

Economic Development Committee, Town of Red Hook
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 13, 2010

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:09 a.m. by Michelle R. Martin, chair, at the Red Hook Town Hall.

Present: Michelle R. Martin, chairperson; Christopher Klose, secretary; Theresa Haney, Beth Jones, Brad Mitchell, Ben Shute, members; Micki Strawinski, Red Hook Town Board liaison.

Not Present: Christopher Clark

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mr. Shute, with a second by Ms. Jones, the Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of Thursday, April 22, 2010 (attached).

Old Business: After Ms. Martin distributed the agenda for the meeting (attached), the Committee discussed:

1. Committee Roster – Mr. Klose is to complete the roster, with members supplying their preferred contact information – email, phone numbers, addresses – and a brief (25 words) profile of their talents and goals as committee members.
2. Committee governance – Ms. Strawinski confirmed that non-elected advisory committees are not under the jurisdiction of the open meetings law and may meet where and when they please. Consequently, the committee agreed to convene its Strategic Planning Session on Saturday, May 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Echo Valley Farm, with Mr. Klose facilitating.
3. Zoning Review Committee – Mr. Klose reported that the committee continued to review its proposed Parking Regulations, with the goal of soon bringing it to final draft form for presentation to the Town Board for review. At the request of Supervisor Crane, the Committee is to review the noise ordinances for the Village of Tivoli and the Town of Poughkeepsie, preparatory to any discussion of a similar ordinance for the Town of Red Hook. Also, the Committee agreed to review and approve the Minutes of the meeting of April 8 at its next meeting, which it set for Tuesday, June 8 at 5:30 p.m. Lastly, the Committee noted that a public hearing on the Centers and Greenspaces Plan is scheduled for Thursday, June 10 at 7:00 p.m., at Red Hook Central High School.
4. Short-term Goals –
 - Inter-committee communication – Ms. Martin, Ms. Jones and Mr. Klose have yet to develop a format for a monthly progress report.
 - Community visioning – Ms. Haney affirmed that the invitation letter to potential members of the proposed visioning subcommittee, as well as the draft survey of town residents, remained to be drafted. Mr. Klose volunteered to work with Ms. Haney to prepare the draft for committee review.

Government: Ms. Jones said that they were many regional and local economic development committees throughout the State, citing the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation(DCEDC) and the Hudson Valley Economic Development Committee (HVEDC; New Windsor) as two key resources of central services for Red Hook. She also cited the NYS Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation, which lists the state’s EDCs – “all except Red Hook’s!” – and maintains a revolving loan fund. The HVEDC has various grants available, too.

Ms. Jones recommended that the Committee begin to work with the DCEDC to:

- Develop a Web page presenting the EDC’s members, mission, meeting dates, etc; and
- Visit/review the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission draft action plan (www.berkshireplanning.org) regarding their goals and action plan.

Lastly, she reported that the DCEDC has scheduled a “sponsors” breakfast on Thursday, June 10, at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel.

Agriculture: Mr. Shute reported that the Red Hook Agriculture Roundtable, a new organization of farmers, has formed to meet monthly to share information and discuss the needs for agricultural infrastructure. They are going to research a shared processing facility in Kingston, converted from a former IBM kitchen. Also, they are will look for one-acre sites (with electric service) in Red Hook which could host a mobile livestock slaughter facility. Although second-stage processing would not be accommodated at such a facility, it was suggested that a mobile facility coordinated with the IGA could possibly offer a complete “kill-cut-and-wrap” opportunity. There is also a need for a shared processing/distribution facility for farmers to serve local restaurants – a one-stop, point-of-contact place to which farmers could bring their produce for pick up.

Mr. Shute agreed to research/contact the mobile slaughter house and report back to the Committee. It was noted the Committee needs to decide what role it should have with the Agriculture Roundtable, and with the Red Hook Agriculture and Open Spaces Committee.

Chairperson’s Report: Ms. Martin that another new group, Red Hook Together, has been formed by Bard College to promote greater community cooperation. Spearheaded by Elizabeth Giglio and Erin Canaan , Dean of Students, it includes the EDC, the Red Hook Central School District, the Town of Red Hook, the villages of Red Hook and Tivoli, and the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce. She said that on or about October 6, Bard will host the Northern Dutchess Career Expo.

Further, she said the Dutchess County Legislature had approved the Red Hook sewer project, appointing the Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority (DC Wastewater) as lead agency. This clears the way for final approval, although no definitive timetable has been announced.

Ms. Martin was concerned that so many of the town's advisory committees fail to report monthly, as required, to the Town Board, or that their reports are delivered by Town Board members.

She affirmed that John McEnroe, DCEDC president, is scheduled to be at the committee's May 27 meeting to discussion community visioning.

Adjournment: Ms. Martin, chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

Date