

## **Economic Development Committee Task Force**

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2009

### **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Committee Task Force was called to order at 9:30am on March 12, 2009 in the Red Hook Town Hall by Michelle Martin.

### **Present:**

Mary Ann Johnson, Jim Brudvig, Edward Pruitt, Beth Jones, Michelle Martin

#### **A. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

#### **B. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

#### **C. Open Issues**

Michelle opened the meeting briefly reviewing what we had discussed at our first meeting.

- It was agreed that the following shall be the mission statement of the Economic Development Committee: An essential means for managing a comprehensive strategy to strengthen the local economy and its social supports. To be broadly representative and focused on a multi-function, multi-faceted comprehensive program for economic development.
- The book “Blueprint for Economic Development” recently published by the Northern Dutchess Alliance was reviewed and discussed. It was agreed that the EDC should focus on enhancing what the community has and creating an environment that is friendly and sustainable to the vision of the community. The EDC should look at data and determine what the strengths and weaknesses of the community are. Perhaps work with Marist college – Ann Davis?
- In order to help determine the above, it was suggested that the EDC Task Force discuss the perceived role and purpose of the EDC with other town committees. This in turn would also facilitate open dialogue between the EDC and other town committees. It was decided that the EDC Task Force would submit a list of questions to the chairperson of each town committee in an effort to solicit feedback from these committees regarding their perceived role of the EDC. The questions that will be submitted are as follows:

1. What does your committee believe the term “economic development” means as it relates to the community of Red Hook?
2. Does your committee see economic development as relevant to the mission of the committee? If so, how? If not, why not?
3. What does your committee feel the role of the Economic Development Committee should be? What responsibilities does your committee feel the Economic Development Committee should be accountable for?
4. As believed by your committee, please list the opportunities and the challenges our community faces in relation to economic development.
5. How can the Economic Development Committee assist your committee with its mission?

Each committee chairperson will be asked if they would be willing to present their answers to the EDC Task Force. Also, upon the completion of the task force, all answers to all questions will be summarized and presented. Each committee will be given 1 month to complete and return the questionnaire. Each committee chairperson will be given 1 copy of “Blueprint for Economic Development”.

- Discussion continued regarding whether or not the EDC should remain a part of the government. It was decided that to help facilitate interaction between the public and private sector, the EDC should remain a town committee.
- This led into a discussion regarding how suggestions made by the EDC would be followed through to completion. If the EDC recommends a particular strategy or policy change, would it be up to the town board to agree or disagree? How would these recommendations become implemented? If the authority of the EDC stops with the town board, how can the EDC then be held accountable? What role does the town government play?
- It was decided that the EDC Task Force should continue working on these issues with the end result in mind. To become clearer on the town’s authority and how the EDC vision would be implemented.
- What are the constraints and resources of the town government? Questions should be sent to the town board or a meeting should be held with town board members to clarify this issue.

#### **D. Agenda for Next Meeting**

The above topics will continue to be expanded upon. The list of questions to be submitted to each town committee person will be typed and sent.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:35am by Michelle Martin. The next general meeting will be at 9:30am on March 26, 2009 at the Red Hook Town Hall.

Minutes submitted by:

Michelle Martin