

Reporting Meeting of Feb 22, 2016

**Saratoga PLAN**  
**Devin Regolino**

**Calendar of Events**

**Last Week:** 2/22 Saratoga PLAN Devin Regolino  
**This Week:** 2/29 Today's College Student Peter Sawyer  
**Next Week:** 3/7 TBD

**Coming Up:** 3/14 Board Meeting

**Attendance:** Rotarians: 19 Guests Rotarian Ron Shimp

**Invocation:** George Bailey

**Note:** Regular meetings are held Monday Evenings at 6:15 PM in the William E. Sewell Memorial Room at the Ballston Town Hall.

*Please give suggestions for future programs to Peter Parker.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Bill led us in the pledge, Bob Youmans in America the Beautiful, and Charter Member Rev. George Bailey provided us a thoughtful and inspirational invocation.

**Congratulations**  
**Tina and Jon**  
**on**  
**Your Announcement of the Forthcoming Arrival of**  
**Jonathan Costolo V**

(Note: We are sure Grandpa Mike will not spoil him?)

Bill McClary, having heard Devin speak at the Saratoga Academy of Life Long Learning (ALL), asked Devin to speak to us. Bill introduced him. Before starting his presentation, Devin told us how much he appreciates the community services Rotary provides. He also noted that Rotary awarded him a scholarship that allowed him to obtain a BS in Environmental Science at Siena College.

Devin's commentary, slides and video gave us a comprehensive understanding of land trusts, land conservation and the mission and activities of the non-profit Saratoga PLAN. The goal of land trusts is to help convert private lands into lands conserved for posterity. Saratoga PLAN seeks to obtain land through donations or acquisitions. Once obtaining land, it is dedicated to its proper and lasting stewardship. Depending on the nature of the property, it seeks to maintain rural character, open spaces, natural habitats, and in many cases open up lands for recreational uses, such as hiking, picnicking, kayaking etc. Another goal, through educational efforts, is to build, in young and old alike, a greater appreciation of what nature and natural habitats have to offer.

In regard to planning, Saratoga PLAN is active in a macro-countywide sense, and also in helping individual municipalities plan for future land uses, through local comprehensive plans. PLAN is deeply engaged in planning for, and fostering a countywide trail network for alternate transportation routes and recreation. It has also developed, for planning purposes, 21 highly detailed maps, found on their website. These focus on terrain features, culturally developed land, streams, protected lands, groundwater recharge areas, agricultural areas and proposed trail networks.

Devin concluded his presentation by describing successfully established conservation lands in Ballston. He also outlined possible uses for the recently acquired Hawkwood Estate, at the intersection of Rt. 50 and Midline Road.

To get a fuller understanding of what Saratoga PLAN is, does and has accomplished, go to [www.Saratogaplan.org](http://www.Saratogaplan.org) or call (518) 587-5554.

This was both a highly informative and pleasant presentation to listen to. Devin clearly is an expert, and very passionate about his calling. Thanks!

Reported by Steve Caine

**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**SET UP AND CLEAN UP TEAMS FOR FEB SET UP:** Silas Schrader, Linda LeTendre, and Tom Brownell **CLEAN UP:** Peter Sawyer, John Fettke, and Alec Davis