

Burke Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting March 9, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Guests: Andy Mosedale, Christine Emmons

Board Members Present: Laura Malieswski, Jen Palmieri, Peggy Clay, Karen Kennedy, Burton Hinton, Renee Powers

Guest Andy Mosedale reviewed his proposal for updating the wi-fi system in the village of East Burke.

Wi-Fi Upgrade Cost Discussion

The board and Andy discussed Wi-Fi upgrade needs for the town, focusing on a \$4,300 estimate to replace an access point at the store. Laura expressed financial concerns about the cost, noting that the chamber recently spent \$7,000-8,000 on a new website. Andy explained that while the upfront cost is significant, the system would be "set it and forget it" after installation and mentioned that several other towns use similar models funded through the Council on Rural Development. Andy also clarified that upgrading the single antenna would not significantly improve coverage for Fall Fest, as the current setup only provides reliable coverage in specific areas like the gazebo.

The public Wi-Fi system, was originally set up 12 years ago as a convenience for visitors to the area, with intentional limits to prevent excessive usage like streaming or gaming. The discussion revealed that there are multiple Wi-Fi connections, including one password-protected connection for the Fall Festival vendors.

Andy and the board discussed the challenges and costs of improving internet connectivity for the village. They explored options, including potential town funding and licensing agreements, with Andy explaining that current licensing costs around \$600 for three years. The estimated cost for improving the connection is \$4,300, and it was suggested it might be partially covered by the town or other means. They also clarified that the existing internet setup was meant for visitors rather than indoor use.

The team discussed Wi-Fi usage metrics and challenges, particularly around the Fall Festival event. Andy shared weekly usage reports showing 123 unique clients and 8 gigs of total data transferred over the past week, with the Burke Library connection being the most utilized. Laura suggested a potential solution of temporarily disabling other Wi-Fi connections during the Fall Festival to only leave the dedicated, password-protected network for vendors, though she acknowledged this might not fully address the fundamental challenges of providing sufficient internet coverage for large outdoor events.

It was agreed to table this discussion and consider options for funding going forward, with more discussion at a later date.

Guest Christine Emmons wanted to let the Board know that 1. The BMC was not using any wi-fi inside the clubhouse that is being paid for by the BACC and 2. That beginning this year the BMC would be paying for their BACC membership fees directly, and 3. that the BMC board is willing to listen to counter proposals for the storage of Fall Festival supplies in the storage bay at the BMC.

Guests left the meeting at 5:50 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:51 PM

Motion to accept January 2026 meeting minutes made by Jen P and seconded by Renee P – motion passed unanimously

Motion to accept financials made by Jen P and seconded by Renee P – motion passed unanimously

Lengthy discussion about a meeting that was held between BACC representatives and BMC representative regarding BMC proposal that BACC begin paying \$900 per year for the storage space. A recap of the meeting was provided by those in attendance which also addressed tensions with the Burke Mountain Club regarding storage fees and equipment usage. There was general agreement that both the BACC and the BMC were focused on serving the Burke area community and we wanted to be able to continue a collaborative relationship with one another.

Karen K. proposed that we draft a formal agreement specifying \$1,000 annual donation to cover venue fees for Fall Festival as well as storage of supplies used at the fall festival. Karen offered to draft an agreement, share it with the BOD and make changes as suggested before sending it to the BMC directors for their consideration. Members were in agreement.

Next steps-

Laura will forward the WiFi usage summary report to the board along with the current member list.

Jen will check with NEK Broadband to see if there are any relevant grant programs or other opportunities for public WiFi areas.

Laura will email the board with a list of items currently stored at BMC.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM