

Reporting Hybrid Meeting of 14 November 2022

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 11/7 Charlton Community-Center Restoration

This Week: 11/14 Saratoga Plan – Michelle Culbert
(Zoom & Ballston Town Hall)

Next Week: 11/21 District Governor Denise DiNoto Visitation
(Multi-Club visit, Zoom and Ballston Town Hall)

Coming Up: 1/28 No Monday Meeting
11/29 Tuesday Community Event –
Holiday Drive-Thru Parade

Note: Regular Meetings are held Mondays at 6:30 pm. Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer Zoom link and password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

Note: Many Meetings are now hybrid with an in-person option.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Darlene Bower & Peter Sawyer.

Find us at bhblrotary.org and on Facebook

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

SARATOGA PLAN – Michelle Culbert

Michelle Culbert, Saratoga Plan Associate Director, opened her very interesting presentation by informing us of the organization's mission, which 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. PLAN acknowledges that the lands it conserves are ancestral homelands of Mohican, Mohawk, and Abenaki peoples." The aim is to conserve farmland, open space, woodlands, water, wetlands, and meadows in order to sustain all forms of wildlife and the healthy use of land by our citizens.

Saratoga Plan is a Land Trust bounded by the borders of Saratoga County. As a non-profit it gets no government funding. Rather, it runs on grants, foundation and private donations, a small staff, and volunteers who in 2021 donated over 3,500 hours of work.

Saratoga Plan works with communities to strike the right balance between preservation of land, and development. The Plan currently has 84 conserved lands under stewardship, of which they own 23, which totals over 7,000 acres. In 2022, there have been 41 inquiries from landowners about

participation. These lands are evaluated using numerous factors, including the threat of development, in order to establish a priority list. It takes years to obtain the money to buy them, and also to work out specific details for each Conservation Easement, which are most often unique to the specific lands and owners involved.

The Plan manages 13 areas that are open for public use including 25 miles of bike trails. There is also an effort to link bike trails to establish a network of over 200 miles. They also offer events, outings, educational experiences, and Pass-Port letter boxing, based on a treasure hunt in nature.

Saratoga Plan continues to work with multiple agencies and municipalities to garner management control of thousands of acres in order to preserve natural resources, enhance economic development, and recreational opportunities. They are always looking for help, either through monetary donations, or hands-on volunteer work. Please go to www.saratogaplan.org to find out more, and sign up for their newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Great job on Apple Pie Fest – 188 tickets, made \$1200, and wonderful for the community. Ray C gave his 50/50 winnings to the Galway Food Bank
- Need volunteers to set up at 5:00 on the 21st for the multi-club meeting. Bring your own food if you would like to eat at 6:00.
- BHBL Rotary was #2 at the Foundation Dinner for per capita giving. We received our \$1,000 District Grant for the Peace Pole.
- Trail Maintenance at Camp Stomping Grounds on Nov 25 (1-3 pm) and Dec 3 (9-12).
- Thank you, Suzette, for being our new BHBL Rotary Secretary.
- 11/19 and 12/17 INTERACT needs help packing food at Immaculate Conception Church 9-11:30
- Contact Sue Stec for Holiday Party meal preferences. Limit gifts bought locally to \$15. No alcohol or scented candles.
- Steve C reported reps from Kusinta-Lusaka Rotary, Project CURE and the NGO Muchila Access Project made it on Nov 8th to Muchila, Zambia to assess what materials are needed to make the local clinic operational.
- Gregg is evaluating and soliciting help for a possible clay-target shooting fund raiser at Guan Ho Ha shooting range in Glenville.
- On Dec 5 Veterans and Community Housing Coalition is holding an open house at Foreverly House
- President Darlene recognized and thanked the following veterans: Fred Baily, Steve Caine, Jon Costolo, Steve Geene, Pete Parker, Bill Wehrle, Alec Davis, Ken Crotty, Bob Youmans, and Ray Callanan.
- BHBL Rotary is participating in Wreaths Across America on Dec 12 at Noon at the Saratoga National Cemetery. Let Darlene know if you can participate.
- Gini did a great "peace quote" and Mike did his usual outstanding Happy Dollar presentation.

Reported by Steve Caine