

Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Kristina Dousharm [KD] (Chair), Amanda Bodian [AB], Dan Budd [DB], Chris Klose [CK] (Secretary), Ken Migliorelli [KM], Maarten Reilingh, [MR], Emily Sachar [ES], Vanessa Shafer [VS], Jacob Testa [JT] (*ex officio*), members; Kim McGrath [KMcG] (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce), Victor Feldman [VF] (Red Hook Daily Catch); George Jahn [GJ]

Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. Reilingh and second by Ms. Bodian, the Committee unanimously approved the amended Minutes of 10-06-2021.

Old Business:

EDC Goals and Process – KD: discussion from last week; ES - should we be reactive or proactive? MR – always supported business, whether existing or attracting; past year we have advocated for appropriate actions by the Town and Village boards in support of business, starting with the law limiting franchises, food trucks; are we now in a third mode? Lobbying (politically) for our positions; continue or not? KD – re: the franchise/formula businesses was a wake-up because the Town Board was about to act, without much input from the EDC and scant clarification of the law. This prompted EDC involvement in the Short Term Rental discussion; MR – always have had representation on the ITF, so we should continue; VS – if we are advisory, we should continue; to be more productive, we could take on meeting a month to concentrate on new business development; DB – agreed; could also have an event(s) for small businesses to build camaraderie and business “education” in re: what are the positives and the negatives; for example, how could serve Bard, our farms better, more closely; encouraging winter-time cooperation to sustain them; AB – do more to attract, such as Kim/CoC Chocolate Festival; DB – should do a “road map” for new businesses vis a vis local perspective and advice; lots of power in decorating the village with flower baskets

(Notes from the remainder of the meeting to come from MR)

MR Notes:

DB — Seasonal decorations in village

Disc — Chamber's role, Tractor displays, Red Hook Rings

VS/KD — Extend tractor event to include regional farms

KM — Concur that we should focus town-wide

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MR — We should find someone who can represent Tivoli to join the EDC

KM — Reminded us of Chamber-organized business meeting. These are meant to be ongoing and inclusive town-wide.

KD — All our efforts are dependent on volunteer power.

MR — Regarding our dependence on volunteers; we should consider long-term goal to hire staff or create some sort of staffed Economic Development Authority

MR — Red Hook Happenings website is still functioning and provides viable framework, but requires paid staff for effective weekly updates

MR — Keep our focus on Red Hook Comprehensive Plan

KM — In EDC history, specific actions have generally proven to be more productive than grand schemes.

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 20, 2021, via Zoom.

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

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary