



# TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

*Office of the Township Manager*

## MEETING NOTES

January 28, 2020 7:30 a.m.

TO: Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2020

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

REFERENCE: MEETING NOTES OF EDC MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2020

ATTENDEES: DOUG CALLANTINE, CHAIRMAN, NAISH PATEL, ROBERT REICH, CHANCELLOR DAMIAN FERNANDEZ, MIKE MCPAUL, BRUCE GOODMAN, CHRIS LIONETTI, JIM MARSHALL, DAVE MULVEY, LIZ SMITH, LINDA MILLEVOI, WENDY KLINGHOFFER, MARIA WYRSTA, ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER, PETER HORNBERGER, DIRECTOR OF PENN STATE LAUNCH BOX, LORA LEHMANN, RESIDENT

SUMMARY: AS FOLLOWS

### General Discussion:

Meeting notes were approved.

Reappointments were made by the Board of Commissioners with two vacancies to remain.

PennDOT - Old York Road/Susquehanna Road realignment & intersection improvements; owner of property located 1907 Susquehanna Road has not been responsive to offers and the Board of Commissioners will need to decide on next steps, and the 12-month DCED extension expires on June 30<sup>th</sup> to expend funds. Also, there have been discussions with engineering/design firm for PennDOT improvements and PennDOT grant does not have a time limit; also estimate was received for demolition of buildings.

Economic Development Corporation has not been formed at this time. There was a second informational session held this month and there was a sense that a lot of people do not understand the true benefit of setting up this corporation for economic growth, which has been done successfully throughout the country. Also, some government grants require that an EDC is formed for grant funding, so it is a necessity.

Comprehensive Plan Task Team - Commissioner Thompson and Mike Narcowich, County Planner, MCPC oversee that task team. During the November/December timeframe there were a series of public engagement sessions held that included a surveying technique to respond to questions such as what the public sees as a vision for Abington; what they want to see transformed, stay the same or enhanced, and that report will be presented to the EDC and Board of Commissioners. The entire process of revision to the Comprehensive Plan is expected to take about two years to complete.

2019 Grant Awards; a summary of grant awards totaling \$10,000 from the EDC was provided. 2020 potential grant award to the Glenside/Weldon - subcommittee GYAC will be discussed next month.

Business Activities Update: in January, Use & Occupancy permits were issued to business owners of 835 Old York Road; 2812 Limekiln Pike; Willow Grove Mall - Yard House; 1829 Old York Road; 1495 Old York Road and 1755 Old York Road.

LERTA - subcommittee will meet following EDC meeting. Properties have benefited from LERTA, which expires in October. Work by the subcommittee have plotted districts on a map with the locations of properties that have received LERTA and they will combine that information into a report that will first be presented to the EDC next month or the following month and then to the Board of Commissioners and the School Board.

Peter Hornberger, Director of Penn State - Abington Launch Box Presentation:

This is the fourth year of the Penn State Launch Box, which began as a grant from the President of Penn State University to spark economic growth and have the university be an engine of social mobility and economic investment in communities across the Commonwealth. Initial project was with the Abington Arts Center where students created prototypes of businesses for art and design. The second phase of Launch Box is being contemplated including a possible partnership with the Township to help the formation of small businesses that would be pro bono from the university to the community.

We are looking at what will be valuable not only to Penn State's ecosystem, but for the region and the Launch Box mission is to achieve vibrant economic ecosystems through a culture of innovation and encourage student entrepreneurship helping to prepare them for the future. There is additional support not only to students, but also for the community where students are staffed under faculty of Penn State who provide assistance.

Community outreach workshop will be held on February 12, 2020 at Penn State and then a workshop will be held on "website building" as well as in April on design thinking for business practices. Boot camp on business ideas will be held in May. There will be a community page on [www.abington.psu.edu/launchbox](http://www.abington.psu.edu/launchbox) on workshop activities and registration.

Next meeting of the EDC is scheduled for February 25, 2020 at 7:30 a.m.

Action Items and Responsibility:

LERTA subcommittee to provide report to EDC and the Board of Commissioners.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.