

Town of Red Hook

**Agriculture and Open Space Committee**

**Minutes of July 23, 2012**

**Attendance:** Chairperson Pete Hubbell, Ken Migliorelli (7:20), and Secretary Linda Keeling

**Absent:** Norman Greig, Richard Biezynski, Marina Michahelles, Michael Grady Robertson, Mary Ann Johnson, John Hardeman, James Stagias Town Board Councilman William O'Neill (liaison),

**Guests:** Christopher Klose of EDC

**Meeting Opened:** As there was NOT a quorum, Chairperson Pete Hubbell opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

**Minutes:** The minutes of June 25th could not be voted on as there was not a quorum.

**Old Business:**

**1. Video and EDC & General Discussions:** Chris Klose talked about the Bicentennial video which will come out soon and be posted at the Bicentennial's website. He spoke about the possibilities the EDC might like to do with the former IGA. The building has structural problems and everything on the inside was auctioned off. Linda Keeling noted that if the building was to be torn down and a new building erected it would have to go through SEQRA. Chris Klose said that a new building would get its architectural compatibility from the Elmendorph.

Linda mentioned that there is 7 acres behind IGA owned by James Ross with an exit north onto Rt. 9. Chris noted that a hotel could not make it in that area. He suggested thinking of a barn with a 21<sup>st</sup> Century design focusing on agriculture with a teaching focus with participants from the CIA and Bard College. He noted that several buses of 4<sup>th</sup> graders used the Elmendorph Inn for a teaching lesson. He felt it was a marvelous experience and could be expanded. Linda Keeling explained that Barbara Bielenberg and she worked with student several years ago about the local history and giving walking tours of the Village. Linda would like to see a tour of the churches as they are clustered in one area.

Pete Hubbell would like to see more young people involved with agriculture utilizing a land contracting approach. Young farmers would rather own the land for the equity in the land.

Chris Klose mentioned that the Town board asked the EDC to look into the hydrofracking issue. There is the Marcellus shale and Ithaca which could possible affect Red Hook. Ken Migliorelli remembered back several years when he was a teenager when his parents were approached from a gas company for the rights to gas under their farm land at \$1.00 per acre with the possibility of getting more if gas was found. Chris noted that the town will update their zoning code to address the issue.

The Intermunicipal Task Force asked Chairman Pete Hubbell about the Upper Red Hook hamlet and possibly tweaking the zoning language. Linda Keeling mentioned the Rev. Roger Leonard's new book and how it details much within the hamlet. It would be a good source to reference if the hamlet wanted to pursue an historic designation again.

Ken Migliorelli thought the buildings behind CJ's in Rhinebeck was well done as the structures are hidden from the road.

There was discussion about the barn that fell down south of the restaurant on Rt. 9 which included about 70 acres.

**Adjournment:** The Chairman called to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

**Next meeting:** Monday, August 27, 2012, 7:00 pm, town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, Secretary

Approved 11/26/12