



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 – NOON
ELTON TAVERN

Member Meeting Minutes

- I.) Call to Order: 12:06 PM by Kerry Brash
- II.) Attendance: Kerry Brash- President, Richard Browning- Treasurer, Margie Bowen- Board Member, John Seagrave- Board Member, Dave Shepherd- Board Member, Jade Athas- Board Member, Ted Shafer, Cindy Bombard, Diane Rivard, Dr. Anatoliy Ravin.
- III.) Member introductions around the table, then featured speaker slot:
Dr. Ravin of Elite Smiles Dental Group – worked in larger practice in downtown Hartford for past 30+ years. Enjoys the smaller localized appeal of Burlington where he has an office team of 5 that moved with him and have been together for upwards of 17 years. One-third of every dollar earned at Elite Smiles is donated to either non-profit animal rescue or mission trips to countries such as Haiti, Jamaica, and Peru, where he provides free treatment to children who often have never seen a dentist. Dr. Ravin is also affiliated with both Hartford Hospital and UConn’s post graduate residency program. He provides pro-bono services for Hartford shelters and Rocky Hill V.A. The practice is very community based.
- IV.) Minutes: Kerry asked if everyone had a chance to review the last Meeting Minutes and for any changes. Margie Bowen 1st motion, Diane Rivard 2nd. Minutes approved. July meeting minutes still outstanding.
- V.) First Selectman, Ted Shafer – Town updates:
Tavern Day is ready to go this Sunday. Shout out to Town Crew and Tavern Day Committee for pulling it all together again. Weather is forecasted to be very nice on Sunday. Cold beverage vendors will make out well. Attendance levels could reach 3,000 with good weather. Some non-profits backed out coming off the heels of another COVID outbreak. The event is well spread out along the stretch of George Washington Tpke. down to the BVFD where they will have an open house. Parking is on Library Lane. Sponsorships were up year over year.
- VI.) Treasurers Report – Dave Shepherd 1st motion, John Seagrave 2nd. Approved.
 - Bank Balance = \$13,993.34
 - Expenses since last report (8/19/2021):
 - \$128.45 - Web Hosting, Eversource, QuickBooks
 - Upcoming expenses:
 - \$100.00 - Donation to BVFD in memory of Firefighter McFadden
 - \$303.00 - Webscape Design for Q4 2021 Web Services
 - \$2,567.72 - Tavern Day sponsorships collected to be distributed to Tavern Day Committee today
 - Credits since last meeting:
 - \$451.19 dues collected since last report
 - \$1,300.00 additional dues anticipated through YE 2021

VII.) Cindy Bombard, Central CT Chambers of Commerce:

Closing year on a positive note. CCCC did well this year, largely attributed to COVID last year. Currently planning 2022 events as winding down 2021. Supporting upcoming Coffee Connections event and BCC holiday party.

CBIA had their event at DoubleTree this morning. Lots of H.R. people in attendance. Two labor attorneys reviewed dos and don'ts of cannabis. Discussed sectors that were exempt, such as companies with federal contracts.

Joint Annual Dinner coming up on 10/28 at Aqua Turf. Peter Bevivino of Burlington Insurance is being recognized. Would like to see good attendance to show support. CCCC is doing a combined holiday party and small business awards on 12/8. Stay tuned for more details.

VIII.) Committee Reports:

Membership – Rich:

- Active business members = 56
- New business members = 1: Right Step Mortgage in Avon
- Lapsed members = 0
- Active Friends of BCC members = 6
- New Friends of BCC members = 0

Kerry will update flyer and send out another Friends blast.

Membership Ambassador Committee finalized details for "Coffee Connections" event at Hogan's Cider Mill on 10/6 from 8:00 - 9:00 AM.

Ambassador Committee is actively working to invite current and prospective members using the membership list and the Town of Burlington business target list that we sourced.

The event is a networking opportunity. Bring your elevator speech and business cards. Drawing for a bottle of Hogan's Hard Cider. BCC is sponsoring coffee, cider, and donuts.

Events – Kerry:

Before going into events Kerry announced Shaun Calhoun of Torrington Savings Bank has moved to Florida. He will be missed by the Burlington Chamber and community overall. Best wishes!

- BCC holiday party still needs to be firmed up with Men's Club. Target date is 12/9.
- Have not firmed up BAH with Lemongrass yet.
- Would still like to have a celebration for Chris Borda. Kerry suggested opening it up to the general membership. She will talk with Sean at Sherman's Taphouse to see what they may be able to do. Cindy Bombard suggested doing a combined recognition celebration at holiday party. Group was interested in this approach.
- Kerry asked if anything else is needed from BCC for Tavern Day. Dave S. suggested if you are participating in the Business Expo to bring chairs and anything else you may need besides the supplied table(s). Parking will only be at Library Lane this year. Plenty of space.

Quinoco sponsored the souvenir glasses this year. They also asked to participate in the Business Expo. They are not a member of BCC yet, but are a member of CCCC. Group decided this is okay given we have available table space this year. Kerry will have a follow up discussion with Jim at Quinoco to encourage joining BCC in addition to CCCC.

Marketing – Margie, Kerry:

- Website update: web committee met and discussed integrating with CCCC's membership database and invoicing system. Decided not to pursue as there still seemed to be a number of manual processes that would occur.
- Margie, Kerry, and Rich met with Julie Spain of inConcert following a referral from Jerry Burns. Topic of discussion was ADA compliance for BCC website. ADA started for websites in 2019. Adding this feature would ensure our website is accessible to those with disabilities requiring assistive devices. There are legal penalties for ADA non-compliance. For the inConcert solution, the cost is \$300 setup fee and \$50 per month ongoing, which includes legal support if needed. Group decided it is too costly given the specific use and purpose of our website. Margie researched alternatives and found plugins that point out issues with a website that would still need to manually fix to make it ADA compliant.

IX.) Holiday Trees – Diane Rivard

Spoke with Dzen Farm (same vendor as last year) and tree prices have increased from \$23 to about \$28 – \$30. We ordered 90 trees last year. Scott from Town Hwy Dept. has agreed to put the trees up again this year. He would like them up two weeks before Thanksgiving. Ted gave Diane a lead for a gentleman who just acquired the old Murdock Xmas tree farm in Whigville.

X.) Meeting adjourned at 1:13PM