

Metuchen Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 2nd, 2014

Attendees: Hussain Ali-Khan, Audrey Gatling, Gideon Gelber, Laura Griffith, Nelson Li, Jon Rabinowitz. Chair: JoAnn Sabatino-Falkenstein. Council Liaison: Dorothy Rasmussen. Not in attendance: Jack Altman, Beata Thompson, Daniel Topping.

Chair JoAnn Sabatino-Falkenstein called the meeting to order at 8:12 pm. The March meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept by Nelson Li, seconded by Laura Griffith.

The commissioners discussed the Take Back Metuchen's Main Street Facebook page, and the group's recent feature at a Council meeting on 3/17. We also reviewed Council President Jay Muldoon's comments directed to the Take Back group at that Council meeting, underlining the local government's reluctance to investigate a business improvement district without hiring an independent business development consultant. Convening a task force to study the concept was recommended.

We touched upon the 2013 End of Year Report/2014 Goals and proceeded with a focused discussion of BID research including meetings with Eric Berger and Rich Mongelli, two Metuchen property owners as well as a lengthy discussion with Chris Crane, publisher of the Criterion, who sent a lengthy memo to members of Council on selling Metuchen to Business. Mr. Crane was nearly successful in the establishment of a unified business association in the 1990s.

Nelson Li gave an overview of his Metuchen business inventory.

Council Liaison Dorothy Rasmussen gave a brief update on the stalled District at Metuchen from Renaissance Properties, with a promised reorganization to be revealed in late spring. The Woodmont project on Pearl Street will hold public presentations on July 16th and 17th. Everyone shared their knowledge of business closures and openings in town.

Move to adjourn meeting at 9:45pm by Jon Rabinowitz, seconded by Gideon Gelber.