

Bryn Mawr Business Association
General Membership Meeting
May 7, 2019
Bryn Mawr Trust Company Centennial Building

Present and Signed In:

Karen Barton, BMBA Secretary
Robert Barton, Bryn Mawr Civic Association
Kathy Bogosian, BMBA Immediate Past President
David Broida, Bryn Mawr Twilight Concerts
Kit Burns, Doorways Villas
Andrew Campbell, Joe Waroquier Home
Lisa Coleman, Digital + Online Lead Generation Consulting
Richard Cuff, BMBA Treasurer
Ann Davies, Main Line Neighbors
Michael De Petris, LPRE
Jonathan Diehl, DMAX
Betty Fish, Fish Jewelers
Dave Fish, Fish Jewelers
Rich Gentile, Bryn Mawr Trust
Charlie Grafman, BMBA Vice-President
Sue Graham, BMBA Executive Director
Jon Harshaw, PADML
Jeff Hostler, Joe Waroquier Home
Harshil Kakadia, Bryn Mawr Peridental Associates
Betsy Klein, Bryn Mawr Trust
Gale Martin, Harcum
Patti Anne McAndrews, Adolescent Advocates
Barbara McElroy, Bryn Mawr Beautiful
Christopher McGill, Bryn Mawr Trust
Bob McKiernan, Merrill
Eric Persson, Lower Merion Township
Adam Rosenfeld, Wolf Performing Arts Center
Tim Rubin, BMBA President
Charlie Scott, Fish Jewelers
Gale Scott, Fish Jewelers
Larry Wells, Something Different by Eric
Bernadette Wheeler, Something Different by Eric
Melissa Wolfer, The Grog
Scott Zelov, Lower Merion Township

Welcome from President and Host

Following a period of networking and dining, BMBA President Tim Rubin opened the meeting portion of the event by welcoming all in attendance to the first Bryn Mawr Business Association Quarterly Membership Meeting of his tenure. He explained that the Association has developed a practice of holding meetings in space provided by iconic businesses in the Bryn Mawr area including Bryn Mawr Hospital and the Film Institute. On this occasion Bryn Mawr Trust Company provided the venue. Tim introduced Senior Vice President Rich Gentile who gave an overview of the history of BMT in the community, its growth throughout the region and its current menu of services. Rich introduced several additional BMT leaders who were present. Attendees were invited to seek information and advice according to their needs and interests.

Update from Lower Merion Township Commissioner Scott Zelov

Scott Zelov began his remarks by acknowledging the presence of Immediate Past BMBA President Kathy Bogosian and expressing gratitude for her decades of organizational leadership and contributions to the community.

Big Belly trash and recycling devices have been on the sidewalks in Bryn Mawr for several weeks now. Feedback has been positive. Comments, positive or negative, are welcome to Scott or Eric Persson or Ed McElhaney of the Township.

Election day is May 21. There will be new voting machines and processes and a learning curve for both election officials and voters. Since turnout is expected to be low it is hoped the new processes will not be too onerous.

The Comprehensive Update to the Lower Merion Zoning Code and Subdivision of Regulations is continuing. See <https://www.lowermerion.org/services/building-and-planning-department/planning-division/comprehensive-update-to-the-zoning-code-subdivision-regulations> for progress reports and upcoming events. There are many opportunities for public comment and participation in the process. The original completion date may be changed to September. The project launched in January 2017 with the Board of Commissioners' selection of DPZ Partners, LLC as coordinators.

The County Line Road Corridor Study is completed and the final report is on the Township website. Lower Merion and Radnor will meet to decide which, if any, of the recommendations they will accept and funding will be sought for those that are agreed upon. Recommendations include a new traffic signal and a roadway "diet" (reducing the number of traffic lanes) as well as curbing to direct traffic and prevent illegal turns. The process will be slow and includes meetings between Lower Merion and Radnor Township officials and PennDot.

News from the BMBA President

Bryn Mawr Day will be held on Saturday, September 7 this year.

There will be four Clover Markets in Bryn Mawr this season. The first one will take place on May 19th.

Villanova University, the Ardmore Initiative and the Bryn Mawr and Wayne Business Associations held a small business networking event on April 13 at the Inn at Villanova. The event involved a panel of business owners and leaders and a university professor. The event was a great success and will be repeated.

New Business Owner Describes Her Career Journey

Brigitte Hillinger, Owner and Designer, Brigitte Regula, told of her journey literally around the world to come to Bryn Mawr and open a studio/retail jewelry store. Her travels took her from Europe to the West Coast and finally to the East Coast. She is currently doing business in the space formerly occupied by Sandy DeMaio at Lancaster and Summit Grove. Tim invited Brigitte to tell her story as an example of the many and varied ways small businesses come into being.

Holiday Store Front Decoration Winners

Tim announced that there were three winners of the Holiday Store Front Decoration Contest: Lucky Duck Toys, Robertson's Flowers and Events and John Fish and Son Jewelry. Prizes consisted of a certificate and a check for \$100 for each. Charlie Scott of Fish's accepted the prize on behalf of the store and generously immediately donated the \$100 check to Bryn Mawr Beautiful. Representatives of Lucky Duck and Robertson's were unable to attend and presentations were made privately following the event.

Holiday Street Decorations

The Business Association has decided to increase the size of the snowflakes which are placed on light poles for several months beginning in November each year. The bulbs will be LED and the bulb color will be cold white beginning this year. These bulbs will last much longer and be much brighter than those used for the last 10 years. The Business Association is purchasing the lights at a cost of \$37,000. Application has been made to the Township for a grant of \$10,000 but there is no assurance this will be received.

Treasurer's Report

BMBA Treasurer Dick Cuff reported that as of 5/6 there is \$39,294.33 in the General Account. \$27,000 of this is owned to Rileigh's for purchase of the new holiday lights. As of 5/7 there is \$25,682.86 in the Bryn Mawr Day Account.

Lower Merion Township Report

Lower Merion Township Economic Development Specialist Eric Persson reported that matching state grant money through the Commercial Facade Improvement Program for improvements to store facades is not available at this time. The Township has made an application for funding and interested property and business owners should contact Eric or the Township from time to time to check availability.

The Township is continuing its 0% loan program through which commercial property owners and leaseholders within Township commercial districts can improve the physical condition and appearance of their existing buildings. The funding is available through a partnership between the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and financial institutions within Lower Merion. Eligible projects include correction of exterior code conditions as well as structural and other improvements to building facades and major systems, including roof, electric and heating. Projects over recent years have ranged in cost from \$10,000 to \$135,000.

SNAP custom pizza and salads at 1125 E. Lancaster Avenue in Bryn Mawr adjacent to Hope's Cookies has approached the Township for permission to create an outdoor seating area. They will present their proposal at the Civic Association Meeting on Monday, May 20 and later at a Township meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Barton
Secretary