

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, May 19, 2021 – 12:00 p.m. | Virtual Meeting

Attendees (18): Julia Applegate (MBA Board) Moorestown Friends School; Ann Baiada, Bayada Home Health Care; Rita Bulk, Moorestown Living Magazine; Marybeth Caracci, South Jersey Driving School; Candace Coleman (MBA Board, Secretary), MoorArts; Jacqueline Farmer, West Jersey Music Academy; LuAnn Gately, Advocare Pediatrics; Nicole Gillespie, Moorestown Town Council; Kathy Hiltner (MBA Board, President), Liberty Bell Bank; Mark Hines, EDAC; Quinton Law, Moorestown Town Council; Holly Myers, Abundant Healthy & Joy; Steven Paziienza, Paziienza & Softly Business Ventures; Amanda Phillips, The Sun Newspaper; Debbie Tedesco, The Evergreens; Tom Sheckels, Sheckels Creation Photography; Bridget Wiese, Republic Bank; Noam Yalon (MBA Board, Treasurer), 941 Payroll & Timekeeping.

Call to Order: President Kathy Hiltner called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Minutes: Nicole Gillespie made a motion, seconded by Julia Applegate, to approve the minutes from the 4/21/2021 General Membership Meeting. The motion carried.

Welcome: MBA President Kathy Hiltner welcomed guests and thanked all MBA Diamond and Platinum level sponsors.

Announcements: MBA Board Members

- **Membership Renewals and Directory:** Candace Coleman reported that the printed directory has been mailed, and that association membership currently stands at 260.
- **Software Update:** Julia Applegate reported that she will be setting up one-on-one zoom training meetings with the board members who will be using the new system. Once training is completed, the system will be connected to the website. The system will make membership, fund coordination, and event registration a much smoother process.
- **Sponsorships:** Kathy Hiltner notified members that sponsorships are still available for the MBA's upcoming events: End of Summer Block Party, Autumn in Moorestown, and Candlelight Stroll. Meeting sponsorships are also open, and she announced that the MBA hopes to resume in-person membership meetings in September. She reminded attendees that the online sponsor forms are on the MBA website.
- **Events:**
 - End of Summer Block Party: Event Chair Steven Paziienza thanked previous event chair Kathy Hiltner and Craig Dennin for their assistance in planning the August 18 event. He reported that the MBA has completed the necessary township applications. So far, around 17 vendors are interested in participating, and he is trying to be sensitive to local businesses in his selection. The Block Party is being planned as a full-scale event, but there will be a contingency plan in place.
 - Ms. Hiltner reported that although the social media campaign to promote Moorestown restaurants and food outlets in May has gotten a lot of likes and reposts, no one has participated yet.

Town Council Update: Mayor Nicole Gillespie provided current information about several topics:

- **New Community Events Ordinance:** A new ordinance for community events was passed on May 10. This updated ordinance will make the application process much smoother for vendors and event organizers.
- **Micro-breweries, wineries, distillery rooms:** At their last meeting, Council's passed an ordinance to permit these types of businesses in Moorestown with no restriction on location.
- **Liquor licenses for package stores:** Council also voted to allow 2 licenses for this type of business. They will follow up in June with a resolution and further discussion about requirements/limitations. The mayor asked for

public input about this issue.

- Town Manager: An offer has been made to the top candidate, who is highly qualified for the job.
- Cannabis: A committee has been formed to focus on this issue. The Township has until August 24 to pass any ordinance with restrictions on this kind of business, or the state will make the decision. The committee will make its recommendations to Council by June 28.
- Budget: Council has held 2 budget workshop sessions so far. The mayor noted that the township lost some revenue sources in the past year and needs to fill 2 staff positions, which will impact the budget.
- Percheron Park: The township is moving forward with the project.
- Memorial Day: There will be a Memorial Day Celebration at 10:00 on May 31 at Memorial Field.

Speaker: Mark Hines, Moorestown EDAC Chair

Mr. Hines provided some personal background and then did a Power Point Presentation to highlight the history of EDAC, its powers and duties, and who serves on the committee. The group has been working on the following issues:

- Retail liquor licenses
- Microbreweries, distilleries, wine sales rooms
- Transient vendor license
- Community event ordinance
- Forming a subcommittee to study what inhibits business growth in town
- Purchasing the domain for moorestownbusiness.com
- Reviewing commercial opportunities for cannabis
- Reviewing the right-to-farm ordinance
- Advice on the \$2 million received from the American Rescue Plan Funds
- Restaurant support

Following his presentation, Mr. Hines took questions from attendees.

Kathy Hiltner announced that the speaker for the June 16 Membership Meeting will be Joel Scholtz of Luxury Trave Pro, who will provide information and insight about traveling as the pandemic subsides.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Candace Coleman, Board Secretary