

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 11, 2018

The following are the minutes of the Growth & Redevelopment Committee meeting, which was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 6:32 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: Frank Comstock
Lovette Love-Stevens
Charles Lavine (arrived at 7:00 p.m.)
John Conroy, Chairperson
Robert Pluta
Maria Connolly
Teresita Bastides-Heron
Peter Ferrone
Melissa Clark
Chris LaFlamme

Absent: Brian Vaughn
Nina Reeder

Excused Absence: Tushar Patel
Joan Brame
Andrew Frank
Ryan Kennedy

Also Present: Christopher Bobbitt, Council Liaison
Andrew Link, Liaison
Susan Snook, Secretary

Minutes:

The August 14, 2018 minutes were approved per unanimous vote.

Public Comment:

None

Awards Ceremony (Selection of Award Presenters and Sponsorships):

Chairperson Conroy explained that during the awards program that we ask that the sponsor and the award winner to come up and give the sponsor a minute to talk and a committee member will represent each award to say something about the business.

Ms. Love-Stevens gave an example of her speech she did on the Gingered Peach. She explained that she usually sends an e-mail out to the awardee and asks them if there is anything they want her to say, do you have a background on the web site or something that is unique about you that we would like to show case because this is the opportunity to showcase the business. After she gets that information, she puts it into a synopsis and then writes it out.

Chairperson Conroy stated it can shorter and not as elaborate.

The Committee members discussed who was going to present the award for each category and it is as follows:

Mayor's Award:	Mayor Bobbitt
New Large Business Award:	Melissa Clark
New Small Business Award:	Lovett Love-Stevens
Business Service Award:	Robert Pluto
Residential Award:	None
New Building/Renovation Award:	Charles Lavine
Podmore/Dwyer Historic Award:	Maria Connolly
Ralph Coleman Environmental Award:	Teresita Bastides-Heron

Mr. Link stated he has an e-mail into Ryan Kennedy to verify that BMS will sponsor.

Confirmation of Guest Speaker (Jennifer Gardello):

Chris LaFlamme will introduce the guest speaker, Ms. Gardello. Chairperson Conroy sent an e-mail to Ms. Gardello stating to contact Mr. Link requesting tickets.

Verification of Award Winners Acceptance:

Mr. Link stated the award winners accepted the awards

Committee Members who will be Attending Event:

All present at the meeting stated they would be there (Frank Comstock; Maria Connolly; Robert Pluta; Peter Verrone; Teresita Bastides-Heron; Lovette Love-Stevens; Chris LaFlamme; Christopher Bobbitt; Charles Lavine). Mr. Link stated there is one quest per sponsor.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 11, 2018
Page 3

Chairperson Conroy stated to be there by 8:00 a.m. because it starts at 8:30 a.m. He will make the introductions; the speaker will be first and then the awards will be presented. The Board members decided that the Mayor's award will be last. Chairperson Conroy will send an e-mail to Lindsay to have her put it on the web-site, printing of programs and have her check on the parking.

Cancellation of October 9, 2018 Meeting:

The Committee members voted to cancel the October 9, 2018 meeting since the Awards Ceremony is being held on October 10, 2018.

Other Business:

Mr. Comstock stated he went to the Lawrence Shopping Center and there is no one there. The Camera Shop stated the owner commented that business is really slow and they are writing it up to the construction. At least one tenant is not happy but he has noticed significant drop off since the construction started. It might be because the front façade is torn up that the Shopping Center is closed.

Ms. Connolly stated that the Lawrence Shopping Center has a web-site and states that LA Fitness, an electrical supply store and Kumon as well as Plato's Consignment Shop will be coming in. The Committee members also stated that a food store is definitely needed in the Shopping Center.

Ms. Connolly stated she spoke with Mr. Parvesse and he is okay with adding the A-frame signs in the specific shopping center. Mr. Pluta stated why we are regulating the whole thing, let people put up signs. Mayor Bobbitt stated you need regulations and the different zones do not allow A-frame signs so it needs to be opened up. Mr. Pluta stated the sign ordinance is twenty pages long so can we get it down to five and deregulate it some. Mayor Bobbitt commented that the sign ordinance has been developed over the years by members of the Planning Board and others to make Lawrence Township look the way it does and to then ask for it to be deregulated it is to then change the character of the Township. Mr. Pluta suggested from the circle to Province Line Road and let people go and seems a little bit too much.

Mayor Bobbitt stated Council introduced an ordinance to amend the garbage and refuse ordinance but it is mainly for yard waste pickup because it is being abused. People are putting out their yard waste every week instead of once a month. But one of the things is that the Township Manager is of the opinion that there should be a \$50.00 fee for commercial contractor's to get a sense of who they are because one of the things that Public Works has noticed is that commercial landscapers have been either taking yard waste from other jobs and dumping it on our streets because they know we will pick it up with no questions asked or some of them have been on off weeks just clear cutting someone's back yard and dumping it onto the streets and taking off, so we want them to register. Mayor Bobbitt asked the committee members if they would want to see that ordinance and see how it operates. It has gotten to a point where the Township is damaging our trucks and stuff.

Chairperson Conroy stated we need an app to tell people when to pick it up. Mayor Bobbitt stated it is on the calendar or Nixel. Mayor Bobbitt stated that one of the things after this ordinance is passed is that we are going to spend some time re-educating everybody before we start citing people. It is people who put tree stumps and large caliper cut up trunks that is what is damaging the equipment.

Ms. Connolly asked about the Route 1 Business and the landscaping. Mayor Bobbitt stated it technically not ours yet and the Manager will be asking Jim Parvesse to reach out to the State. The islands will be ours in October.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP GROWTH & REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, September 11, 2018
Page 4

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Digital audio file of this meeting is available upon request.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan J. Snook
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved: November 13, 2018