

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Business Development Partnership (BDP) was held at 8:30 am, Tuesday, September 15, 2020 virtually via Microsoft Teams. The members of the BDP in attendance included Lisa Martin, J.P. Northrop, Mary Griffith-Alfarano, Gwen Karpf, Allan Nappen, Troy Tradewell, and Jay Haenn. Also present: Candyce Fluehr Chimera, Township Supervisor, Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager; Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning & Zoning; Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; and Kelsey Whalen, Public Information Coordinator.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am.

New Business:

Township Public Information Update – Information is available on the Township’s website, E-news, and mailings will be distributed to Township businesses in November in regards to the transition of Business Tax collection to Berkheimer Innovations for 2021.

The BDP would like to compile a list of businesses with contact information / email addresses. JP is working with the Township to compile this information.

Local Business Update – Inventories are still low as manufacturers are trying to catch up. Businesses overall are doing okay. Refinancing rates will remain low. The BDP requested the Township send out a general reminder to residents to continue to support local businesses and restaurants.

Planning & Zoning Department Update - Permits intake is steady. We’ve seen an increase in residential projects, including in-ground swimming pools. New commercial / industrial projects include: Dollar Tree at 202 Marketplace, Kung Fu Tea at Assi Plaza, former Harriet Carter building (2 tenants), Total Liquidators at North Wales Plaza, Lightbridge Academy at 671 Bethlehem Pike, Ristorante Imperatore at former Village Tavern location, Pete’s Express Car Wash at 1274 Welsh Rd, Tower Urgent Care at Gwynedd Crossing Shopping Center, and Wendy’s at the Higher Rock site. Higher Rock has also submitted permits for the office building and have no user yet for the large pad site. Five Points road project is scheduled for next spring and will be a 2 year project.

Montgomery Mall Update - Currently refinancing. All stores are open. Have lost three tenants. Traffic is not as high, but sales are up. The Mall has lowered rents to help establish new businesses. Sears still has possession of their building / property.

Old Business: none

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the BDP, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 am. The next meeting will be held at 8:30 am October 20, 2020 virtually via Microsoft Teams.