

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 07/27 Black Lives Matter: Walter Thorne
This Week: 08/03 Saratoga Plan: Maria Trabka
Next Week: 08/10 Black Lives Matter: Trent Griffin-Braaf
Coming Up: 08/17 Nursing Home Card Project: Rachel Bennett
08/24 TBD
08/27 Community Dinner

Note: Regular ZOOM meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:00 pm. Check your e-mail box the day of the meeting for the computer ZOOM ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

*Please give suggestions for future programs to Dan Stec
Find us at bhblrotary.org and on Face book*

“Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves”.

Our President, Greg opened our zoom meeting by sharing Rotary's theme for this Rotary year: “Rotary Opens Opportunities.” He welcomed everyone especially our guest Carolyn Lee and our guest speaker, Maria Trabka, from Saratoga Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY DINNER: Greg reported that plans are being finalized and help will be needed at BHBL High School on the day of the dinner. We will also have a bottle/can collection and a coin drop. Greg noted that we do not have to be concerned about leftover food because Spartan Catering has a food pantry that wants the leftovers.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: Steve indicated that less help will be needed because this year's location has all the facilities (chairs & tables) that we need. We will have box lunches from Hannaford rather than a buffet. The tournament date is August 29th and the rain date is September 12th.

TOWN IN BLOOM: Excellent article in the Tool Box.

HAPPY DOLLARS: Mike Brewster in his new red Rotary Sergeant-at-Arms vest collected Happy Dollars in his usual playful manner. We all enjoyed the good humor and leaning about what members were doing. Thanks to Dan Stec for donating the vest to Mike.

DUES: 1st half of dues are due for the current Rotary year – \$80 dollars for July-Dec 2020.

**SARATOGA PLAN
Maria Trabka**

Maria began by explaining that Saratoga Plan is a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) and trust founded in 2003 with a focus on Saratoga County. The mission of Saratoga PLAN is to preserve the rural character, natural habitats and scenic beauty of Saratoga County so that these irreplaceable assets are accessible to all and survive for future generations. They have conserved ~7,000 acres to date. They manage 68 properties; some they own and some by conservation easement – 25 farms & 43 woodland & open spaces. The Plan actively manages 10 nature preserves that have 22 miles of trails that are open & free to the public. Some of the more local preserves include Round Lake Preserve, Woodcock Preserve, Ballston Creek Preserve & Galway Preserve. They have done work on the trails at Hawkwood on Middle Line Road in Ballston.

They work with other outdoor organizations to help manage 200 miles of trails. They include Siege Trail, Pitney Farm, Zim Smith Trail, Greentree Lake, Spring Run Trail, Railroad Run Trail, Bog Meadow Trail, Round Lake Preserve, Spruce Mountain Trail, Champlain Canalway Trail & Moreau Lake State Park Expansion.

They are currently operating on a \$650M budget which is funded from donations and grants. They manage about \$4 million of properties. They have a volunteer board of 17, a staff of 5 and 200 volunteers to maintain the properties and trails. The lands that Saratoga Plan works to conserve benefit our local communities in so many ways. Natural areas provide habitat for wildlife, keep our air and water clean, and help absorb water during storm and flood events. We can learn more from their web site www.saratogaplan.org or info@saratogaplan.org.

Reported by Pete Parker

Serve with us. The world is waiting.