



Rotary Club of Red Hook, New York

Weekly Bulletin

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

August 25, 2020

<http://www.redhookrotaryclub.org/>

www.facebook.com/RedHookRotaryClub

Marking the 23rd week of “stay at home” meetings required by the coronavirus outbreak, Jen Van Voorhis opened the “zoom” meeting at 8am. Thirteen Rotarians attended the meeting. Jen Van Voorhis presided, leading off the meeting with the pledge and the Rotary 4-way test. Reverend Michael Shafer offered the blessing.



Photo screen shot taken by photographer and Rotarian, Fred Cartier. Attendees by row from top left to bottom right are: Bud Weaver, Fred Cartier, Jen Van Voorhis, Tim Lynch, Linda Greenblatt, Jonah Triebwasser, Chris Chale, Susan Simon, Dave Wright, Michael Shafer, Carl Dowden, and Rebecca Kent. Susan Ezrati arrived late and missed the photo, but was there later.

Jen led off the meeting with a discussion of the prior week’s presentation by the Library on their proposed public WIFI at the Red Hook Rec park. She reiterated the responses to questions that came in after the meeting (reported in last week’s newsletter), including the fact that the Park was selected as the location which serves the most underserved part of the Town, is in the Town, (both villages are served by their respective libraries which have wifi available). She noted that a gift from Rotary would

be credited on the “landing page” for the Wifi and on a placard on the equipment. It is anticipated that a Federal Grant will enable an expansion of WiFi access to such entities as the Elmendorf. She noted that there were legal reasons that the Park was selected over alternative locations such as the Elemendorf. Bud Weaver noted that due to its 501(c)3 status, the club foundation would not be a suitable source of funds. It was reiterated that the funds would come from the club assets. The group suggested that it would be appropriate for another organization to share the cost rather than relying on Rotary to cover the whole cost. Jonah proposed that we offer \$1000, Dave suggested \$2000. It was recognized that the Board should vote on a proposal for the club to approve.

A follow up discussion included questions about what other projects we are funding including Red Hook Harvest (back pack program) funded 50/50 by the club and the Foundation which costs \$3000 annually. Tim Lynch, treasurer, noted that the club balance sheet was healthy, in part, because expenses are down because we are not meeting for breakfast (\$150 weekly) and because the Apple Blossom related Business Directory brought in significant funds. The current checking account balance is \$14,000. Concerns were expressed that a source of funds for the ongoing Spectrum bill for the wifi should be secured first.

Jen reminded us that the Board will meet next week, September 1, 2020, following the meeting. Jen and Jonah attended the district virtual conference on club runner. The new platform will contain a donation button. This addition is in the beta stage. Chris cautioned that it should restrict donations solely to NY donors in order to avoid having to file with every Attorney General in every state.

The Highland Club’s Ribfest has gone virtual this year. Two Red Hook restaurants – Savona’s and Cancun – will sponsor with gift certificates.

The member spotlight this week came from Fred Cartier. He shared a wonderful story about one of his first parishes which was in disrepair. He and his family restored a back bedroom and then cleared rubbish from graves in the church yard. Then one morning, what appeared to be a derelict arrived at the door and asked to see the house. The gentlemen turned out to be a former bishop whose family had lived there in prior times. The graves that were cleared were his family’s graves and the bedroom was his mother’s. He pointed out her name engraved in the window glass. Subsequently, the church youth planted a garden in the area, but the bishop never returned. He died the following year. It was a great story, well told by Fred.

Jen read a thank you card from St. John’s church for the \$125 contribution from Rotary’s ‘Clynk’ project for personal hygiene items for the food pantry. The district’s service project this year will be a coat drive. Maureen Gates of the Rhinebeck club and Assistant district governor will lead it. It was recommended that she should partner with the Community Center in Red Hook.

Next Club meeting: September 1, 2020 at 8am by Zoom. The speaker will be Scott Oatkin, who is leading the Borgen Project.



Red Hook Rotary Club seeks host families for our inbound youth exchange students. Watch this spot for further information. Contact Chris Chale with volunteer families

Radio Rotary

This weekend on RadioRotary: Scott Oatkin and the Borgen Project

Tune in to the award-winning RadioRotary on Sunday, August 30th at 6:25 a.m. (on WBPM 92.9 FM or [http:// www.wbpmfm.com/](http://www.wbpmfm.com/)) and at 9:25 a.m. (on WGHQ 920AM and 92.5FM, WBNR 1260AM and 96.5FM and WLNA 1420 or <http://www.realcountryhv.com/>) when we talk with Scott Oatkin about the Borgen Project.

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See our video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rzF-3SU-UA>