



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, April 18th, 2024 (Noon) - Burlington Public Library

1. Call to Order at 12:04 pm by John Seagrave
2. Around the Room (:30 intros): Thom Smith – Aventurine and My Social Sucks; Lisa Moulton – Larson’s Garden Center; Heather Chirumbolo, Berkshire Hathaway; Caitlyn Grad, Caitlyn Grad Marketing (guest); Lynne Hartwell – Bridge Healing Arts Center; Brian Sullivan – Top Rail Fence; John Seagrave – Barron Financial; Megan Olender – M&T Bank; Rich Browning – Torrington Savings Bank; Sarah Mitchell – UW of West Central CT; James Fisher – Burlington Lions Club; Sharon Farmer – Burlington EDC; Doug Thompson – First Selectman; Kerry Brash – K. Brash & Associates and The Best Wine Shop in Town; Jade LaBella – Berkshire Hathaway; Amanda Tortora – Friend of BCC; Margie Bowen – Webscape Design & Consulting; J.P. Parente – Chippen Hill Co and Tavern Day Committee; Leslie Salcido – Top View Exteriors (guest).
3. Approval of Previous Meeting(s) Minutes – March
 - a. 1st Motion: Thom Smith
 - b. 2nd Motion: Kerry Brash
 - c. All in favor
4. Treasurer’s Report:
 - a. Bank Balance = \$15,806.86
 - b. Expenses since last report:
 - i. \$300.38 - Eversource (\$46.09), QuickBooks (\$30.30), In Concert Web Solutions (\$74.99), and Webscape Design (\$149.00)
 - ii. \$1,000 check - Lewis Mills Scholarship Fund
 - iii. \$118.04 - I Know A Guy
 - c. Credits since last report:
 - i. March 2024 Credit Card Receipts-\$427.50
 - ii. Membership Dues- \$125.00
5. Approval of Treasurer’s Report
 - a. 1st Motion: Rich Browning
 - b. 2nd Motion: Thom Smith
 - c. All in favor
6. Town & Affiliate Reports
 - a. Doug Thompson (First Selectman)

Tricia was unable to make it today to report on the new Town website similar to “Explore Farmington”, which will help get Burlington on the map with news

coverage. Doug asked for members to share input to help with content. Content will be populated by its users with a moderator to help ensure content is appropriate – most likely Parks and Rec Director or Admin. Website has been delayed, however it is definitely a priority and will get up and running soon. An official launch date has not been set as of today. ARPA funds are set aside to help with marketing expenses.

- b. Sharon Farmer/J.P. Parente (EDC)
Todd K. shared the “How to Start a Business in Town” document with the Chamber. Asked for the Chamber to e-Blast to our membership. The document is housed on the Town website – includes links to important sites including Burlington Chamber. EDC member Bryan Cassidy to give cyber security seminars at Town Hall and to any other groups in Town that are interested. No other details shared at this time. Taste of Burlington to be held in November. Sharon just started interviewing businesses and it has been well received so far.
- c. J.P. Parente (Tavern Day)
Next monthly meeting is 4/18 – focusing on the event layout and picking six bands. Elected an attorney to button up 501(c)(3). Taking membership applications from participants. TD Committee will start assigning spaces in the order applications are received. Burlington Chamber to fill business expo. Municipal expo is already full. Looking for a disc golf, wiffle ball, lawn darts, axe throwing type vendor to fill an open space. Contact J.P. if you know someone.
- d. Katie D’Agostino (President, Central CT Chamber of Commerce)
Unable to attend.

7. Committee Updates

- a. Membership – *Rich*
 - i. Membership Totals
 1. Business members = 84
 2. New business members = 2: Burlington Lions Club and Top Rail Fence Hartford
 3. Friends of BCC members = 8
 4. New Friends of BCC members = 0
 5. Past due members = 5 (4 Businesses & 1 Friend)
- b. Events – *Kerry/Jade*
 - i. 2024 Initiatives & Scheduled Events
John commented on how well our most recent BAH went at Conquest.
Jade – upcoming BAH at Bridge Healing Arts in Farmington (details below).
Upcoming Lunch and Learn by Thom Smith on Social Media Marketing (details below).
Only open event date is July 11th. D.J. Murphy was potentially interested, as well as Prestige Plumbing. June 15th, business block party – I Know a Guy to cater in the parking lot at their location. If interested in participating, please contact Kerry. Central CT Chambers annual dinner coming up. If anyone would



like to donate an item to help build a Burlington themed basket, please get in touch with Kerry before May 20th.

c. Marketing – *Margie/Jade/Judi Ann*

Margie has been keeping up to date with posting events, “Business of the Month”, and getting new members pages set up on the website. Jade has been keeping up with social posts. Next newsletter to drop Monday 4/22. John reminded the group that Judi Ann has been keeping up to date on getting new members listed on the Chamber’s Rte. 4 sign.

8. Chamber Updates

a. Lewis Mills Scholarship Donation Made

b. PO Box Discussion – John to take offline with Megan.

c. Tavern Day Expo & Membership Application

Application distributed during meeting. If you’d like to become a “member” please submit your application as soon as possible. John reviewed membership levels. Last year’s attendance was about 3,800. Business Expo application was also distributed – first come, first served. Those applications should go to president@burlingtonctchamber.org. Burlington Chamber members are FREE to participate. Discounted rate available for Central CT Chamber Only members. July 15th deadline.

9. Discussion

Lynne H. – 50 practitioners are part of the Bridge. Can they participate at BCC events including Tavern Day? John to take offline with Lynne for further discussion.

10. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 16th (Noon) at the Burlington Library

11. Adjournment at 1:03 pm

a. 1st Motion: Megan Olender

b. 2nd Motion: Sarah Mitchell

c. All in favor

Upcoming Events:

- Central Social Media Crash Course (Virtual): April 24th (9am)
- Central Business After Hours @ Wholeness Acupuncture: April 24th (5pm)
- Burlington Business After Hours @ Bridge Healing Arts: May 8th (5pm)
- Burlington May Membership Meeting @ Burlington Library: May 16th (12pm)
- Burlington Seminar: Effective Social Media Marketing @ Burl. Library: June 12th (12pm)