

SUPPORT BUSINESSES
BURLINGTON
TOWN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Membership Meeting Minutes
Elton Tavern, Burlington CT
Thursday, April 21, 2016

- I. Call to Order – 12:03 pm
- II. Attendance
 - a. Peter Bevivino - Chair (President), Tom Martin (Vice-President), Rich Browning (Treasurer), Jerry Burns (Secretary), Jill Russell (Director), Cindy Scoville (President, Central CT Chamber of Commerce), Ted Shafer (Burlington First Selectman), Pam Simonds & Cady Conklin (Guests, Odyssey of the Mind), Maryann Mancini (Member), Mike Branagan (Member), Colleen Ververis (Member), Mellissa Hayes (Guest), Bobbi Chamalian (Member), Julie Yescott (Guest), Kerry Brash (Member), John Kirschner (Member)
- III. Past Minutes
 - a. Meeting minutes from March 17, 2016 reviewed; Tom M. motioned to accept as written, Colleen V. 2nd; All in Favor
- IV. Treasurer Report
 - a. Rich B. presented bank deposit amount of \$9,323.06, mostly up from membership renewals and Banner Ad campaign.
 - b. Next round of Membership Dues to go out in July.
 - c. Expensed four \$50 gift cards for the LSM Crew Plinko Board activity at the April 4th Business After Hours.
 - d. Jerry B. motioned to accept the report, John K. 2nd; All in Favor
- V. Old Business
 - a. Burlington Business After Hours Debrief
 - i. Thank you to Advanced Physical Therapy, Y.E.S. Fitness, Kerry Brash and KC Dubliner for making this event a success!
 - ii. \$633 of Cash was collected for the Food Bank. Unfortunately, much of the donated food had to be thrown out as it was past expiration.
 - iii. Thank you to A Healing Trail for the gift cards for the LSM Crew team to hand out at the Plinko board.
 - b. Next Event Planning
 - i. Two other Burlington member companies, YMCA Camp Chase and Dunning Sand & Gravel, have expressed interest in hosting a Business After Hours event.
 - ii. Torrington Savings Bank will be hosting a Coffee & Chat event on June 28th
- VI. New Business

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- a. Region 10 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals – The Chamber was joined by Pam Simonds and Cady Conklin, parents of two scholar athletes who are going to Ames, Iowa for placing 2nd in the CT Odyssey of the Mind Competition.
 - i. They shared that this is very rare and unexpected as the amount of teams entered is staggering and the judges are tough. It was summed up as the Brainiac Olympics.
 - ii. They placed 2nd on April 2nd and the World Championships against teams from across the country and world, will be May 25th.
 - iii. Pam and Cady are asking the Chamber to consider promoting their GoFundMe page to help offset the costs of airfare, lodging and meals during the multi-day competition. This is an unexpected expense and some of the team members have financial hardships for a trip, with tough expense management, costing \$1,400 to \$1,600 per person.
 - iv. The goal is to get the team, the Region 10 coaches and parent chaperones paid for.
 - v. After Pam and Cady left, discussion on whether the Chamber proper should donate or let it be a choice of the members via Chamber endorsement.
 1. There was mixed views of this kind of fundraising, but it was decided to promote this to our membership and let them decide personally to donate, if they wish.
- b. Annual Dinner – May 24th at KC Dubliner Grille & Pub
 - i. Discussion around the event planning, prizes, sponsors, publication, etc.
- c. Shine on 5K
 - i. Peter B. shared details of this event, who it was for and how she was a good friend of his and that sponsorships were still available.
- d. United Way Day of Caring, May 20th – Ted Shafer presented this great day to the Chamber to see if we can get many of our members to join others in cleaning up the Rails to Trails path in town.
 - i. Plan is to meet at 9:00 am in the main lot, have breakfast, work until 12 noon, have lunch and leave.
 - ii. The Town of Burlington employees will provide the food.
 - iii. This is a light cleanup and will be a community event.
 - iv. The following month, there will be an appreciation day at a Bristol Blues baseball game located at Muzzy Field, Bristol CT.
 - v. Ted asked that we get an RSVP for food preparation purposes.
- e. Read Aloud Day, May 6th at Lake Garda School

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- i. Thanks to the Chamber for stepping up and meeting the Lake Garda School's volunteer reader needs, once again.
 - f. Burlington Center Light Pole Banner Advertising Program
 - i. Will get new Summer and Tavern Day designs planned
 - ii. Jerry B. will get the new order form out as soon as possible
 - g. Annual Dinner
 - i. Peter B. said we will hold the dinner in town and the hope at a member location.
 - ii. Peter B. shared that he wants to have nominees introduced by the nominee, if possible. People liked that idea, will flesh it out as we draw closer.
 - iii. When/Where was discussed and ideas of how other Chambers have done this.
 - iv. KC Dubliner is a possibility on Tuesday, May 24th.
 - v. Ted S. said we should consider a guest speaker and shared a potential candidate.
 - vi. Space will be limited, so important to stress RSVP early.
 - h. Rebranding/Branding
 - i. Sub-committee needs to meet to discuss the logo and website proposals for recommendation to Board & Directors.
 - i. Chamber Sign
 - i. Dwight Harris will do once we supply the measurements, order the materials and letters (which are super expensive).
 - j. Burlington Ambassador to NWCC
 - i. The Northwest Chamber of Commerce has dedicated ambassadors to their member towns and Chambers.
 - ii. We are looking for someone to take this role to ensure our community news makes it into their newsletters.
 - iii. Discussion led to approaching the Burlington Community Fund to see if Janet Schwartz would be interested in this role. Jerry B. will reach out.
 - k. Advisory Council Volunteers
 - i. Light discussion on this role by Peter B.
 - ii. John K. expressed some interest in this
- VII. Adjourn – 1:10 pm