

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 18, 2023**

The April regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Business Development Partnership (BDP) was held at 8:30 A.M. at the Township Administration Building on April 18, 2023. A virtual option was available via Microsoft Teams. The members of the BDP in attendance were J.P. Northrop, Allan Nappen, Mary Griffith-Alfarano, Ryan Frazier, and Jacqui Baxter-Rollins. Also present were Beth Staab, Board of Supervisors Liaison, Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning & Zoning, Marianne McConnell, Assistant Planning Director and Zoning Officer, and Derek Muller, Public Information Coordinator.

**Regular Meeting**

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

**Minutes:** On a motion by Mr. Nappen and a second by Ms. Alfarano, the March 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

**Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

**New Business**

- **Presentation**
  - The scheduled presenter for Cybersecurity could not attend the meeting. Instead, J.P. Northrop gave a presentation about the Secure Act 2.0.
  - Last year's Cybersecurity presentation is available to view at [BDP: Cyber Security for Businesses with Mike Morsby \(SCN Solutions\) - YouTube](#)

**Old Business**

- **Business Updates**
  - **Allan Nappen (Nappen & Associates):** Construction costs remain high, but they are beginning to level out. Land costs remain high, making future development of industrial real estate difficult. The auto industry continues to struggle with inventory, and Electric Vehicle demand is not prominent enough to justify the infrastructure expenses.
  - **Mary Griffith-Alfarano (Fulton Bank) and Ryan Frazier (Citadel Credit Union):** The 30 year mortgage rate is decreasing. The housing market remains hot, while the job market still struggles to find employees. CDs are at an all time high of 4%+. There continues to be an uptick in fraud, specifically check washing. Ms. Alfarano's recommendation is to stop paying via check and instead use banks' internal bill payer software features.
    - **Ms. Alfarano's Chamber of Commerce Update:** The Chamber's golf outing is coming up on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and it is almost sold out.
  - **J.P. Northrop (Edward Jones):** No further updates beyond the Secure Act 2.0 presentation.
  - **Jacqui Baxter-Rollins (Partnership TMA of Montgomery County):** Electric Vehicle charging stations are being addressed in the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

(NEVI) plan. The Community Bike Share program launches on Earth Day, April 22. The Partnership TMA attended the International Spring Festival at North Penn High School, and they plan to attend the Unity for Kindness event in Upper Gwynedd in early May. Their Teen Driving Rodeo on May 2<sup>nd</sup> to be held at the Montgomery Township Community & Recreation Center sold out. Additional events are available on their website.

- **Marianne McConnell and Bruce Shoupe (Montgomery Township Planning & Zoning):** Mr. Shoupe will officially retire in July, with his last day being May 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. McConnell provided updates on businesses coming to Montgomery Township. Montgomery Township received the distinction of Tree City USA and the Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation.
- **Beth Staab (Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors):** The EAC's survey on a potential single-use plastic ban has closed, and the results were presented to the Board of Supervisors. The EAC will discuss recommendations for the Ordinance during their April meeting.
- **Derek Muller (Montgomery Township Public Information) –** Montgomery Township received several awards. These included 3 awards for the Finance Department from the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) and First Place in the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors Citizens Communication Contest for Social Media.
- **Presentation Schedule**
  - May 16: SEPTA Bus Revolution and Microtransit Update
  - June 20: Gilmore and Associates Transportation/Walkability Update
  - July 18: Employer Healthcare
  - *August: No meeting scheduled*
  - September 19: Montgomery Mall Update
  - October 17: Montgomery Township Emergency Services (Police/Fire/VMSC)
  - November 21: Banking Update
  - *December: No meeting scheduled*

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the BDP, the meeting adjourned at 9:32am. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 @ 8:30am at the Township Administration Building. This meeting will be held in person with a virtual option available.