

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Business Development Partnership (BDP) was held at 8:30 am, Tuesday, July 21, 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, Bob Cole, and Troy Tradewell. Also present: Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager; Brian Shapiro, Director of Finance; Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning & Zoning; Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Officer; Kelsey Whalen, Public Information Coordinator; and Candyce Fluehr Chimera, Township Supervisor.

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

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

Public Comment: none

New Business:

BDP By-laws – The By-laws were distributed for review. No changes were recommended. Accountability and Conflict of Interest was discussed by the committee. There were no concerns in regards to any direct financial interests. Future agendas will be prepared by Lisa and JP. The minutes will be prepared by Township Staff.

Future Meetings – After discussion, it was decided that the monthly meetings would continue be held virtually via Teams. The Community and Recreation Center is not available due to the spacing out of the exercise equipment to maintain social distancing. On a motion made by Bob Cole and seconded by Allan Nappen, the monthly meeting time will be permanently changed to 8:30 am.

Township Non-Residential Updates – The Outback Steakhouse has submitted building plans for review to relocate to the former TGI Fridays building. The Dollar Tree retail store has submitted building plans to renovate and occupy a space within the 202 Marketplace shopping center (411 Doylestown Rd). The former Fabric Store on Bethlehem Pike has seen some interest, but there are challenges with this property. Currently 77 stores are open in the Montgomery Mall. The Wegmans Pub has closed (all national locations).

Township Business Privilege & Mercantile Tax Collection – The Township has now outsourced to Berkheimer Associates the collection of these taxes as of January 2021. Letters will be forwarded to all businesses in mid-September notifying them of the change.

The 2020 Business Tax was collected (due March 15, 2020). Concerns and issues for the 2021 tax collection will be addressed.

New Montgomery County Program – The Montgomery County Planning Commission developed a new program, ReStart Montco. Information about this program is available through the County website. The program provides information and resources for businesses, municipalities, nonprofits, and the general public to assist our communities adjusting to and recovering from the effects of the shutdowns due to the pandemic.

Old Business: none

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the BDP, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 am. The next meeting will be held at 8:30 am July 21, 2020 virtually via Microsoft Teams.