

DRAFT
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Present: Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Amanda Bodian, Chris Klose (Secretary), Marty Reilingh, Jacob Testa (*ex officio*), Vanessa Shafer, members; Robert McKeon (Red Hook Town Supervisor), Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Kim McGrath (Executive Director, Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce)

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

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. Reilingh and second by Ms. Bodian, the Minutes of the Meeting of May 20, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- **Updates** – Ed re: Village sewer: holdouts coming around; asked USDA for one-year extension on construction because of delays; start the project ASAP, go to bids; taking over the Senior Commons sewage treatment plant; Village matters = operating with reduced staff; tax letter re: two payments out to residents next week; Memorial Day muted this year, people subdued but a good show of support to the County Convoy; trying to open up but concerns remain. Pandemic's impact on Village business seemingly making contractor bids on the sewer about 15 percent higher than first estimated five years ago; will the difference between the estimate and the bids be borne by the residents? No. Problem is the sewer is designed to hold X, so can't reduce it by Y. No immediate way to make up the difference; would have to get additional funding via loans or grants; labor and construction costs risen dramatically over last five years.

Robert: Phase 1 began yesterday so Town's optimum Phase 4 would be open by mid-July, with restrictions; businesses have to submit one-page compliance plans; people generally complying with masks, gloves; Town's business list nearing completion but ask the EDC to help update; 2,400 face masks to get out with the Chamber and through the community; working with the villages to campaign for compliance; won't be a summer recreation program but tennis and pickle ball allowed; new park facilities being completed, including multi-sports field, lighting, new bathrooms, more should be done by mid-June; pool opening being explored through reserved times; need a tracking system in place for municipal facilities until there's a simpler resolution to the safety and liability requirements;

Kim: shorthand guidelines available rather than the State's? Especially when people assume everything is back to 'normal'. Ed: really not open,

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which most people understand. Marty: a visitor's guide in re: who's open, how to patronize; Ed: County has a fairly simple set, so use that as well as New York Forward. Robert: there is a requirement, so we need to adhere to it; could make signage available to retailers, restaurants; retail is Phase 2, requiring masks for browsers (six-foot spots); limited large indoor gatherings; NYS will continue tracking infection rate, which needs to remain at 1 or less; unfortunately, County is sending mixed messages; Dutchess County Fair is up in the air but Gov. Cuomo monitoring;

Robert: innovations to support local businesses, as per Hudson Bonds (\$25 for relief funds, \$25 for local shop gift cards)? Let the Town know. Challenge is that a non-profit is necessary to make such projects viable; Kim: marketing is key to any 'buy local' effort; Ed: ton of potential but need to get around the non-profit barrier to support our farms, which suffer from the closure of their traditional farm markets up and down the river; needs to be profit-oriented to make it work; Robert: central 'Shop Red Hook' campaign for one-stop shopping because it is an opportune time (Kristina: a logo to 'brand' Red Hook; we need doers; use Red Hook Responds as the model;

Next Steps: build a creative website; lots of talented people who could/can/are volunteering their time, a la Red Hook Responds;

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 3, 2020 via RingCentral.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary