

Metuchen Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 2nd, 2014

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

Chair JoAnn Sabatino-Falkenstein called the meeting to order at 8:08 pm. The February meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to accept by Dan Topping, seconded by Gideon Gelber.

In response to the Take Back Metuchen's Main Street Facebook page, the group was invited to join our meeting. Sharon Goldman and David Greenberg, both of Take Back; Tyreen Reuter, Chair of the Traffic & Transportation Commission and President of the Borough Improvement League (BIL) and Grace Shackney, Chair of the Metuchen Arts Council, who works for the nonprofit Citizens Campaign. Chamber of Commerce representatives Nicole Chinchar and Laraine Altman attended as well. The Development Commissioners introduced themselves individually.

We reviewed the Development Commission's 2013 End of Year Report as well as the Complete Streets policy adopted in October 2013. A long discussion ensued of the numerous discussion streams on the Take Back site in addition to a conversation about the Development Commission's ongoing goal to pursue the Business Improvement/Special Improvement District program with our municipal government.

Nelson Li gave a brief overview of his Metuchen business inventory and apportioned each commissioner a portion to research.

Council Liaison Dorothy Rasmussen gave a brief overview of the progress on the Pearl Street Project, due to have plans unveiled in April and an update on the stalled District at Metuchen from Renaissance Properties, with a promised reorganization to be revealed in late spring. Everyone shared their knowledge of business closures and openings in town.

Move to adjourn meeting at 9:45pm by Jack Altman, seconded by Gideon Gelber.