



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, February 20th, 2025 (Noon) - Burlington Public Library

- 1) Call to Order at 12:06 by John Seagrave
- 2) Around the Room (:30 intros): Thom Smith – Director, Heather Chirumbolo – Newest Director, Jade LaBella – Vice President, Katherine Morley – guest of Heather, Doug Thompson – First Selectman, Sharon Cataldo – Member, Alex Denoto – Member (Library Staff), Cat Pellino – Jordan’s guest and new Member (Northwest Community Bank), Katie D’Agostino – Central Chamber President, Judi Ann Lausier – Director, Rich Browning – Director, Kaitlyn Larson – Member, John Seagrave – Burlington Chamber President, Jordan Sanford – Secretary, Gavin Lapenta – Member, Kerry Brash – Past President, Margie Bowen – Director, JP Parent – Member, Lauren Howard – Member.
- 3) Approval of Previous Meeting(s) Minutes – *January*
 - a. 1st Motion: Judi Ann Lausier
 - b. 2nd Motion: Kerry Brash
- 4) Treasurer’s Report - *Megan*
 - a. Bank Balance = \$17,878.13
 - b. Expenses since last report:
 - i. \$325.70 -Eversource (\$56.36) + QuickBooks (\$35.35) + In Concert Web Solutions (\$74.99) Webscape Design (\$159.00)
 - ii. \$64.31- I Know A Guy- Lunch for meeting
 - c. Credits since last report:
 - i. \$525- Membership Dues
 - ii. \$1,068.75 Credit Card Receipts from Central CT Chamber
 - d. Motion to Approve:
 - i. 1st Motion: Rich Browning
 - ii. 2nd Motion: Jade LaBella
- 5) Town & Affiliate Reports
 - a. Doug Thompson (First Selectman)
 - i. Questions from the Chamber Membership:
 1. Local establishments up for sale (two restaurants) – is it a concern and on the radar?
 - a. Assistant Building Official was recently hired!
 - b. Has freed Larry up to take care of more and put out fires
 - c. A need to connect with the EDC
 2. What can businesses do to support the town hall?
 - a. Voice issues here at the chamber!
 - b. Let’s talk about what’s best for the meeting and keep politics out of it!
 3. What are immediate needs?
 - a. Examples: skating rink and taxes – 3 cuts in a row!

- 4. 7 acres on Library Lane – not a lot of space to work with so we are looking at additional opportunities
 - ii. It is currently budget season and going to foresee some challenges when it comes to keeping taxes as it – may need to raise them
 - iii. School allocation has changed
 - iv. Planning for a more vibrant business community
 - v. Johnny Cake Music Fest has been officially cancelled
- b. J.P. Parente (EDC)
 - i. Working to interview established businesses
 - ii. 5- and 10-year development plan to help businesses in town grow and get more out of the EDC – working together with other groups and municipalities in town
 - iii. Continuing to discuss the Taste of Burlington
 - 1. Unsure if it will skip a year
 - 2. Unsure if it will include retail?
 - iv. Letter was sent to Parks & Recreation to propose the music and expo event this coming summer
 - 1. Does not yet have a name – could it adopt the “Johnny Cake” event name?
- c. J.P. Parente (Tavern Day and 250 Committee)
 - i. Hartford Circus Fire event this Sunday
 - ii. Wine Tasting last month was a great success!
 - 1. Was the best year yet for attendance and sales
 - iii. 501c3 is official – registered and insured
 - 1. Applying for grants to offset costs
 - 2. Membership topic to be further discussed
 - 3. TDG would like to become a Chamber Member as a non-profit
- d. Katie D’Agostino (Central CT Chamber of Commerce)
 - i. Utilize the partnership with Central – get more involved with central’s events!

6) Committee Updates:

- a. Membership Totals - *Rich*
 - i. Business members = 90
 - 1. New business members = 2 (ServiceMaster Albino and Collinsville Bank)
 - 2. Friends of BCC members = 9
 - 3. New Friends of BCC members = 0
 - ii. Past due members = 22 business members (21 from Jan 2025 and 1 from July 2024)
 - iii. 40 total business members were billed for Jan 1, 2025, renewal.
 - 1. Katie D. confirmed the initial membership dues renewal email was sent from President@burlingtonctchamber.org in early December 2024.
 - 2. Invoice reminder emails are sent on the first Tuesday of each month from info@centralctchambers.org. Katie also mentioned that Joyce from CCCC has been making outbound calls to all past due members (including BCC members) because there is a larger number than usual of past due members, since Jan. 2025 is the first instance that CCCC billed members entirely by email. Jordan offered to assist with making calls if Joyce would like some help.
 - iv. BCC board met prior to today’s member meeting and recommended including a message to all members in our newsletter about BCC invoices being sent by email from info@centralctchambers.org and to add that address to their ‘safe senders’ list.
- b. Events – *Kerry/Jade*
 - i. 2025 Events



1. February 27th is the Legislative Breakfast
2. March 5th – Lunch n Learn at the Harwinton Library by ServiceMaster Albino
3. March 21st – Young Professional Group– doing a headshot and social media day
4. March 25th – Everything Expo!
5. March 28th – Blowout sale at Larson’s!
6. April 9th – Trivia Night ~ Meet, Greet, and Connect!
 - a. Tickets are \$25, which includes apps, a drink ticket, and trivia team
 - b. Also have the option to do sponsorships such as tables (4 tickets)
 - c. Located at Enclave Grille from 5:30 to 7:30pm
7. April 16th – BAH at Irongate Insurance at 5:30pm
8. April 26th – First Annual Pickleball Tournament
 - a. Two different divisions to choose from (Professional and Casual)
9. May 8th – BAH at M&T Bank
10. June TBD – BAH and Ribbon Cutting for Prestige Plumbing
11. Sept 11th – BAH at Keystone in Torrington

c. Tavern Day – *John/Jordan*

- i. Sunday, September 21st, 2025
- ii. 10 to 4pm
- iii. More info to come

d. Marketing – *Margie/Jade*

- i. Anything for social media needs to be sent to both, including flyers for events

e. Nominating – *Kerry/Thom/Rich*

- i. Nominations are now open!
- ii. Quite a few are submitted currently
- iii. A vote will happen in May and slate announced in June

7) Chamber Updates

- a. Help us keep growing! Referral bonus and hosting opportunities!
 - i. Hosting opportunities
 - ii. \$25 gift card incentive!

8) Discussion – nothing further

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

10) Motion to Adjourn at 12:56pm by John Seagrave