



Rotary Club of Red Hook, New York

Weekly Bulletin

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

May 4, 2021

<http://www.redhookrotaryclub.org/>
www.facebook.com/RedHookRotaryClub

Marking the 60th 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. Twelve Rotarians were in attendance including Jenn Van Voorhis, Susan Ezrati, Fred Cartier, Michael Shafer, Jonah Triebwasser, Linda Greenblatt, Bud Weaver, Dave Wright, Susan Simon, Carl DowWden, Chris Chale and Rebecca Kent. Our guests were Janet Warden, Superintendent of the Red Hook Central School District, and Bruce Martin, Budget Officer.



Fred Cartier provided the above screenshot of participants at the Zoom meeting. By row, from top left to bottom right are: Susan Ezrati, Fred Cartier, Michael Shafer, Dave Wright, shy Greenblatt, Bruce Martin (RHCS), Jen Van Voorhis, Janet Warden (RHCS), Bud Weaver, Carl Dowden and Susan Simon. Chris Chale, Rebecca Kent and Jonah missed the photo, but attended the meeting.

Jonah reported on upcoming reporting on Radio Rotary which will feature the Millbrook Addiction and Recovery Program. Also noted were the loss of Nick Anais, an active citizen in Red Hook, and Bud Weaver's loss of his sister in early April.

Jen asked the club to sign up to volunteer at the Red Hook United Methodist Church food pantry every Sunday at 11:30 am. Even as the pandemic is slowing down, food insecurity in our community continues. Your help is valued.

Linda reported that she and Jenn and Chris interviewed three RYLA applicants last week. All were outstanding, but only two could be awarded grants to attend. The Academy will take place at the end of June from Sunday to Wednesday at the Holmes Camp and Retreat Center. The cost to the club will be \$450 for each student. Charlotte Smith and Michelle Salas were selected. Thirteen applicants for three \$1000 scholarships will be interviewed next.

Jenn announced that Rotary International has awarded the club \$1800 for the backpack program and assistance to homebound students.

She introduced our guest speakers, Janet Warden, school superintendent and Bruce Martin, budget officer. There will be a school vote on May 18, 2021 at the Mill Road School to elect new Board members (we will get a chance to meet them via zoom at next week's meeting) and to approve the proposed budget for the school year 2021-22. Voter registration for new voters and/or those who have not voted in the past 4-years will take place on May 12, also at the Mill Road School. The budget will be formally presented via zoom on May 5, 2021. See the Red Hook CSD website for a zoom invitation. The proposed budget is for a 1.52% in the tax levy over last year's budget, which is under the tax cap set by the state. One time fund increases via the COVID 19 relief funding will be spent on website improvements and capital upgrades that will not require recurring support.

The superintendent reviewed the focus of improvements this past year and into next including: the finishing of the new auditorium (a good Rotarian field trip prospect), climate-focused curriculum, project based learning, prioritization of equity and inclusion in educational programming; an increase in the social work staffing and website improvement. Bruce Martin gave an outline of the budget. Salary and staffing costs will increase 1.5%. The capital costs will increase 1.9%. A focus on the latter will be improving the school's digital connection with curriculum and the students. Total budget is up 1.9%, but state aid (which supplements the revenues) is up 4%, so the tax levy will rise only 1.52%. Federal stimulus money-which is up sharply, but not recurring- will go to PPE and other capital expenditures.

There was some brief discussion following the speakers remarks and then the meeting was adjourned. The club board stayed on the call for a brief meeting.

Jen noted the need for volunteers at the Red Hook United Methodist Church food pantry on Friday from Noon to 2 pm and Sunday from 11:30am to 2 pm.

Upcoming meetings will feature:

May 11- 7 candidates for the board of Education. Each will have a chance to speak.

May 18 – School vote – budget and candidates for the board.

Radio Rotary

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

Listen to Radio Rotary on WBPM 92.9 FM, 96.5 FM, 1260AM and 1420 AM Sundays at 6:30 a.m. or <http://www.wbpmfm.com/> or ask Alexa to play "WBPM."

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Anytime at www.RadioRotary.org

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Podbean: <https://www.podbean.com/podcast-detail/9a4jb-71b94/RadioRotary-Podcast>

Stitcher: <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/anchor-podcasts/radiorotary>

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

The Red Hook Rotary club currently meets every Tuesday online at 8:00 a.m. Check our website at www.RedHookRotaryClub.org or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RedHookRotaryClub/>