

July 6, 2011
Curtis Hall

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Charles D. McKeown, Chairman, presiding. Members present were Commissioners Hampton, Haywood, Sharkey, Simon, and Swavola. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Portner. Staff present were Lt. Joseph Gruver; Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager; Kenneth Hellendall, EMS Director; David Lynch, Director of Engineering, Zoning & Inspections; Joseph O'Neill, Fire Marshal; and David G. Kraynik, Township Manager. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. McKeown called the meeting to order.

1. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Property Supervisor for the month of June, 2011 was received.

2. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Public Information and Complaint Officer for the month of June, 2011 was received.

3. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Staff Meeting Minutes dated May 24 and June 15, 2011, were received.

4. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Twinning Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 1, 2011, were received.

5. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Historical Commission Meeting Minutes dated June 9, 2011 were received.

6. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 16, 2011 were received.

7. The Committee discussed implementation of the Business Recruitment and Retention Plan. Mr. Haywood suggested that Cheltenham Avenue be added to the plan since the Business Improvement District (BID) has not yet been fully implemented. Mr. Simon noted that the five (5) business districts in the plan were created in connection with the Main Street Program. Mr. Kraynik reported that Cheltenham Avenue has been added to the plan but the Economic Development Task Force (EDTF) has not yet appointed a representative. In response to a question from Mr. Simon, Mr. Havir advised that the Cheltenham Avenue boundaries reflect those in the BID, i.e. Easton Road to Route 611, and that this business district has been added as an appendix to the plan.

Mr. Sharkey inquired about the mission of the EDTF in light of the termination of the Main Street Program. Mr. Havir advised that said committee will have a visioning session that includes an analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (“SWOT”) in August.

Upon motion of Mr. Simon, the Committee unanimously approved the implementation update of the Business Recruitment and Retention Plan as presented this evening.

[Ms. Hampton joined the meeting at this time]

8. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Economic Development Task Force Meeting Minutes dated June 21, 2011 were received.

9. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a Resolution supporting the Pennsylvania Growing Greener Program (see attached).

10. Under Citizens’Forum:

Robert DeMaria, 65 Limekiln Pike, asked about the status of his application for a mercantile license to operate a farm stand at his property. He was told that in order to obtain such a license, a property had to be zoned for said type of business, and his property is not properly zoned to permit a farm stand.

It was Mr. DeMaria's opinion that there is a state law regulating this that supersedes local ordinances. He was reminded that he received an opinion, in writing, from the Township Solicitor.

Mr. Haywood did not feel that the Committee was in a position to make any decisions on this matter since Mr. DeMaria is not following the process.

Mr. DeMaria rejected Mr. Sharkey's suggestion of renting a stand at the Glenside Farmers' Market.

Mr. McKeown concluded that the Committee was not in a position to take any action, the solicitor has rendered an opinion, and if Mr. DeMaria did not agree with said opinion, he could seek zoning relief.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.



David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

as per Anna Marie Felix



PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST
Public Affairs Committee, 7:30 p.m.
Public Safety Committee, 7:45 p.m.
Building and Zoning Committee, 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 6, 2011
Curtis Hall

NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS	E-MAIL and/or TELEPHONE
Bob & Iris Hammerquist	810 E. Overline Ave	bhammerquist@aol.com
Daniel Norris	236 Barclay Cir.	Norrisdan@yahoo.com
Melanie Vallerio	173 Fernbrook Ave	Mel4thepeople@aol.com
Steve Strals	921 Melrose MP	

**TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
RENEWING GROWING GREENER PROGRAM**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the Growing Greener program has provided funding for preserving open space and farmlands, developing community park and recreation areas, cleaning up abandoned mines and brownfield sites, restoring impaired rivers and streams, and protecting and improving our state game, forest, and park lands; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cheltenham has effectively leveraged Growing Greener funds to achieve tangible, lasting results for its residents, including green infrastructures projects involving streambank restoration and stabilization, eradication of invasive exotic plants, reintroduction of native plants and enhancements to riparian buffers and corridors; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cheltenham seeks to protect the health of its citizens and enhance the quality of life for its residents, in part by planning for and implementing projects that preserve open space and historic resources, providing for community parks and recreation, and safeguarding water resources; and

WHEREAS, these projects also provide significant health and economic benefits, increase property values and improve the community's ability to attract growing businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cheltenham has learned that Growing Greener II will soon expire and funds for Growing Greener I have been precipitously diminished; and that this will affect the community's ability to restore and protect our local environment and the environment of Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cheltenham understands that throughout Pennsylvania, Growing Greener II has helped to preserve nearly 34,000 acres of working family farms; conserve more than 42,300 acres of threatened natural areas; restore more than 1,600 acres of abandoned mine lands; and enhance access to outdoor recreation through 234 community park projects and 132 state park and forest infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution states that, "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people"; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Cheltenham realizes that the Commonwealth is losing three times more forest, wildlife habitat, farmland and other open spaces to development than it is able to preserve; and that the Commonwealth has over 16,000 miles of rivers and streams that are unsafe for fishing and swimming; and that in Pennsylvania more than 2,000 working family farms await protection from encroaching development; and that 189,000 acres of abandoned mine lands scar 44 of the Commonwealth's counties; and that the grant funds available for community and county recreation, greenways and trails projects have been severely diminished;

WHEREAS, the Township of Cheltenham wishes to encourage and support renewed funding for the *Growing Greener* program, before the last of the Growing Greener II funds are spent in 2011,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Township of Cheltenham, supports renewal of Growing Greener by the General Assembly and Governor Corbett with dedicated, sustainable and long-term funding sources,
2. The signed resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor and our respective county and state legislators.

DULY ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the Township of Cheltenham Board of Commissioners this 20th day of July, 2011.

TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM

Harvey Portner, President
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

David G. Kraynik
Township Manager/Secretary