



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, September 19th, 2024 (Noon) - Burlington Public Library

- 1) Call to Order by John Seagrave at 12:07pm
- 2) Around the Room (:30 intros): Lauren Howard – Member, Sal Deocempo – Member, Sharon Farmer – Friend of BCC, Rich Browning – Director, John Kirschner – Friend and Burlington Land Trust, Heather Chirumbolo – Member, Thom Smith – Director, Kerry Brash – Past President, Jordan Sanford – Secretary, Shawn Ferguson – Guest, John Seagrave – BCC President, Megan Olender – Treasurer, Scarlet Rose – Possible New Member, Amanda Tortora – Friend of BCC, Lee McFadden – Guest of Jordan, Kendall Berg – (Larsons) Member, Art Mulligan – guest of Sarah, Sharon Pateldo – Member, Sara Lynn Leavenworth – Member, JP Parente – Member, Margie Bowen – Director, Jade LaBella – VP.
- 3) Approval of Previous Meeting(s) Minutes – August
 - a. 1st Motion: Kerry Brash
 - b. 2nd Motion: Thom Smith
- 4) Treasurer’s Report – *Megan Olender*
 - a. Bank Balance = \$17,470.71
 - i. Expenses since last report:
 - ii. \$304.70 -Eversource (\$45.36) + QuickBooks (\$35.35) + In Concert Web Solutions (\$74.99) Webscape Design (\$149.00)
 - iii. \$1,250 Central Chamber Q3 Admin Fees
 - iv. \$530- Travelers Insurance
 - b. Credits since last report:
 - i. \$350- Membership Dues
 - ii. \$500- Tavern Membership- Keystone Place (check cut to TD fund not yet cleared)
 - iii. \$1,602.50- June-Aug Credit Card Receipts
 - iv. \$50- Holiday Tree Donation collected at Tavern Day
 - c. 1st Motion: Rich Browning
 - d. 2nd Motion: Kerry Brash
- 5) Town & Affiliate Reports
 - a. Doug Thompson (First Selectman) – not here today, but passed along his well wishes!
 - i. Chatted with John Seagrave the other day and shared how much he loves BCC meetings!
 - ii. Gave praise for Tavern Day this year – many thanks
 - b. Sharon Farmer/J.P. Parente (EDC)
 - i. Taste of Burlington begins in November
 1. The businesses will have specials
 2. Present the card, get a stamp – get 7+ stamps to enter for a prize
 - a. Can win gift certificates or coupons

- b. Prize drawing will be at the carol sing
 - c. Beehive Coffee Shop may not be open yet – will be a free stamp space if they cannot open in time
- c. J.P. Parente (Tavern Day)
 - i. HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers
 - ii. Managed to incorporate into a Non-profit!
 - 1. May ask for sponsorships for next year – annual fees will be set up in coming meetings
 - 2. Hoping to fund the event through memberships
 - iii. Record numbers
 - iv. Next TDG meeting is October 17th at Elton Tavern at 7pm
 - v. Share any thoughts/concerns/feedback to John Seagrave prior to the meeting
- d. Katie D'Agostino (President, Central CT Chamber of Commerce)
 - i. New Affiliation Contract
 - ii. BrewFest weekend: 9/6 and 9/7 – simply put was FANTASTIC.
 - 1. Over 1,100 visitors – even in the rain!
 - iii. In 2025 Central is going green (as much as possible)
 - 1. Look for a campaign to start to let membership know we will no longer physically mail invoices, statements, newsletters, etc. Invoices & statements will still be available for physical mail upon request
 - iv. Central & the SBA are co-hosting a Small Business Resource fair held at BristolWORKS! on 9/25 from 9am – noon
 - 1. To reserve a FREE booth: <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e6bdcf20/wC70E1To60eUTLgv-svtIA?u=https://www.sba.gov/event/51786>
 - v. A few upcoming end of year events:
 - 1. Manufacturing Outlook: 10/1 – Paul Lavoie will give his state of manufacturing update to regional chamber members. Held at the DoubleTree from 7:30am – 9:00am.
 - 2. Bowling Tournament: 10/17 – all levels welcome (join me with the dino ramp and bumpers!). Bowlers and sponsorships still available. Held at SpareTime in Bristol from 4:30pm – 8:30pm.
 - 3. PowHERful Connections: 10/22 – Central's new women's networking group. Kicking off in 2025, teaser event in October.
 - a. Geared toward female managers and executives who want to network, build skills, and exchange best practices.
 - i. Held at Max Pizza IV from 4:30pm – 7:30pm
 - 4. Lobbying 101 Lunch & Learn: 10/23 – Kozak and Salina will discuss the lobbying process and how to engage your legislators.
 - a. Held via Teams from noon – 1pm.
 - 5. Chamber Tune-Up: 10/31 – quarterly meeting for new and existing regional members to learn how to better maximize their membership.
 - a. Held at the Chamber from 8:30am – 9:30am.
 - 6. Employment Law Changes Lunch & Learn: 11/13 – Shel Myers of Kainen, Escalara, and McHale will review the changes employers need to know for 1/1/25.
 - a. Held via Teams from noon – 1pm.
 - 7. CT Outlook: 12/3 – State Comptroller, Sean Scanlon will give an update on what we should look forward to in 2025 at the State level – will most likely have Anthony on the agenda as well.



- a. Held at the DoubleTree from 7:30am – 9:00am.
8. Holiday Party/Small Business Awards/Emerging Leaders Awards: 12/11 – this is our annual event where we celebrate the holidays and acknowledge our regional small business of the year winners as well as regional emerging leaders.
 - a. Burlington should start considering who they would like to nominate – more information to come out shortly.
 - i. Held at the Doubletree from 5:00pm – 8:00pm.
9. 3rd Tuesday – Morning Jolt from 8am – 9am at the DoubleTree.
10. 4th Wednesday – Business After Hours from 5pm – 7pm, venues vary – check Central’s calendar

6) Committee Updates

a. Membership – *Rich Browning*

- i. Membership Totals
- ii. Push to 100!
 1. Active business members = 89
 2. New business members = 2: Renewal by Andersen and 3rd Rock Graphics
 3. Friends of BCC members = 9
 4. New Friends of BCC members = 0
 5. Past due members (60+ days) = 12
- iii. Rich put a call to action for the Membership Committee to contact past due members to assist with renewals
- iv. Some members expressed pain points with the process of paying their July renewal invoice
- v. Central CT Chambers changed their billing system in March 2024, so there’s a learning curve to overcome for July billed members
- vi. \$25 Visa gift card reward paid to DJ Murphy for referring new member 3rd Rock Graphics

b. Events – *Kerry/Jade*

- i. 2024 EOY Events
 1. I Know A Guy Deli Patio Party!
 - a. October 8th 5-7pm
 2. Tonn’s and CCCC doing a joint even
 - a. November 14th
 3. Holiday Party on December 2nd
 4. Lunch ‘n Learns coming up:
 - a. October 29th at the Burlington Library at noon to 1:30pm
 - b. Lunch will be served!
- ii. Historical Society - JP
 1. October 26th - Murder Mystery Event at Elton Tavern
- iii. Lion’s Club – Annual Turkey Shoot – the three Sundays prior to Thanksgiving, noon to 3pm

c. Marketing – *Margie/Jade*

- i. Some members have not yet submitted their writeup – please complete and send to Margie!
- ii. Live from Burlington – can create a business page for the town to view!!
 1. Great way to advertise, as it will be promoted to all of the town residents!

7) Chamber Updates

a. Holiday Trees

- i. HUGE thanks to Brian and his family for manning the table at Tavern Day!
- ii. The Chamber takes on the cost and the town sets up and decorates the town with 90 trees
- iii. Focuses:
 1. Sponsorships coming up
 2. Shout outs for sponsors during the Holiday Sing and BCC Holiday Party
 3. Worked with CCCC to create a donation page!
 - a. Launching soon
 4. Holiday bulb decorating – kids and elderly
- b. Holiday Sing: Wednesday, December 4th at 7pm on the Burlington Town Green
- c. Sponsorships for EOY: Holiday Party & Holiday Trees!

8) Discussion

- a. Lee McFadden – State Commission is looking for a contact person for every town and city for the 250-year celebration of the establishment of Burlington
 - i. We need to contact the state and give them a contact
 - ii. Should we create a committee?
 - iii. Ct250.org to set it up

9) **Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 17th (Noon) at the Burlington Library

10) Meeting Adjourn at 12:54pm