

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Business Development Partnership (BDP) was held at 8:30 A.M. using the virtual meeting platform, TEAMS. The members of the BDP in attendance included Lisa Martin - Chair, JP Northrop, Allen Nappen, Bob Cole, Jay Haenn, Mark Brusilovsky, Troy Tradewell, and Gwyn Karpf. Also present was Candyce Fleuhr Chimera, Board of Supervisors' liaison to the Committee, and Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager.

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

Minutes: No minutes were submitted for review and approval as there was no meeting in December.

New Business: Each Committee member provided an update on their business operations and any issues they are dealing with as a result of the current pandemic. Ms. Martin (Costco) commended the Township, particularly Police, Fire and Code Enforcement on their response to the F-0 tornado that occurred in the Township last month. She also spoke about tightening protocols because of COVID exposures, noting one employee died from it. She advised the store has a new manager, with the prior manager being transferred to Bucks County.

Ms. McCreary updated the Committee on the proposed Westrum apartment development behind the Roadway Inn on Bethlehem Pike, the new water tank being installed by the North Wales Water Authority behind Airport Square and Township operations overall. She noted that all committee meetings will be virtual for the near future with only the Board of Supervisors meeting in-person along with the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board when needed.

Mr. Nappen (Nappen & Associates) spoke about his building being constructed in Hatfield Township, stating he is receiving inquiries from businesses in New Jersey because of the shortage of industrial sites. He stated as soon as it becomes available it is leased out. He noted the Nissan dealership remodel/construction is complete.

Mr. Brusilovsky (Mark's Jewelers) provided an update on holiday and annual sales and business overall.

Ms. Karpf (Simon Properties) stated the Montgomery Mall has seen steady traffic and those who were in the mall were there to buy. She stated Outback Steakhouse is scheduled to open by the end of July where the former TGI Friday's was located. She informed the Committee there is a rapid-response COVID testing site in the Dick's parking lot.

Mr. Tradewell (5 Points Automotive) stated he continues to have difficulty in hiring even with unemployment being high because of the pandemic.

Mr Haenn (Lansdale Chrysler Jeep) stated he is also having difficulty and has invested in younger employees who may take 2-3 years to fully train.

Mr. Northrop (Edward Jones) stated the market has not “pulled back” as some predicted and the second stimulus checks will help individuals, the market and the economy.

Mr. Cole (World Wide Stereo) noted he is having difficulty getting good technicians but has been fortunate in his recent hires. He stated the tariffs hurt business and COVID has affected the supply chain, particularly with his west coast distribution.

Ms. Fluehr Chimera comments on the low interest rates, noting inventory is small and selling immediately.

In response to a question from Ms. Martin about meeting attendance, Ms. McCreary stated that unless there is a requirement in the resolution which established the committee, the Township cannot do anything other than reach out to the particular committee member to see if they wish to step off.

Old Business: Ms. Martin stated she and Mr. Northrop would begin discussing topics and speakers for upcoming meetings.

Adjournment:

- Ms. Martin thanked everyone for their updates and participation in the meeting. There being no further business to come before the BDP, the meeting adjourned. The consensus of the Committee is to meet virtually next on February 16, 2021.