

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Business Development Partnership (BDP) was held at 12:30 pm, Tuesday, May 19, 2020 virtually via Microsoft Teams. The members of the BDP in attendance included Lisa Martin, Troy Tradewell, Allan Nappen, J.P. Northrop, Bob Cole, Jay Haenn, Mary Griffith-Alfarano, and Gwen Karpf. Also present: Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager; Kelsey Whalen, Public Information Coordinator; Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning & Zoning; and Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the February 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

Public Comment: none

New Business:

Update on Businesses in Township – Each individual business owner discussed their current situation due to Covid-19. Some expressed more struggles than others based on their industry. Overall, it was discussed that the small businesses, retail and the hospitality industry has had the most challenges. Most local businesses have been creative in promoting their business while working remotely and must continue to do their research and learn new ways to do business in order to endure the current circumstances. Township staff discussed information available to residents and businesses on the Township's website and social media.

Recovery Plan – The committee discussed the need for a recovery plan. The idea of promoting small local businesses with “feel good” stories and easing up on some zoning regulations on a temporary basis was discussed in order to help businesses recover and adjust to the new guidelines and restrictions due to Covid-19.

2020 Autumn Festival - J.P. Northrop provided an update to the BDP members in regards to how the Autumn Festival will be handled this year. The Autumn Festival Committee will be making changes in order to minimize crowds and reduce the size of the event. The 20th anniversary will be postponed until 2021.

Old Business: none

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the BDP, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm. The next meeting will be held at 12:30 pm on June 16, 2020 virtually via Microsoft Teams.