



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 16th, 2025 (Noon) - Burlington Public Library

1) Call to Order

- 12:03PM – Jade LaBella called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone

2) Around the Room (:30 intros):

- Dan DiVirgilio, founder and President of Veterans are Hero Forever, spoke about his mission, volunteer opportunities and resources available
- DJ Murphy from Murphy Boyz Marketing
- Sarah Mitchel from United Way of West Central CT
 - Upcoming Events
 - May 16, 2025 – Day of Caring
 - June 3, 2024 – Annual Golf Outing at Tunxis Country Club in Farmington, CT
- Elisabeth Fredenburg from embroidery a2z, a company that performs custom embroidery and silk screening. They are located at 395 East Street, Plainville, Connecticut 06062.
- Rich Browning from Torrington Savings Bank (TSB) and a board member of Burlington Chamber of Commerce. Rich spoke about a flyer that he handed out focused on Small Businesses where TSB will provide a full page ad in the Small Business Issue of HBJ on May 5th along with free cash management services from TSB to a winner. Nominate and share your story to enter and win this opportunity. More information: www.hartfordbusiness.com/whatsyourstory
- Megan Olender from M&T bank (Burlington branch manager) and a board member of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce.
- Heather Chirumbolo, Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway
- Kaitlyn Larson from Larson Garden Center and Landscaping, they provide design and install services as well as a garden center.
- Sharon Cataldo from Keystone Place at Newbury Brook
 - spoke about Community engagement and one way they are tapping into this is a dementia support group which will be held the 1st Thursday of the month from 1:30-3PM. Encourage the community to check it out.
- Sharon Farmer from the Burlington Economic Development Commission
- Doug Thompson, First Selectman of Burlington

- Kerry Brash (remote) – Past President of Burlington Chamber of Commerce, current board member of Burlington Chamber of Commerce and event committee member of BCC, has a marketing business and is the current marketing director of the Best Wine Shop in Town.
 - Upcoming Event: Burlington Historical Society’s Wine Tasting Event
 - Date/Time: February 1st 6:30PM-8:30PM
 - Location: Elton Tavern, Burlington
- John Seagrave (remote) – President of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce and Partner with Barron Financial Group
 - Welcomed Elisabeth Fredenburg from embroidery a2z
 - Thanked Kaitlyn Parker for the Holiday Cookie Platter (funny story shared)
- Johnny Burnham from Central Chamber of Commerce (Vice President)
- JP Parente (remote) from Burlington Historical Society and Burlington Lions Club
- Thom Smith (remote) from Aventurine and a marketing company (currently going through a rebrand-new name to be announced soon)

3) Approval of December 2024 Meeting minutes:

- Jade made a motion to approve
- Rich Browning 1st motion to approve
- Megan Olender 2nd motion to approve

4) Jade Welcomes Heather Chirumbolo as a new Burlington Chamber of Commerce board member

5) Treasurers Report - Megan Olender

- Bank balance = 16,709.39
- Expenses since last report:
 - 317.88 – Eversource (\$58.54) + QuickBooks (\$35.35) + In Concert Web Solutions (\$74.99) Webscape Design (\$149.00)
 - \$1,959.91 – Greenhouse Tavern – Holiday Party
 - \$67.00 – Heather Chirumbolo holiday tree ornaments and supplies
- Credits since the last report:
 - \$1,700 – Membership Dues
 - \$1,377.50 – Credit Card Receipts from Central CT Chamber
- Jade made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report
- Kerry Brash 1st motion to approve
- Rich Browning 2nd motion to approve



6) Town & Affiliate Reports

- Doug Thompson
 - America 250: In 2026, the United States will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the country
 - There is a statewide coordination of all towns leading up to the celebration and the town of Burlington is looking for volunteers. It will kick off around September (close to Tavern Day).
 - Live from Burlington
 - Thanked the chamber for encouraging usage of this site
 - Goal is to get the word out that this tool is available
 - Parks and recreation currently manages the site
 - No political events allowed on this platform
- Sharon Farmer
 - Economic Development Commission - New chair member is JP Parente
 - Taste of Burlington
 - Thinking of expanding to include retail
 - May skip a year
 - All businesses appreciated the recognition
 - Sorrentos & Green House Tavern – possible question on future involvement in future
- JP Parente
 - Tavern Day
 - Update with 5013C – waiting on updates – all paperwork is submitted
 - 2025 planning to begin March 2025
- Johnny Burnham
 - Central Chamber of Commerce Events:
 - Economic Outlook: towns provided updates
 - Took Place on January 9th, 2025, with 125 people in attendance
 - Upcoming Events

- Morning Jolt - 1/21/25 (8AM-9AM)
- BAH – 1/22/25 - Courtyard by Marriott (5PM-7PM)
- Lobbying 101 – 1/30/25 (12PM-1PM)
- The Everything Expo – 3/25/25 (2PM-7PM)

7) Committee Updates

- Membership – Rich Browning
 - Business members = 88
 - New members = 2 (Shoobycakes and Sund Technologies)
 - Friends of BCC members = 9
 - New friends of BCC = 0
 - Non-renewing = 1 (Guardian Pest Control – sold business)
 - Past Due member = 1
 - Jade Received a \$25 Visa gift card for her referral of a new member, Sund Technologies
 -
- Events – Kerry/Jade
 - Currently Scheduled/Working on
 - April 2025 – Trivia night at Enclave Grille, Burlington (working on)
 - May 2025 BAH – M&T Bank
 - September 2025 BAH – Keystone Place at Newbury Brook
- Holiday Committee – Heather
 - Sponsorship – Goal was \$3,500, raised just short of the goal
 - Ornaments – Over 500 ornaments decorated and hung on green smaller trees
 - Re-cap meeting – coming up in next couple of weeks to discuss what worked/ improvements/timeline for 2025
- Marketing – Margie/Jade
 - Newsletter: if anyone wants to add to the newsletter, please give to Jade as Newsletter is distributed via email 1st and 3rd Monday of the month
 - Social media: if anyone wants something shared, please let Jade know

8) Chamber Updates:

- BCC growth – Let's help to keep the chamber growing. Reminder of the \$25 referral gift card and hosting opportunities

9) Next Meeting: Thursday, February 20th (Noon) at the Burlington Library

10) Meeting Adjourn at 12:43pm