



Rotary Club of Red Hook, New York

Weekly Bulletin

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

April 13, 2021

<http://www.redhookrotaryclub.org/>
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Marking the 57th week of “stay at home” meetings required by the coronavirus outbreak, Jennifer Van Voorhis called the Zoom meeting to order at 8 am. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Rotary 4-way test and Fred Cartier offered a blessing. Thirteen Rotarians were in attendance including Jenn Van Voorhis, Susan Ezrati, Fred Cartier, Jonah Triebwasser, Linda Greenblatt, Bud Weaver, Dave Wright, Rob Latimer, Tim Lynch, Susan Simon, Carl Dowden, Chris Chale and Gwen McCann (who also affiliated with the Kingston Club). Our guest speaker, Marc Molinaro -- Dutchess County Executive and Red Hook resident, was slated to come slightly later so that we could attend to some club business at the beginning of the meeting.



Rob Latimer provided the above screenshot of participants at the Zoom meeting. By row, from top left to bottom right are: Susan Ezrati, Rob Latimer, Linda Greenblatt, Fred Cartier, Bud Weaver, Dave Wright, Gwen McCann, Tim Lynch, Jenn Van Voorhis, Susan Simon, Carl Dowden, Chris Chale, Jonah Triebwasser, and Dutchess County Executive, Marc Molinaro.

As the first order of business, Jenn thanked Fred for picking up another distribution of masks funded by the Rossi family at Geering Park in Fishkill, NY. Jenn reported that we had received 4,400 masks. We briefly discussed who would receive the masks and reminded everyone to get photos of the distribution. Among the likely recipients are the two fire departments in town and the one in Milan, the Red Hook police, three churches that sponsor food pantries, Northern Dutchess hospital and, possibly, Provost Park, the Red Hook schools and the Anderson School.



Photos from the second mask giveaway at Geering Park in Fishkill, NY provided by the Red Hook club. From left to right the photos show the presenters, the array of boxes given away, another presenter, and Rosalie and Fred Cartier, picking up masks for the Red Hook club,

Jonah reported on programing for Radio Rotary, Jen updated us on food pantry activity. She asked for volunteers at the Food Pantry at the Methodist Church on Sunday after church services, Jenn also noted that Janice Williams, who runs the church food pantry, lost her mother earlier in the week. She asked that we hold her in our thoughts and prayers.

Upcoming events include the Town Clean up day, Saturday, April 24, 2021. Grabbers and vests have been purchased and can be picked up at the Town Hall at 10 am. There was a brief discussion of how to put the Rotary emblem on the vests and grabbers. Gwen offered silk screening equipment and Emily Mangieri was suggested as a source. Susan Ezrati offered to check with the Tivoli mayor about a separate location in Tivoli.

Rob Latimer, then, introduced Marc Molinaro, our guest speaker. Marc focused his remarks on the 14-months that Dutchess County has led the local effort against the coronavirus. He noted that across the nation, counties have responsibility for the logistical support for public health initiatives and that they carry the financial support for these efforts. Dutchess County entered the crisis in a strong fiscal position, but they anticipated \$32,000 loss of revenues due to lower employment, including furloughed workers. In actuality, the county recovered earlier and stronger than anticipated because the local economy bounced back in the fourth quarter of 2020 as home improvement business generated sales tax growth. In addition, the stay-at-home phenomenon resulted in a shift in consumer spending to the county. And a high level of real estate transactions raised mortgage tax revenues for towns and municipalities in the county. As a result of these developments, the county is stronger fiscally than anticipated and is strategically refilling some county jobs. Federal support is needed, that support comes from FEMA. It is anticipated that Dutchess County will receive substantial Federal support over the next two years to cover revenue loss and COVID related spending. During the discussion following Marc's remarks, the County

Executive noted that individual municipalities can reject marijuana sales. That decision, however, has sales tax implications that they should consider.

We thanked Marc for updating us on the county and for joining us for the meeting.

We adjourned at 9am.

Radio Rotary

Next weekend on Radio Rotary: Watch the website for further information.

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