Montgomery Township
Business Development Partnership
June 16, 2026
12:30 PM

Montgomery Township's Business Development Partnership (BDP) met on June 16, 2026 at the Township Administration Building. A virtual option was available via Microsoft Teams.

The members in attendance included: Mary Griffith-Alfarano, Jay Haenn, Jim Brusilovsky, and Joy Zwicker (virtual)

Chairwoman Tanya Bamford was in attendance as the Board Liaison. BJ Breish (Habitat for Humanity), Jeetu Satpute and Mukund Kute (Joseph Ambler Inn) attended as members of the public. Community Engagement Manager, Ava Komasz, and Chief of Police, William Peoples were also in attendance.

Meeting Minutes

- **Call to Order -** The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m.
- **Approval of Minutes - April 21, 2026** - On a motion by Mr. Haenn, seconded by Mr. Brusilovsky, the April 21, 2026, meeting minutes were approved.
- **Public Comment**
  - There was no public comment.
- **New Business**
  - Police Department Update – Chief Peoples
    - ♣ Chief Peoples updated the group on current MTPD operations. For the first time in MTPD history, there will be seven person squads with a sergeant and corporal on each squad. For hiring, two people are currently enrolled in field training. There are three vacancies in the Police Department to be filled. MTPD is looking into consortium testing, which is a good use of shared resources, but the downside is all departments are looking at the same pool of applicants. Some basic qualifications include being 21 years old, a U.S. resident, and going through the Police Academy. Additionally, the Chief is looking to get a fourth canine team in the coming year. For activities, MTPD is hosting National Night Out on Friday, August 7 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. This is a free event including light refreshments, entertainment, a canine demonstration, a helicopter landing, vendors, community partners, and fireworks. The Chief also highlighted Community Policing Officer, Jason English, as a resource for businesses to get training and a property safety review. Current scams MTPD is dealing with include key fob hacking, car theft from vehicles left in cars, and Apple Pay credit card theft. The Chief recommends not using a debit card on Apple Pay as it can be more difficult to get your money back, and Ms. Griffith-Alfarano reiterated the dangers of regular debit card use.

Various people in the group discussed times when their cards were compromised. ATMs are also a way for card information to get stollen. Virtual credit card numbers are a good way to protect yourself when making online purchases. Open purses are a big issue for physical card theft at restaurants or cafes. Retail thefts are common at Dick's Sporting Goods, Wegman's, and Target, but there are fewer thefts at the Mall.

- **Business Updates**
  - **BJ Breish (Habitat for Humanity) -** Mr. Breish reported that one of the largest Restores was opened recently in Montgomery Commons. Restore accepts donations from businesses and residents. Habitat for Humanity is currently working to build and repair affordable housing in Pottstown. Mr. Breish informed the group that there are opportunities for business partnerships and sponsorships which can help cover administrative and operating costs. Mr. Breish estimates three million dollars of gross revenue at the Montgomery Township Restore location. Mr. Breish is also a Lansdale Borough Councilman and serves on the Economic Development Committee, Parks Committee, and the Public Works Committee.
  - **Jay Haenn (Lansdale Auto Groups) -** Mr. Haenn reported that he is excited that Route 309 is getting close to completion so more people can access his location. The current trend is hybrid cars. Lansdale Auto Group will be hosting a MOPAR Car Event on June 28th.
  - **Mary Griffith-Alfarano (Fulton Bank)** - Ms. Griffith-Alfarano reported that banking is "up and down." Currently CDs are at 4%. A big trend right now is municipalities requiring contractors to have a line of credit at a bank for bids. For retail, lines of credit are starting to be required for imports and exports. This is to ensure there is enough money to finish a job. For scams, Ms. Griffith-Alfarano recommends that if you get an email, call your bank to confirm it is legitimate. The other concern is the use of AI to scam people out of their money over the phone.
  - **Jeetu Satpute & Mukund Kute (Joseph Ambler Inn) -** Mr. Satpute reported that he wanted to preserve Joseph Ambler in working to improve it but not lose the history there. His goal is to create jobs on the property and make the inn a five-star property. Mr. Satpute anticipates challenges over the next two to three years, but after that the business will thrive. Mr. Kute reported that he has spent a lot of time in Montgomery Township and this is an opportunity to give back to the community and do outreach for and with the Indian-American community. Mr. Kute also discussed technology innovation and the need to adopt AI.

Montgomery Township
Business Development Partnership
June 16, 2026
12:30 PM

- ♣ **Jim Brusilovsky (Marks Jewelers) -** Mr. Brusilovsky reported that the high cost of gold is waning. He recommends diversifying your portfolio with gold, silver, and Bitcoin. As we continue to have an unsustainable debt load in the U.S. the money supply needs to be inflated. For people with assets, they will continue to grow wealth whereas people who don't invest in assets will struggle.
- ♣ **Joy Zwicker (Iron Valley Real Estate)** - Ms. Zwicker had to leave for another meeting before she was able to give a report.

- **Township Updates**
  - ♣ Ms. Bamford highlighted Autumn Festival and sponsorship opportunities for the group. Ms. Bamford explained that the Fire Department Expansion proposal was put on hold while a study was conducted. The Township will likely expand staff though not as much as was initially proposed. A list of new businesses will start to be included in Board announcements to draw attention to local businesses. Ms. Bamford also explained that the Board approved the advertisement of a Data Center Ordinance which will be considered by the Township and County Planning Commissions. Ms. Bamford extended an invite to our guests to join the BDP.

- **Old/Other Business**
  - There was no old or other business.
- **Adjournment –** The regular meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm. The next meeting will be on July 21, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. in the Township Administration Building. A virtual option will be available.