

**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2022**

The February regular monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Business Development Partnership (BDP) were held at 8:30 A.M. at the Township Administration Building. A virtual option was available via Microsoft Teams. The members of the BDP in attendance included Lisa Martin (Chair), JP Northrop (Vice Chair), Mary Alfarano, Jim Brusilovsky, Allen Nappen, and Ryan Frazier. Also present were Beth A. Staab, Board Liaison, Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager, Marianne McConnell, Deputy Zoning Office, and Derek Muller, Public Information Coordinator. Jacqui Baxter-Rollins (Partnership TMA of Montgomery County) attended as a member of the public.

Regular Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Mr. Northrop and a second by Ms. Alfarano, the January 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

New Business

- **Presentation: Bill Wiegman, Fire Chief**
 - Fire Chief Bill Wiegman delivered a presentation that thoroughly explained the structure of the joint Fire Department consisting of both career and volunteer fire fighters and fire police. It also detailed services offered for businesses and residents by the Department. A copy of the slideshow can be found attached to these minutes.
- **Business Updates**
 - Members of the BDP went around the table and shared brief updates about their respective businesses and trends they are seeing.
 - **Mary Alfarano (Fulton Bank)** – Mary reported rising rates for property loans and an uptick in owner occupied purchasing. She predicts this will be a pivotal year for businesses to decide if they will continue to operate or close shop since Federal Government aid put in place during the pandemic is set to expire.
 - **Allen Nappen (Nappen & Associates)** – Despite the report of a rise in owner occupied purchasing, Nappen & Associates continues to steadily lease space to businesses.
 - **Jim Brusilovsky (Mark’s Jewelers)** – Inflation is causing the cost of jewelry materials to rise. Business remains good otherwise.
 - **Jacqui Baxter-Rollins (Partnership TMA)** – The Better Biking in Montco bike share program continues to grow. Information about it can be found at <https://ptma-mc.org/programs/#better-biking-montco> . She also reported the costs of bike helmets rising, which could affect funding for future initiatives.
 - **Carolyn McCreary (Township Manager, Montgomery Township)** – The Township continues to be busy in regards to attracting new businesses. Every

month there are presentations and/or public hearings during Board of Supervisors meetings for various levels of approvals. She reported that staff is working on continuity plans to continue essential Township functions in the event of another disaster such as Hurricane Ida.

- **Lisa Martin (Costco)** – The Costco gas station opened Saturday, February 12th. Costco saw an immediate uptick in membership due to their competitive gas pricing. She shared that they are actively hiring additional staff to accommodate the surge in membership.
- **Ryan Frazier (Citadel Bank)** – Ryan talked about the wage-cost spiral, meaning when wages go up, costs of goods and services go up, which necessitates increasing wages, and so on. He indicated loan rates will be increasing by 0.5% shortly.
- **J.P. Northrop (Edward Jones)** – Clients are converting their traditional IRA accounts to Roth IRA accounts to pay taxes on a lesser amount up front. The supply chain issues seem to be easing up for most industries.
- **Beth A. Staab (Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors)** – Ms. Staab introduced herself to the BDP and shared her enthusiasm for serving as the BDP Board Liaison in 2022.
- **Derek Muller (Public Information Coordinator, Montgomery Township)** passed out updated bylaws to be reviewed and signed by the March 2022 meeting. He distributed save the date flyers for a Volunteer Appreciation Social in May.

Other/Old Business

- **BDP 2022 Goals** - Mr. Northrop and Ms. Martin inquired about existing business email and mailing lists. A key goal of the BDP will be to engage more businesses in Montgomery Township through the communication channels available to them. Mr. Muller will provide an update on this at the March 2022 meeting.
- Ms. Martin thanked Chief Wiegman for his presentation and for the Fire Department's presence at a community event benefitting Children's Miracle Network held at Costco last summer.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the BDP, the meeting adjourned at 9:39am. The next meeting will be on Tuesday March 15, 2022 @ 8:30am. This meeting will be held in-person with a virtual option available.