

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Task Force (EDTF) was held tonight. Members in attendance were: David Cohen, Brad Pransky, David Rosenberg, Kenneth Mirsky and Jonathan Essoka. Guests in attendance were: Roy Hollinger, William Barry, Joe and Linda Widmeir, Paul Montgomery, Eileen Himes, Sally Danciu and Caryl Levin. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir, Township Manager.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Chairman Cohen welcomed everyone to the meeting and those that were in attendance, introduced themselves and identified the areas they represent. Mr. Havir welcomed everyone and apologized for Commissioner McKeown who was called to a family emergency this evening.

2. Mr. Havir led discussions on the following issues with questions and answers exchanged between EDTF Committee members with residents and business owners that were in attendance:

- The Township's 5-year graduated tax abatement program based on the value of new improvements within eligible commercial districts.
- The process for permit applications and plan reviews at the staff level for permitting.
- Public improvements that were installed in the downtown Glenside Commercial District and the traffic calming and streetscape improvements that are planned to be installed at the Elkins Park West Commercial District.
- Promoting businesses on the Township's website, business map, opportunities to place ads in the Township's newsletter, calendars and business information in the new resident welcome packets.
- Participation in the Eastern Montgomery County Chamber and Glenside Chamber and programs offered through Chamber events such as business expos and business card exchanges.
- Public Relations and participation in ribbon cutting for new businesses and coordinating press releases.
- Issues concerning lack of parking, traffic, speeding, lack of businesses, designs for proposed public improvements within the commercial district of Cheltenham Village and the need for additional pedestrian crossings, vacant properties and the need to clean up the exterior appearance of business store fronts, the need for business opportunities to be developed in order to encourage property owners to consider selling vacant properties, and attracting new businesses.
- The School District's relocation of school bus stops to different corners within the Cheltenham Village area and the pedestrian crossings at the intersections that were not painted. This led to a concern that it was unsafe for children to cross at the corner safely

to enter the school bus. Mr. Havir asked for a list of the intersections where the school bus stops that were relocated by the district and he would coordinate having the pedestrian crossings repainted accordingly, provided they were not on a state road.

With respect to the concern about speeding, Mr. Havir noted that he would coordinate with Police Chief Norris to have the speed warning trailer placed at various streets within the village to address the issue of speeding and the need for further enforcement. A comment was made that the speeding was not only from vehicles but also from school buses. Information concerning bus numbers should be passed on to the transportation coordinator at the district.

3. Approval of Minutes

The July 21, 2015 minutes were not available for approval. The approval of minutes will be added to the October 20, 2015 meeting agenda.

4. Committee Reports

A. Signage Applications – Deferred to staff members and EDTF chair of the designed committee will review the following applications within the next week and forward their recommendations to Henry Sekawungu, Director of Planning and Zoning, with the caveat that both signed applications meet zoning requirements.

1. New freestanding sign for Porrini Automotive Center, 435 Cheltenham Avenue, Cheltenham, PA 19012.
2. New wall signs for the New Life Thrift Store, 67 Cheltenham Avenue, Cheltenham, PA 19012.

B. Organization & Development – No Report.

C. Economic Restructuring – No Report.

D. Marketing and Promotions

1) Liaison Reports

1. Elkins Park East – Chairman Cohen provided an update on the Creekside Co-op on their meeting which was held last week. Chairman Cohen also reviewed the refinancing structure of the co-op.
2. Glenside District – September 24, 2015 is the food fair and festival from 5-9 p.m. in downtown Glenside.
3. E. Cheltenham Avenue – No Report.
4. Elkins Park West – No Report.
5. W. Cheltenham Avenue – No Report.

5. Chairman's Report

Chairman Cohen announced that there will be a dinner on October 11th in the Elkins Park East Commercial area in which area restaurants are having a fund raiser dinner event. Roads will be closed. The event is charging \$40.00 a plate.

6. Old Business (Status Report Updates)

- A. **Old York Road Community Organization** – Elkins Park Train Station Landscape Design Project – Mr. Essoka provided an update on the project. SEPTA will be planting trees and shrubs. A total of \$8,500 was collected by the Old York Road Community Organization volunteers and the funds will be used for planting and maintenance of the project.
- B. **Update on progress of the Draft Zoning Ordinance by Select Committee** – Mr. Cohen provided an update. A presentation was made by the Montgomery County Planning Commission to the Commissioners at their meeting on September 16, 2015. No action was taken at that time by the Commissioners. However, it was noted that educational workshop meetings were being planned and will be announced at the October 7th Zoning Committee Meeting.
- C. **Status Report on Elkins Park West Streetscape and Traffic Calming Project** – Mr. Havir provided an update noting that the consultant team is in the process of completing the plans and specifications for public bidding and will be submitting the document to PennDOT in the near future for review.
- D. **Way-Finding Signage for Elkins Park East from Elkins Park West Districts** – Mr. Havir provided an update noting that the \$3,500 change order was approved to Gannett Fleming. A meeting is in the process of being arranged between the consulting team, staff and various department members to review the scope of work.
- E. **Preparation of the RFP for consulting services for Engineering and Design for the next commercial district** – Mr. Havir announced that staff has completed the draft RFP to hire an Engineering & Design firm to work with the residents and business communities of Cheltenham Village for design and installation of public improvements involving streetscape and traffic calming features along various streets within the commercial corridor effecting Central and Ryers Avenues. He envisioned the work would be similar in design to what was noted in the concept plan developed by Carter VanDyke Associates in October 2000, however brick pavers would not be used. Mr. Havir anticipated that the RFP would be let in the fall with the intent to recommending the award of a contract to an Engineering/Design firm in the first quarter of 2016.

7. New Business

- A. **Discussion on Business Recruitment/Business Retention Strategies** – Chairman Cohen led a brief discussion on the feasibility of generating funds to hire a business recruitment coordinator. This matter will be placed on a future agenda for further discussion.

8. Staff Report

Mr. Havir provided an update on a recent meeting he had with Commissioner Sharkey, representatives from SEPTA and the Downtown Glenside Community Business District about the landscaping improvements that will be made at the corner property owned by SEPTA near the Glenside Train Station.

There was discussion on the proposed landscape material and it was recommended the landscaping be consistent with what is being planted at the Elkins Park Train Station.

Mr. Havar reminded everyone the next meeting is October 20, 2015 at the Lynnewood Gardens Community Center at 7:00 p.m.

9. Citizen's Forum

No Report.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, agreed by members of the committee, the EDTF meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Bryan T. Havar
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Vicky Sykes



Meeting Attendance Sheet

Economic Development Task Force



Thursday, September 17, 2015, 7:00 P.M.

Rowland Community Center
400 Myrtle Avenue
Cheltenham, PA 19012

(Please Print Clearly)

No.	Name	E-mail or Other Contact Info, if desired	Member (Y/N)
1	David L. Cohen		Y
2	Joe + Linda Widmeyer	customTops@yahoo.com	N
3	Roy L. Hollinger	Realtorroy@Comcast.net	N
4	Wm Barry	WM BARRY LANDSCAPE@VERIZON.NET	N
5	Paul Montsionary	fookany auto service@gmail.com	N
6	Daniel Rosenberg	rosenberg12concept.net	Y
7	Kenneth Mirsky		Y
8	Eileen Himes	Eileen.Himes@WellsFargo.com	N
9	SALLY DANCIO	sallydancio@MSN.COM	N
10	Jonathan Essoka	jessoka27@gmail.com	Y
11	Caryle Levin	Caryle.levin@verizon.net	Y
12	Boris Pransky		✓
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			