

Economic Development Committee, Town of Red Hook
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 26, 2010

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:14 a.m. by Michelle R. Martin, chair, at the Red Hook Town Hall.

Present: Michelle R. Martin, chairperson; Christopher Klose, secretary; Christopher Clark, Beth Jones, Ben Shute, members; Micki Strawinski, Town Board liaison.

Not Present: Theresa Haney, Susan Kochanowski, members.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Jones, with a second by Mr. Clark, the Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of Thursday, August 19, 2010 (attached).

Old Business:

Centers and Greenspaces Plan/Local Law – With the provision under New York State law for “Empire” zones apparently having lapsed, Ms. Jones volunteered to research what other incentives might exist to spur local economic development. Ms. Martin is to extend the committee’s invitation to Maryann Johnson, Northern Dutchess Alliance, and Michelle Greig, Greenplan, Inc., Red Hook town planner to meet with the committee at its September 9 meeting to clarify how municipal taxes are levied. The tax and business incentive research results are to be included in the Committee’s draft Statement on the Centers and Greenspaces Plan.

Strategic Planning – The committee reviewed the various lists of key organizations and individuals compiled by members and agreed to complete them by the September 9 meeting.

Community Visioning – The committee set April 11, 2011 as the target date for initiating the community visioning process.

2011 Budget – After discussion, the committee agreed that Ms. Martin is to draft a letter to the Town Board clarifying that, under New York State Town Law, the committee has until September 20 to provide its budget estimate to the Town Supervisor and Rose Ryder, budget analyst.

Committee Roster – Ms. Jones presented her design for the roster, which is to be posted on the Town of Red Hook Web site after slight revisions are made, including adding a quote from Dr. Kochanowski. The “final” roster is due at the September 9 meeting.

Agriculture Roundtable – Mr. Shute reported that Jim Highland, Winter-Sun Farms, has opened Farm to Table Co-Packers – www.farm2tablecopackers.com – to provide area farmers with the highest USDA-certified food processing capability in the mid-Hudson Valley. In view of this, the committee agreed that there would be no need to attract a similar establishment to Red Hook, and that the Red Hook farm, business and educational communities, in particular, need to know about this new opportunity.

Adjournment: Ms. Martin, chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Klose, Secretary

Date