

Burlington Chamber of Commerce

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 20, 2019

Zoom Meeting

- I.) Call to Order – 12:03 PM
- II.) Attendance – Kerry Brash (President), Richard Browning (Treasurer), Colleen Vervais (Director), Cindy Bombard (CCCC President), Diana LaPore (Director), Margie Bowen (Director), Judi Ann Lausier United Way, Bruce Deckert (Guest)
- III.) Past Minutes – June 2020 minutes reviewed Diane LaPore motioned to accept, Judi Ann 2nd, All in favor.
- IV.) New Board Members: Richard Browning was re-elected as Treasurer. John Seagrave is a new Board Member and Carla DuBois has been elected as Secretary.
- V.) Treasurer Report-
 - a. Bank Balance = \$11,947.83
 - b. Expenses since last meeting (6/18/2020):
 - \$257.31 Eversource, Quickbooks, Web Hosting
 - \$303.00 Webscape Design
 - \$127.49 DropBox
 - \$50.00 CT Sec. of State 2020 Annual Report Filing
 - \$150.00 Bristol Hospital Golf Classic Tee Sign Sponsorship
 - \$1,416.18 Greenhouse Tavern - 50% Fill the Bucket Proceeds
 - \$1,416.17 Lemongrass - 50% Fill the Bucket Proceeds
 - o Filed 2019 IRS 990 Non-profit e-Postcard due Aug 15, 2020.
 - o Credits since last meeting:
 - o \$1,666.77 Dues collected since last report
 - o Additional dues anticipated through Sep 2020 = \$2,000.00 (including past due memberships)
- VI.) Current Business:
 - a. Town Selectman, Ted Shafer-
 - i. August 20th Board of Education was having a BOE vacancy drive by election being held from 5-8.
 - ii. Update on the Isais storm situation and provided examples of neighbors helping neighbors.
 - b. Cindy Bombard, Central CT Chamber of Commerce Update
 - i. Expanded Affiliation- The Farmington Chamber of Commerce is no longer an affiliated Chamber to Central CT Chamber of Commerce and has decided to roll their membership into the Central CT Chamber of Commerce going forward and is disbanding. The Farmington Chamber Executive Board is still together working on how to spend down the substantial money they still have in their accounts. If the Burlington

Chamber were to ever entertain a merger, the Burlington Chamber Board would go away, and we would have 1 representative on the Central CT Chamber of Commerce Board.

- ii. Community Champion Contest – It goes like this. Anyone goes shopping, dinner etc. to a local community company, they take their receipt take a copy or photo of it send it in to us to be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to a Chamber Member Business. We will do monthly drawing from August to end of the year. We would purchase give certificates from our area business. One from Burlington, Bristol, Plymouth, Farmington etc. This is our way to say thanks for shopping locally and supporting our businesses. Would you guys be interested in a \$50/\$100 donation or purchase gift cards for us at your local shops? I was thinking Greenhouse Tavern, Lemon Grass and perhaps Hogan's. Thoughts?

c. Bruce Deck: Today Magazine Presentation

- i. Introduced Today Magazine and discussed the towns that it covers (Avon, Canton, Simsbury, Farmington & Granby)
- ii. Circulation – 42,000 households
- iii. Burlington Ad Chamber offer: 10% discount off for advertising for Burlington Chamber Members.
- iv. Website Contact info: <https://www.todaypublishing.net/>

VII.) Committee Reports

a. Membership- Outreach and retention

- i. Active = 56 members
- ii. 3 past due members from May, June and July (Swimming Pool Store, Cotton Hill House & Home). These members received email and mailed invoices.
- iii. 1 April lapsed member re-joined in July (On the Grid electric)
- iv. 3 lapsed members for July (Ascension Business Solutions, Lepore & Sons, and Farmington Valley YMCA).
- v. 0 new members
- vi. Membership Committee Changes: Liz Cowdell is off. John Seagrave is on. Judi Ann Lausier offered to assist. Next meeting TBD.

b. Event Committee- Kerry

- i. Future networking opportunities- Ted Shafer mentioned maybe connecting with the library and discussed distance events they might be able to help coordinate to get everyone together(Bingo, trivia games, etc). There was also a discussion on what other chambers are doing and some (Avon Chamber of Commerce) hosted an in-person event outside. Discussed social distancing, how food/drinks were handled.
- ii. Alzheimer's Walk- Date Change to October 4th. Will not be an in person event and e-mail Kerry Brash if interested in joining. Lookig to have a Burlington team

VIII.) Meal Program:

- a. No meeting in July was held, however: "A majority vote was taken via email to the active Chamber members which supported a free 1-year membership to Lemongrass Asian Grill and Greenhouse Tavern for their generous contribution to our community meal program. 10 Yes votes, 4 Non-responses."
 - b. Funds disbursement to Lemon Grass and Greenhouse: Efforts were hindered in August due to the storm so we will start the program back up in September.
- IX.) Marketing- Margie & Kerry
- a. Website Design. What stays, What goes?: Looking to put a committee together to review and revise website. Please let Margie know if you are interested in joining the committee.
 - b. Adjourn: 1:05 PM

Next Meeting- Thursday September 17th -12 PM Zoom