

The regular meeting of the **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE** (EDTF) for January 2022 was held tonight via Zoom web conference. Members in attendance were: Chair Dwight Pedro Lewis, Rita Rosen Poley, Valerie DuPont, Fred Milbert, Gretchen Wisehart, Margo Scavone, and Joe Leo. Staff present: Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager and Lauren Walter, Special Projects Coordinator. Guest Present: Ann Rappoport.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. REORGANIZATION

- A. *Chair.* Ms. Walter, acting in capacity of chair pro tempore, called for nominations for Chair. Ms. Poley, seconded by Mr. Milbert, made a motion to nominate Mr. Lewis as Chair. Mr. Lewis accepted the nomination, and the motion was unanimously approved by the EDTF. Ms. Walter turned the meeting over to Mr. Lewis.
- B. *Vice Chair.* Mr. Lewis called for nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Poley, seconded by Mr. Lewis, made a motion to nominate Ms. Campbell as Vice Chair. Mr. Lewis notified Ms. Campbell via phone, she accepted the nomination, and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Upon motion of Mr. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Poley, the EDTF unanimously approved the November 16, 2021 EDTF meeting minutes.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Mr. Lewis revisited the quorum policy interpretation that citizen committees cannot hold a meeting without a quorum. Ms. Rappoport said the topic was discussed at the Public Affairs Committee meeting, and that the next six months will be used as a transition period as the Township tries to get the committees fully staffed. She said meetings can be held in these six months but no business requiring a vote is to be conducted without a quorum.

Ms. Wisehart said the EDTF members had to sign a form years ago stating that they would not miss more than a certain number of meetings per year, and suggested circulating that form again. Mr. Lewis asked that members continue to RSVP to the agenda emails if not able to attend so staff can track if we expect a quorum.

5. NEW BUSINESS – None.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policy and Signage

- 1) Ms. Elliott said staff from the Zoning Department may be able to join an EDTF meeting in February or March to give an overview of the signage application process and answer any questions.

B. Marketing and Events

- 1) Ms. Wisehart is still trying to work with the Township Manager on a webinar.
- 2) Mr. Lewis acknowledged Ms. DuPont and Ms. Poley for great work on the ongoing Business Spotlight initiative. Ms. Poley has a video lined up with landscaper Jim Gorman, and possibly the coffee shop near Jenkintown Train Station. Ms. Poley said it is easy to interview and encourages other members to do so. Mr. Milbert said that for

more traction on videos, someone should share them in the Elkins Park Happenings and Cheltenham Township Residents Facebook groups.

- 3) Ms. Poley also said the Restaurant & Business brochure that they made at the end of 2020 needs to be updated; let her know of new or closed businesses.

C. Business Retention

- 1) The Business District Liaison (BDL) committee wants to add resources to the back of an introductory letter to business owners, and Ms. DuPont asked staff for an approved list of resources. A number of resources are listed on the website's COVID-19 Business Resource page, but the page needs updating. Ms. Elliott said the Montgomery County Commerce Department will likely have the most apt resources in the meantime.

Mr. Lewis said that once the letter is ready, the BDL committee will send the letter, procedures, and an introduction script out to all EDTF members in February.

D. Commercial Districts

- 1) Glenside – Mr. Coffin said progress has been slow on the Wawa project. Easton Rd is open, but Waverly is closed west of Easton Road. Ms. Rappoport said during the course of work, crews ran into utility problems which have delayed the project.
- 2) Elkins Park East:
 - 1) Mr. Milbert said Food Chasers Kitchen is open for breakfast and lunch Wednesday through Sunday and seems to be doing well. Haven Local is also open in Creekside Market from 12-6 p.m. Wednesday and Sunday, 12-9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.
 - 2) Ms. Poley has heard the closed gas station at York and Stahr Roads is in litigation as the owner is in default. This property being vacant is not good for the Township.

E. Chair's Report – None.

F. Staff Report

- 1) Ms. Elliott said that the Board of Commissioners passed a Stormwater Management Fee which will be included on the 2022 Tax Bill. An insert will be provided with the tax bill with more information for anyone who has not been following the process. She stated that a credit policy (maximum credit 50%), is being developed to be started next year, and should be on the website by June 1. The fee will be phased in over three years, with the 2022 fee being roughly one-third of the total fee to be levied in 2024 and going forward. Ms. Elliott also explained the fee structure based on property size. Ms. Rappoport added that the Board also established an enterprise fund so the funds collected are allocated to stormwater management projects and expenses only.

7. **NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting of the EDTF is scheduled for February 15, 2021 via Zoom.

8. **ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business, Mr. Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.



Robert A. Zienkowski
Township Manager

Submitted by: Lauren Walter,
Special Projects Coordinator