

METUCHEN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2011 REGULAR MEETING

A meeting of the Metuchen Development Commission was held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 8:45 PM at Borough Hall. Present were Jack Altman; Kevin Donahue, Gideon Gelber, Lynn Hendricks Wong, Jonathan Rabinowitz, Council Member Dorothy Rasmussen (commission liaison), JoAnn Sabatino-Falkenstein and Bonnie Silverman. Not present were: Audrey Gatling, Laura Griffith, Jon Rabinowitz. The minutes of the January 5, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Old Business

Building Heights: The Main Street Building Height Recommendations were once again reviewed and a discussion ensued whereby it was recommended that the buildings in downtown on New Street, Hillside Avenue, Inn Place & Station Place would be allowed to be 3 stories high. Those buildings on both sides of Main Street between Rt. 27 and the train station would be 4 stories. The area against the train tracks would also allow 4 story buildings in order to mask the sounds from the train. The height requirements for the 3 story buildings would be 45' and for the 4 story buildings 55'.

Recommendation: The motion was made to request the new height limits and to rescind the prior request made in January. This was unanimously approved.

Metuchen Brochure: Kevin Donahue gave an update on the revision of the Metuchen Brochure and committee members were assigned to help compile information on the following topics: Community Organizations – G. Gelber; Education - J. Sabatino-Falkenstein; History – J. Sabatino-Falkenstein; Opening a Business in Metuchen – B. Silverman; Population, Demographics, Support Services, Useful Contacts - K. Donahue

Open House Metuchen: Mayor Valhalla plans to meet with landlords to discuss Open House Metuchen. Dorothy Rasmussen will follow up on this.

Market Day Metuchen: Gideon Gelber is working closely with other organizations on Market Day Metuchen, which will be a new and improved Farmer's Market that will showcase our food venues such as Buttery Bakeshop and Fresco's. And shared the plans with the Development Commission.

The District: An update from Renaissance Properties was shared and a discussion ensued regarding The District and its eminent domain proceedings regarding the parcel from the corner of the Weichert Building's property (at Central and Middlesex Avenues). The owner of the parcel has been offered fair market value (after an appraisal was done) for the portion of the property that is required for the improvements. A letter from County Counsel was sent to them on January 7, 2011 and the owner has 14 days from receipt of the letter to respond.

Borough Website: Discussion regarding the Borough Website and how it has been totally revamped and is much easier to navigate. The Development Commission hopes to contribute the content of its revised brochure for inclusion.

New Business

No New Business was raised. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Development Commission will take place on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Silverman