Lower Level Conference Room.

**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 and the Trentonian.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Lovette Love-Stevens  
John Conroy, Chairperson  
Joan Brame  
Peter Ferrone  
Brian Vaughn  
Melissa Clark  
Andrew Frank

Absent: Frank Comstock  
Nina Reeder  
Ryan Kennedy

Excused Absence: Tushar Patel  
Charles Lavine  
Robert Pluta  
Maria Connolly  
Teresita Bastides-Heron  
Chris LaFlamme  
Christopher Bobbitt, Council Liaison

Also Present: Andrew Link, Liaison  
John Dauber, School Board Liaison  
Susan Snook, Secretary

While waiting for Committee members to arrive, there was an informal discussion of the Awards Program. Ms. Clark stated the ceremony was very nice and was very impressed and thanked John Conroy for a job well done. Mr. Frank stated it ran very well, the speeches were good and kept your attention, a good feeling all around. Mr. Link stated that Green Acres thought there were 85 people in attendance and our count was close.

Ms. Connolly asked about the tickets and suggested when they come to check in this is your entrance ticket. Mr. Link stated if they did it through Event Bright, they could print out their ticket. Mr. Conroy stated at chamber events there are no tickets, just tell them your name because you have a printed name tag. The suggestion was made because it was congested at the table and suggested having name tags out.

Mr. Dauber who is new to the Committee asked about the awards and it was explained to him.

Once we had a quorum, the meeting continued at 6:44 p.m.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, November 13, 2018  
Page 2

**Minutes:**

The September 11, 2018 minutes were approved per unanimous vote.

**Approval of 2019 Meeting Schedule:**

The 2019 meeting schedule was approved per unanimous vote. Chairperson Conroy stated that the Committee might not have a January meeting because of re-organization. Mr. Frank asked about what is re-organization and Chairperson Conroy explained that difference Board's assign a person to this Committee and they meet in January and they come in February.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Awards Program:**

Chairperson Conroy stated we no longer have a Chamber who will sponsor the event. We need to discuss if we are going to keep having the event and who will be organizing it. This is his last year on organizing the event because he has done it two years in a row and would like the Committee to think about organizing the event and we need two people who can do that. If we do not have any volunteers at the next meeting in December we should think about cancelling the event.

Ms. Brame asked where would funding come from since the Chamber is not going to be involved. Chairperson Conroy stated it comes from ticket sales is what generates that and sponsors and look for an event sponsor or two, which should be about \$1,000.00 per sponsor or two sponsors at \$500.00 each. There should be one or two people heavily involved in organizing it, making sure we are getting all of our sponsors, making sure we have a venue, make sure we have a speaker. Chairperson Conroy stated he will continue to do the program.

Ms. Brame stated finding an event sponsor will be a challenge in the absence of the Chamber unless someone is eager to embark on that. Chairperson Conroy stated all the sponsors have paid with the exception of Bristol-Myers Squibb. Ms. Brame thought the event was pleasant and speakers went well. Mr. Link stated we covered our cost and the Committee has a budget so that carries us through.

Ms. Brame asked to redefine the event and think about doing something else and every year we are struggling to find sponsorships. Chairperson Conroy suggested that we have a few awards on there that are politically motivated by Mayors that we could remove and maybe substitute a couple of them with new awards where we can make it more about business. Mr. Frank commented that when we were doing the selection and we allowed only one person who was a potential recipient to speak. Ms. Clark did not realize she was allowed to come to the meeting when she was making her nominations.

The sponsorship pays for the bowls, engraving and then some. Chairperson Conroy stated if there is a different type of venue we want to do that is more cost effective and could be a little bit more informal. The price could be adjusted accordingly. The Princeton Chamber will allow us to advertise through their announcements such as an e-mail blast. They were willing to organize the entire event but the Township did not think we needed the help.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, November 13, 2018  
Page 3

Mr. Ferrone wanted to know the costs. Mr. Link responded the costs are for the bowls and the engraving and miscellaneous expenses such as paper for the programs. The costs are \$22.50 a head, seven bowls are \$595.00, engraving was \$174.00, miscellaneous was \$32.00 and Cobblestone was \$2,336.00 which comes out to a total of \$3,137.60. We will have \$2,200.00 in sponsorships and \$725.00 in tickets sales. We comped up to six people for the award winners.

Mr. Link stated we need to get a list of the award winners on the web site. The Committee members went over the award winners. Chairperson Conroy stated removing or swapping out some of the awards so it is more business oriented and two were politically motivated were the Historic Award and Environmental Award and maybe re-evaluate to see if they should stay on there or substitute another topic for an award. There needs to be a Community Service award and that would encompass the Historic Award, the Environmental Award and the Residential Award and if it merits an award then we could give it.

Ms. Clark suggested an on-line form to make it stream lined like a simple google form. Chairperson Conroy stated the conclusions are we need someone to step up to organize the Awards Program for next year with a committee of one or two to find a venue, speakers and sponsorships. Ms. Brame stated we have too many awards and we go looking who we can put in this award and the funding issue needs to be re-examined. The hardest thing is going to be getting sponsors and a possible change in the venue. Chairperson Conroy stated that everyone should give it some thought about if they would like to organize the event next year.

Ms. Love-Stevens stated if we will not be doing the event, what would we do because this is what we strive for at the end of the year. Chairperson Conroy stated we are working on the signage ordinance and would be more focused on giving recommendations on how to encourage more businesses to come into the Town. She suggested we should try to get more people to come in and ask questions about their business concerns and seek our advice on how to solve it. Chairperson Conroy suggested that each person to get one business to show up at a meeting and talk about what is working for them in Town and what is not working for them in Town. They will be first on the agenda and will have 15 minutes to speak.

It was suggested in bring in past recipients and asking them to share their thoughts. It was brought up again about the business directory, also to have a small business open house and hold it at the Municipal Building to talk about their business. It was suggested to have the owner, Violetta, come in and speak. The fire inspector's list has no e-mail addresses, so it was suggested to see if they could be added on the fire inspector application. Mr. Link stated if we decide not to do the awards program maybe we want to have this in October and this would give more time to get this information together.

**Sign Ordinance:**

It was suggested that since Ms. Connolly was not present at the meeting, it will be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Brame wanted a copy of the Princeton sign ordinance.

**Recruitment of New Members:**

There are a couple openings for members in the business category, not a resident. We have to get a copy of the roster and not sure what the appointments were and what category was appointed in without that roster. The key is to find a resident who is a business owner. There are 19 people for this committee.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Frank asked if there would be an issue to attend a ribbon cutting for the sculptures in Weeden Park to be held on December 8, 2018.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, November 13, 2018  
Page 4

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan J. Snook  
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved: Dec. 10, 2018