

Economic Development Committee Minutes

June 7, 2016

Committee Members in Attendance: Chairman Doug Callantine, Jim Marshall, Bruce Goodman, Dave Mulvey, Karen Wiley Sandler, Judith Kratka, Richard Gaglianese, Charles Kahn, Jr, Mike McPaul, Bill Meyerowitz, Matt Vahey, Erin Vizza, Liz Smith, Wendy Klinghoffer, , and Tara Wehmeyer.

In Attendance: Commissioner John Spiegelman, Larry Jones

Excused: Commissioner Michael Markman, Christopher Lionetti, Randee Elton

Not In Attendance: Jack Loew, Barbara Nye

Note: The EDC is strictly an advisory committee and takes no action on township matters required under state legislation. EDC meetings are essentially a workshop environment for ED policies, programs, or projects which develop over a considerable length of time. When finalized, programs and projects are presented for public discussion to the Commissioners under the Public Affairs agenda. As such, minutes are summary in nature and not verbatim.

Agenda Item EDC - 1: Welcome

Chairman Doug Callantine opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance and thanking Bill Meyerowitz for opening the Art Center to host the EDC for the meeting.

Agenda Item EDC - 2: Economic Development Partnership with Penn State

The ground breaking ceremony for the Student Housing was held on May 18th.

Penn State Abington received one of 6 seed grant awards from INVENT Penn State to support the innovation incubator pilot program to start initially at Abington Art Center with the hope to transition to some corridor space or to the college in the future.

Invent Penn State will be holding an event at the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg on June 20, 2016. The event will introduce Invent Penn State ; report on first year success ; announce the year two recipients ; and have several speakers.

For information on upcoming events at the Innovation Lab please visit: <http://www.fabington.org> and <http://abingtonartcenter.org>

Agenda Item EDC – 3: New Businesses in Abington Township

- Two Fat Dogs – to open in Roslyn ~ one month
- Dino’s Backstage in Keswick Village is scheduled to open in June.

- Lilly of the Valley Cupcakery, also located in Keswick Village has opened and remains successful with their homemade gourmet cupcakes.
- Iron Hill Brewery – Huntingdon Valley Shopping Center is scheduled to open this summer.
- Jimmy John's, 1140 Old York Rd, coming soon

Agenda Item EDC - 4: Vacant Property Review Board Update

The Vacant Property Review Board is a newly created Committee, officially starting on March 3rd 2016, which shall establish rules and regulations consistent with the Urban Redevelopment ACT for certification of blighted properties within the Township. The Vacant Property Review Board will advise the Township in matters relating to the requisition, disposition and redevelopment of properties acquired through the certification process.

Commissioner Spiegelman advised that the committee typically meets the first Thursday of the month, however, the June and July meetings will be combined and scheduled for the June 23rd at 4:00PM. Commissioner Spiegelman reported that there is movement on the intended concept of the committee.

Copies of the agendas and meeting minutes can be found on the township website:

<http://www.abington.org/government/board-of-commissioners/minutes-and-agendas>

Agenda Item EDC - 5: Grants

DCED and PennDOT MTF Grant awards should be announced this summer, 2016.

A handout was distributed detailing the current revitalization studies and listed by priority.

The EDC has a goal to submit grants for economic growth in Abington Township. The prioritized list will be used to get a plan in place vs. reacting to grants and opportunities.

Agenda Item EDC – 6: New Business

- a. Roslyn Ridge (corner of Easton Road/Susquehanna Road): plans to work with Septa to beautify this corner with a decorative fence along the railroad and a new sign and flower bed.
- b. New EDC Member Orientation Session – June 21 at 7:30AM

Agenda Item EDC - 7: EDC Chair and Executive Committee Appointments

Doug Callantine was nominated by Judith Kratka to serve another term as EDC chairman. The committee all agreed that Doug has done a remarkable job during his first term as EDC chair and voted unanimously to reappoint him for another term.

Currently, the EDC Executive Committee consists of Doug Callantine as chair, Michael Markman as the Board of Commissioner Liaison, Tara Wehmeyer as the township staff representative serving as secretary on the EDC, and EDC members Bruce Goodman and Charles Kahn, Jr. Jack Thalheimer's position was never replaced after his passing. Doug Callantine nominated Jim Marshall to serve on the Executive Committee and the EDC voted unanimously in favor of the nomination.

Agenda Item EDC – 8: Old Business

- a. Abington Town Hall – held on Weds. May 25th, hosted by Rydal Meadowbrook Civic Association.

Presentations:

Penn State Abington/Abington Arts Center
Abington Jefferson Health
Abington School District

- b. Doug Callantine presented an EDC General Report to Public Affairs Committee on 4/6/16
- c. Old York Rd / Susquehanna Rd Project: A Multimodal grant was submitted to DCED and also to PennDOT for Phase 1 of the Old York Rd/Susquehanna Rd project. The grant award announcements are scheduled to be announced summer 2016.
- d. YMCA Update – the YMCA currently has a memo of agreement with a property in Upper Moreland Township. It will likely be at least 3 years until the Abington site becomes vacated.
- e. EDC / Abington Township Planning Collaboration: The EDC and the Abington Township Planning Commission plan to collaborate and work more closely on projects and concepts moving forward.

Agenda Item EDC - 9: Schedule Presenters for upcoming EDC meetings:

A list of potential presenters for upcoming EDC meetings was created. The idea was designed to find out what the future plans are for the presenter/business, what their thoughts and ideas are moving forward, how we, as the EDC, can cooperate the vision into our future plans. The list, subject to additions and not limited to, is:

1. Jay Blumenthal, Abington Treasurer
2. Standard Press Steel (SPS) – Sept. 13th EDC meeting
3. Developer's Diversified
4. YMCA
5. Penn State
6. Jim Scully
7. Abington Jefferson Health
8. Franklin Residential – Steven Balin
9. Abington Art Center
- ~~10. Baederwood Shopping Center – May 3 EDC meeting~~
- ~~11. Abington School District – Feb. 2 EDC meeting~~
- ~~12. Abington Shopping Center – Sept. EDC meeting~~
- ~~13. Rydal Park – Nov. EDC meeting~~
- ~~14. Willow Grove Park Mall – PREIT – Jan. EDC meeting~~

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 7:30AM

In the Board of Commissioners Room at the Township Building.

**Respectfully Submitted: Tara Wehmeyer
Assistant Township Manager/Economic Development Director**