

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 21, 2021**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Business Development Partnership (BDP) was held at 8:30 A.M. at the Township Administration Building. The members of the BDP in attendance included Lisa Martin (Chair), JP Northrop (Vice Chair), Allen Nappen, Troy Tradewell, Jay Haenn, Ryan Frazier and Mary Griffith-Alfarano. Also present was Candyce Chimera, Board of Supervisors Liaison, Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager, and Derek Muller, Public Information Coordinator.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m.

**Presentation:** Daniel Nemiroff, Manager of Planning Programs at Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) presented the SEPTA Forward: Bus Revolution project. The presentation was streamed as a live webinar with an interactive Q&A session. The full video can be viewed on the Township's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/qCUgO6TMGHs> and the PowerPoint slides will be emailed to BDP members and those who tuned into the live webinar.

**Minutes:** The July 2021 minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Northrop and a second by Mr. Haenn.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Old Business:**

- Mr. Northrop reminded the BDP that he and Ms. Alfarano will be giving a financial presentation at the next meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30am. This will be live streamed as a webinar and recorded.

**New Business:**

- The BDP welcomed Ryan Frazier to the committee.
- A discussion regarding empty storefronts was held, during which the committee discussed concerns over the growing number of medical marijuana storefronts in the Township. This is regulated by the State.
- Ms. McCreary shared an update on new businesses moving into the area, noting the Township remains desirable for businesses.
- Montgomery Mall is now under new management. They have been working with the Chamber of Commerce to host a job fair on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Mr. Muller discussed promoting the business e-newsletter group more prominently on the Township's social media channels.
- Members went around and provided updates for their businesses:

- Mr. Frazier (Citadel Bank) reported staff shortages.
- Mr. Tradewell (5 Points Automotive) shared he just hired 3 new employees who are eager to work.
- Mr. Northrop (Edward Jones) shared an update on the current state of the financial market.
- Ms. Martin (Costco) shared praise from Costco Corporate regarding the operation of Montgomery Township and its planning process. This was noted in regards to the new gas station currently being installed at Costco.
- Ms. Alfarano (Fulton Bank) shared that loan rates are currently low. Her business recommends the vaccine, and there are bonuses for getting vaccinated. Ms. Alfarano also sits on the Chamber of Commerce and reported there will be 75 vendors at the job fair on Thursday 9/23 at Montgomery Mall. She also serves on the board of Laurel House. Sadly, the shelter in Lansdale was flooded, and progress on a new shelter is pushed back due to flooding until around December 2021.
- Mr. Haenn (Fiat of Montgomeryville) shared challenges regarding supply chain issues, but that business continues to be good.
- Ms. Chimera shared that the real estate business in Montgomery Township is still healthy and mortgage rates are low at just 2.5%.

**Adjournment:**

being no further business to come before the BDP, the meeting adjourned at 9:39am. The next meeting will be on Tuesday October 19, 2021 @ 8:30am at the Township Administration Building.