

Economic Development Committee, Town of Red Hook
Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 23, 2010

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Michelle R. Martin, chair, at the Red Hook Town Hall.

Present: Michelle R. Martin, chairperson; Christopher Klose, secretary; Beth Jones, Ben Shute, members.

Not Present: Christopher Clark, Theresa Haney, members.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Jones, with a second by Ms. Martin, the Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of Thursday, July 8, 2010 (attached).

Old Business:

Centers and Greenspaces Plan/Local Law – After discussion, members agreed to invite Maryanne Johnson, Northern Dutchess Alliance, to describe how the Alliance approached the issue of land use and taxes in its 2008 “Blueprint for Economic Development.” Members agreed that a statement on the Centers and Greenspaces Plan should refer point-by-point to the plan and be ready for review by mid-August.

Strategic Planning – The Committee thanked Ms. Martin for developing the list of local Village and Town contacts, and that all other such lists – of farmers, current Chamber of Commerce members, and others – should be completed by the end of August, in preparation for conducting informational interviews with those on the lists.

Mr. Shute reported that the Red Hook Agriculture Round Table has begun conducting tours of member farms, and that they are very instructive. It was suggested that the Round Table might open these sessions to key Red Hook constituencies, such as Town and Village elected leaders, and Chamber of Commerce members.

Committee Roster – Ms. Martin and Ms. Jones agreed to put the committee roster in an attractive graphic form. The roster is for distribution at all public gatherings, as well as placement on the Town Board Web site.

New Business:

Mr. Mark Burton presented his preliminary plans for developing the former Sky Park airport, a 100-acre parcel fronting on Rt. 199 to the east of the Village of Red Hook. He would convert the old hangar into a catering hall, primarily serving senior citizens within a 75-mile radius of Red Hook, whom he would bus in daily. His eventual goal would be a senior citizens’ day camp, featuring a factory outlet store and other attractions. He also would construct 15 rental cottages, secure a liquor license, and market weekend “fly ins” to general aviation pilots. He responded to questions.

Meeting Dates:

The Committee agreed to meet next on successive Thursdays, August 19 and 26, at 8:00 a.m. in the Red Hook Town Hall.

Adjournment: Ms. Martin, chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Klose, Secretary

Date