



The History of Discover Haverford/HPED

Discover Haverford (formerly known as Haverford Partnership for Economic Development or HPED) began in 2005 in response to increasing concerns about deteriorating conditions in the older business districts in the Township. Inspired by a belief that our older business districts had great potential for revitalization, a Citizens Task Force for Commercial Revitalization was formed by the Haverford Township Civic Council. The goals of the Task Force were to initiate, direct, and implement strategies to revitalize the Township's business districts.

In May of 2006, following numerous meetings, surveys, studies and analyses, the Task Force published its Assessment Report that identifying six "Key Planning Challenges."

1. Create attractive, walk-able and interesting business districts.
2. Attract the types of businesses consumers and residents requested.
3. Create a business-friendly reputation for Haverford Township.
4. Address significant parking issues in many of the township business districts.
5. Revitalize vacant or underutilized storefronts.
6. Create a marketable identity for the township's business districts.

A series of additional meetings were held to capture and define community thoughts, visions, and ideas on how to improve our business districts. In 2007, the Task Force produced a Summary of Ideas from "Imagine the Possibilities" Community Listening Sessions and a Six-Point Economic Development Strategy designed to supplement the township's land use plan.

In response to the efforts and initiatives of the Task Force, the Township Planning Commission hired Thomas Comitta Associates to formulate a land use plan for the two of the Township's business districts – the Eagle Road and Haverford Road corridors. That land use plan was completed in 2008 – and the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners approved the "gateways" to the Eagle Road corridor as an Addendum to the Haverford Township Comprehensive Plan.

In 2009, we separated from the Haverford Township Civic Council to create the Haverford Partnership for Economic Development (HPED). HPED was incorporated as a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation in 2010 and obtained federal 501©(3) nonprofit, tax exempt status in 2015. In 2021 we changed our name to Discover Haverford, which we feel better reflects our mission, includes a call to action, and is easier to remember. We will for legal purposes be HPED, "doing business as Discover Haverford."

Our Founding Members include: Boyle Energy, Charles Gans Plumbing, Heating and A/C, Edward Jones Investments, Nolan Painting, Oakmont Pub, Orsini's Collision Service and Wagner Real Estate.