**10.7.21 Rotary Minutes**

Present: Shelly Bullock, Zoren Bullock, Neil DeRaiche, Dennis Guy-Sell, Mary Guy-Sell, Peggy Haine, Michael Jimenez, Cindy Kain, Joan Munich, Kathleen Overbaugh, and Frank Zgola

Absent: Joseph Barette, Mark Baumann, Mary Bouchard, Jane Broadfield, Elizabeth Garner, Ben Guthrie, Bill Overbaugh, Darlynne Overbaugh, Tom Overbaugh, Angel Stillions, and Durand Van Doren

Guests: Yvonne Taylor, and Joseph Campbell

**Rotary Business:**

President Kathleen happily recognized Neil DeRaiche’s return to our meetings, and we all wished him good health.

President Kathleen reported on her talk with school personnel, who have offered to put forth the name of a student for the October Student of the Month Award, but Neil urged us to request several names so that the club can make the choice. The objective is to honor some students who aren’t always recognized for their civic contributions. Kathleen will set up a meeting with the school administration and members of the Rotary Student of the Month committee, to underscore our wishes for student selection.

The October 16 barbecue is staffed, and B&W Supply will be able to provide us with clamshells, which were recently reported held up in the country-wide, even worldwide supply chain snafu.

Winterfest is scheduled for December 4 from 4:00 to 7:00, and we will again be providing free vegetable soup for the well-chilled masses.

The Adopt-a-Highway cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, October 23. Please come if you’re able.

**Speakers:**

Yvonne Taylor and Joseph Campbell of Seneca Lake Guardians, formerly Gas-Free Seneca came to address the environmental and other damage they said would follow from the manufacture of Bitcoin in the decommissioned Greenidge electrical plant in Dresden, on the west shore of Seneca Lake. They said plant expansion is awaiting approval from the State, and they are trying to pack the information-gathering meeting with people who will speak against its expansion.

They said that in 2019 Greenidge was producing electricity at 6% of capacity, when Bitcoin mining was proposed for it. At first 7900 Bitcoin machines were installed, and now there are 15,000 with plans to install 30,000 machines. Bitcoin mining, they said, is extremely energy intensive, and China has banned Bitcoin entirely for its heavy energy use. The plant in Dresden cools its machines with water from the lake, which is drawn in through an unscreened intake pipe, resulting in what is essentially a “fish blender,” then discharging the heated water into the lake where it can contribute to harmful algal blooms, and disturb trout and other sportfishing species. The plant is also noisy and produces CO2 emissions which contribute to climate ,. The machines wear out in a year or so., contributing to the waste stream. To top it off, they said, the plant contributes few jobs to the community and threatens the livelihoods of the 58,000 people who are employed by the wine, grape-growing, tourism, and other farming industries.

This is only one power plant conversion. There are many recently retired power plants in upstate New York, any or all of them prospective Bitcoin mining plants, set to cause much damage to the environment.

**Those wishing to speak up at the hearing to consider regulation of the Bitcoin industry, to be conducted Wednesday, October 22, are advised to go to** [**www.webex.com**](http://www.webex.com) **to sign up for a three-minute speaker’s slot by noon, Friday, October 8, and to read suggested talking points.**

**Happy Dollars:**

Shelly and Zoren pledged $1 each in celebration of their 15th wedding anniversary.

Michael pledged $1 to thank Kathleen for helping him pull together the club’s books.

Kathleen pledged $1 to celebrate her daughter Lydia’s arrival with two of her students; she’s teaching them how to climb trees!

The meeting ended at 8:02 with the ringing of the Rotary bell.

**Upcoming Speakers:**

• October 14 – Financial Advisor Rordan Hart on why BITCOIN is a favored investment

• October 21 – Wildlife rehabilitator Jane George on wild-and-domestic animal rescue