



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021 – NOON
ELTON TAVERN

Member Meeting Minutes

- I.) Call to Order: 12:08 PM by Kerry Brash
- II.) Attendance: Kerry Brash- President, Richard Browning- Treasurer, Margie Bowen (phone)- Director, Jade Athas- Board Member, 1st Selectman Doug Thompson, Cindy Bombard- President, Central CT Chamber, Judi Ann Lausier Board Member, Chris Bafumo
- III.) Member introductions around the table, then featured speaker.
- IV.) Chamber Affiliation discussion: Tabled, but Kerry wants some type of decision after the holidays.
- V.) First Selectman, Doug Thompson – Town updates:
 - a. Library Lane: A community survey was sent out with 1000 responses. A review and public forum will take place on January 20th. The 1st Selectman has a couple of walk throughs with interested developers.
 - b. ARPA Funds: Doug Thompson said he is trying to meet with local groups and organizations to evaluate the needs of the community. Cindy Bombard and Katie will set up a meeting to review Chambers role and business relations in Burlington.
 - c. Meet and Greet: Cindy Bombard suggested a Business Meet and Greet with the 1st Selectman. They held one in Bristol for the new Mayor, which as well attended. Kerry will reach out to Crescent Mfg. to see if they would be willing to host a breakfast meeting during the week of 2/7. She will also contact some larger members to see if they will pick up the tab for breakfast. Doug Thompson was on board and looks forward to meeting as many businesspeople as possible at one time.
- VI.) Treasurers Report – Jade Athas 1st motion, Judi Ann 2nd. Approved.
 - Bank Balance = \$11,227.60
 - Expenses since last report (11/18//2021):
 - \$128.90 - Web Hosting, Eversource, QuickBooks
 - \$50.00 – Dick’s Gift Card for Chris Borda
 - \$888.86- Greenhouse Tavern: Holiday Party Catering
 - \$250.00 – Burlington Men’s Club: Holiday Party Beverage Tab (Check outstanding).
 - Credits since last meeting:
 - \$974.29 dues collected since last report
 - \$300.00 Holiday party Sponsorships: Central CT Chamber of Commerce & Torrington Savings Bank
 - \$85.38 Holiday Party paid guest tickets
 - Receivables:
 - \$325.00 additional dues anticipated through YE 2021
 - \$1,049.29 out of \$3,525.00 collected already for January 2022 dues

- \$1,937.00 sponsorships collected for Holiday Trees (\$274.00 surplus from 2020 Holiday Trees)
- Preliminary Holiday Tree Results: \$1937.00 + \$274.00 - \$2,430.00 + -\$219.00
- Holiday party Results: \$358.38 - \$888.86 - \$250.00 - \$200.00 = -\$953.48
- Collected \$100.00 for Burlington Food & Fuel Bank at Holiday Party
- Highlights:
 - \$953.00 Paid out for the month
 - \$974.29 Dues collected
 - \$100.00 collected for fuel bank
 - Holiday Trees: Still about \$219.00 short, but more checks may be coming in

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

Announced all their activities are booked, watch the newsletter and e-mails for events. January will kick off with the Economic Breakfast, featuring four Town Economic Development Directors with local updates. Cindy also spotlighted upcoming forums and information sessions on employment issues and cannabis rules, will have a legislative forum and later in the year a program for the Governor's race.

VIII.) Committee Reports:

Membership – Rich:

- Active business members = 55
- New business members = 1: Cruise Planners – The Traveling Buddies (referred by John Seagrave. Another \$25.00 gift card reward.)
- Lapsed members = 4: Creative Concepts, Joni's, Lemongrass, Sherman's
- Active Friends of BCC members = 6
- New Friends of BCC members = 0

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!

- Holiday party was a great event with about 30 guests and the tribute to Chris Borda was really special. Great job to colleen and Judi Ann for set up and taking care of special items.
- Holiday sing was also a fun night for those that went. Attendance a little lower than years past and a few dollars were collected for the Christmas trees. Need a few more sponsors for next year and maybe earlier. There was no signage this year listing the sponsors names.
- Winter Wonderland: February 26 and Tricia from Park and Rec asked if Chamber would be involved and Kerry agreed to do hot chocolate and S'mores. Kerry reached out to Mike Boucher, from the BVFD, who gave permission to use their hot chocolate containers. Jade and

Rich have offered to handle the event. Further responsibilities will be assigned as we get closer to the date.

- Business After Hours: Irongate Insurance offered to schedule the event and perhaps host with the Avon Chamber. Kerry will call Lisa in Avon and discuss dates. She would prefer Spring after she returns from Charleston.
- Coffee Connections: West Wind Realty offered to host. Will review possible dates.
- It was agreed we need an events meeting in January. Kerry will be back around February 8th and can perhaps schedule an event or meeting at that time.
- Burlington Job Fair: The Chamber and Economic Development Commission will be hosting a job fair in late January or February and are seeking businesses to participate. Please remit your interest by January 3, 2022.

Marketing – Margie, Kerry:

- Website update: The developers of the current Chamber Dashboard plugin technology used on the website are going out of business. This plugin feeds many other pages, so the issue of upgrading the website and finding another provider has become a larger concern. This also feeds into the issue of having Regional/Central Chamber take over some of the financial and membership duties. Margie asked for \$39.00 for a Chamber Dashboard exporter plugin to be able to download and transfer our data so we will be able to move it later.
- Facebook Administration: Kerry stated that it is overwhelming for her plus maintaining her business needs and asked for other members to help out. Jade Athas is familiar with postings and videos for other groups and will be happy to start a marketing campaign and look at the Facebook page for a face lift. It was decided Jade would be giving administrative rights to help.
- Newsletter: Comes out the 1st and 3rd Monday each month. All are welcome to provide information or advertise in it. Please send info. To Kerry or Margie the week before.

IX.) New Business: Kerry will be away from Jan. 1st through the end of March

X.) Meeting adjourned at 1:13PM