

Reporting ZOOM Meeting of 8 February 2021

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 2/1 Dr. Michael Geci, *Pot Doc*

This Week: 2/8 Eric Connolly, Town of Ballston Supervisor

Next Week: 2/15 Ray O'Connor, *She Called Him Raymond*

Coming Up: 2/22 Paddy Rooney, *A Vision with a Passion*

Note: Regular ZOOM Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm.
Check your e-mail inbox 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 Darlene Bower
and Dan Stec.*

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

Eric Connolly, Town of Ballston Supervisor – Report

Eric Connolly is the recently-elected supervisor of the Town of Ballston. He is a Republican elected with the Democratic endorsement. He presented an update of his vision for the orderly growth of the town in the next few years. The population has grown with additional family units, but services and the government have lagged behind. The most recent revision of the Comprehensive Plan was issued in 2006 and needs a new look. He would like to see the two bike paths in town joined together with amenities like benches along the way.

The Town needs more parks for the benefit of residents and a Park Department to look after them. There is limited access to the outlet-end of Ballston Lake with limited parking but no swimming. He is looking for second location on the lake with swimming and better boating facilities. (A property is in mind but not yet announced.)

The Town Hall is located in the middle of the town with an adjacent farm corn field. He would like to acquire the land repurposing it for a recreation field, performance site, farmers market, all with adequate parking.

Ballston presently has one public event, the Burnt Hills Flag Day Parade which belongs more to the hamlet than the town. He would like to have two or three more. Help in their creation from BHBL Rotary would be most welcome. Possibilities might include a winter carnival. Tom Brownell suggested a car show like that in Ballston Spa.

The status of the Old Fireman's Grove was questioned. Eric feels that the property is in bad shape and lacks parking. His preference would be for the town to sell it to the school and use the money for developing a recreational facility elsewhere.

The Town Hall continues to be closed due to Covid. Plans are to reopen in March. He is reluctant to reopen the Community Room until restrictions are further reduced. He knows of the club's desire to return our meeting there, but it is going to be while. Meanwhile, he suggests that the club prepare a detailed procedure for review by the Town delineating how we would satisfy requirements for Covid distancing and sanitizing.

Rotary has been working on town beautification with the Town-in-Bloom program and would like to see something done with the northeast corner of the Route 50 – Charlton Road intersection. He has a plan to acquire it, but execution will take time.

The BHBL school system has expressed to Eric the need for commercial development to increase the tax base without significantly increasing the need for public services as does residential growth. The supervisor believes this will be a challenge without a sewer system along Route 50.

The Town Hall has been our home for several years. It was very interesting to hold a frank and open discussion with the current Supervisor. We thank Eric for his presentation and discussion.

Announcements

- Maryellen discussed the status of the Food Pantry program, now renamed Operation Hunger, as shown in Gini's draft logo to the right. The goal is to get each member to donate one item a week, to be accumulated at Gil's Garage, and transported by a member volunteer to the Galway Food Pantry each Thursday.
- Rey Whetten reported that he continues to receive letters-of-thanks from veterans' hospitals for donated books.
- Gini talked about the Care-Card program.
- Gregg reminded us of the continuing District fund-raising auction.
- Gregg reviewed his experience with Junior Achievement. Readers are urged to contact him if they would like to participate as well.
- Dan Spec displayed an elegant Rotary face mask, which he can provide to those interested.



Reported by Fred Baily (Rev 1)