

Exton Region Chamber of Commerce
Government Affairs Council Meeting
January 3, 2019

Attendees: Dave Farrington, Ben Zajac, Mark Reale, Laurie Kerkering, Jim Butler

1. There was a brief review of the minutes from the Dec. 6 meeting and the goals of the GAC. The election results were briefly discussed and it was agreed to maintain open communications with as many local officials as possible. The goal would also be to include these officials – and representatives from local school districts - in future Chamber events.
2. There was discussion about keeping an open line of communications between the Board of the Chamber and the GAC. We should be in good shape there, as we currently have two Board members participating on the GAC. We would also seek Board approval or acceptance if GAC recommends taking a formal position on an issue. In the short term, the Board has requested GAC to provide: a) job descriptions for the GAC Chair and a member-at-large, b) GAC's 2019 objectives, program recommendations, and schedule. Also, the sub-committee discussed in no. 3 below would be presented to the Board, if GAC decides to move forward with the effort.
3. We followed up on discussions from previous meetings regarding the challenge of the lack of public transportation from the Exton Train Station. Some larger companies reportedly provide shuttles for their employees, but no buses or shuttles are available otherwise. GAC desires to survey interest from smaller businesses that might have interest in a shuttle from the train station to certain venues that could facilitate access for employees (Main Street, Oaklands Corporate Center, and the Exton Mall were cited as examples). It was recommended by the GAC to form a shuttle sub-committee to contact local businesses to explore whether a shuttle would be beneficial to them. It would be important to have participation from interested ERCC members outside of the GAC to champion this effort, and to survey local businesses on their level of interest.
4. Dave and Laurie voiced an interest to solicit involvement from more members of the Chamber on the GAC. This can be accomplished by direct invitation and announcements made in the newsletter and events.
5. Laurie will reach out to the PA Chamber to request a visit to the GAC to inform us of current State legislative activities, and any likely concerns for businesses in PA for 2019.
6. Dave shared that Exton Park (near the Church Farm School and Swedesford Rd) has received \$1.5 million from the county for further development. It is likely they will need an additional \$1.5 million to complete the plans for improvements.
7. GAC will compile a list of the current legislators in the Exton Region, as there was much turnover after the November elections. Each GAC member will “follow” a specific legislator or agency to report on activities important to local businesses.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb 7.