

DRAFT
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, September 29, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Kristina Dousharm [KD] (Chair), Amanda Bodian [AB], Dan Budd [DB], Chris Klose [CK] (Secretary), Maarten Reilingh, [MR], Emily Sachar [ES], Vanessa Shafer [VS], Jacob Testa [JT] (*ex officio*), members; Karen Smythe [KS] (*interim* Mayor, Village of Red Hook), Melkorka Kjarval [MK] (Village Board member), Victor Feldman [VF] (Red Hook Daily Catch); Nichola Gray [NG] (Kate Mcleod)

Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Sachar and second by Ms. Dousharm, the Committee unanimously approved the amended Minutes of 09-22-2021.

Old Business:

Cannabis – KD: Recap of Town Board Meeting of Wednesday, September 22 (posted on PANDA-23); three hours duration; essence: MR spoke on EDC behalf on STRs and Cannabis; cannabis public hearing scheduled for October 12, with possible public information meeting prior; Board discussed EDC survey and comments; Board wanted separation of Village/Town data, but difficult because EDC represents the entire town; EDC survey matched Rhinebeck Village survey vis a vis “pro” for dispensaries, evenly divided on consumption sites; JT: Board did move to keep deliberation open via a local law “opting out” on both dispensaries and consumption sites by the end of the year; AB: NY State law cutoff for opting “out” is 12/31. EDC position to date: “for” dispensaries and “divided” on retail consumption sites. Data changes since Town Board meeting? 69-31 “fors” and practically evenly divided on consumption sites.

KS: EDC information is helpful to village residents but not many have evinced interest in the issue; DB: EDC Minutes from June on need to be posted on Town website (CK to send complete sets of approved Minutes from June to date to Town for posting).

Short Term Rental (STRs) – KD: synopsis of Town Board discussion of its 09-22-2021 meeting: Board focused on three points: 1. Allow un-hosted STRs in R-3 and R-5; 2. Allow “in” those properties adjoining ABD properties that are purchased by ABD farms, and 3. Prohibit in the R-1.0 and R-1.5 and Hamlet districts; KD: seems these points focus “on” the ITF proposal; MR restated the EDC proposal but there was apparent frustration by some Board members, who cut off his presentation; JT: wasn’t out of frustration but need to go into executive

session within the three-hour meeting limit; KD: should have been more time for discussing the EDC proposal; JT: there was too much time devoted to another,

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separate issue; ES: need opportunity to present EDC proposal to Town Board formally; KD: EDC did so three months ago, including all details then and subsequent follow up; JT: EDC memo was in the meeting packet and the Board members feel they know the EDC proposal and have heard the discussion points; getting on a future Board agenda could be helpful; personally, want to hear as many viewpoints as possible to understand the issue better before the Board sets a public hearing;

KD: ask, again, why are STRs permitted in the 1.0 and 1.5 districts and not the hamlets? JT: board consensus seems to be to keep hamlets as is; VS: respond to the issues that are outstanding; hard to counter ITF when two of its members are Town Board members; KD: JT, any advice as to how EDC should proceed? JT: most arguments are vetted and understood, so EDC should be involved in the public hearing, when it occurs; KD: watch the PANDA videocast of the Board meeting, then send a memo to the Town Board responding to the three points raised, while continuing to drum up more public support in advance of the public discussion;

DB: important to look at the future of the ITF, which currently is comprised of Town Board members; JT: disagree; members working on issues and then voting on them is appropriate; DB: the ITF's funding by the Town is problematic, puts EDC, other Town committees at a disadvantage;

KD: watch the video consider the three points, prepare for the public hearing and speak out, with additional support, at the hearing; KD: thanks to MR for a great job at the Town Board meeting; MR: had little time, unsatisfactory; maybe personal chats with specific Board members outside of meetings might help; believe the Board is focused on the ITF proposal;

Village Update – KS: thanks to all who made Hardscrabble Day, prepping for Halloween, too, with the VFW; CK: also, Historic Red Hook cemetery tour begins October 9 and at 7:00 p.m. this evening, a presentation by Peter Bunten of Enslavement and Anti-Slavery in the Hudson Valley, via ZOOM (registration required via historicrodhook.org);

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 6, 2021, via Zoom.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary