

**DRAFT**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

**Present:** Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Chris Klose (Secretary), Amanda Bodian, Maarty 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 Chair Dousharm and second by Dr. Reilingh, the Minutes of the Meeting of June 3, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

- **Discussion** – KD: review of last week’s ideas for marketing/recovery, including the Hudson Bonds Initiative (50-50 coupons), others; need sufficient manpower and financials to be sustainable; maybe Town could sponsor some kind of help but not realistic because of straitened finances, layoffs, reduced budget; consensus: unsure how to proceed

Dan: up to restaurants, retailers themselves; we all need to help but so hard through the traditional ways, such as the Chocolate Festival, which are not feasible during the pandemic; we need to talk up/promote buying local (your dollar is your vote, which means patronizing local, unique family businesses and not Dunkin’); AB: businesses need to reinvent themselves (our map businesses is including Q codes, for example); Dan: business is up to 50 percent of last year, which permits downsizing re: employees/insurance costs, etc; people eating outside including old customers and new/transients;

Ed: Phase Two – getting outdoor seating arranged/changed the zoning regs slightly to accommodate/working with Barights, Yum Yum; June 19 folk group in Baright “Red Hook Eats” space to attract people, kickoff the summer season, including working with KZE to promote; KD: good to see the outside setups because they may generate new energy and business; Kim: need to open every nook in the village to businesses; Ed: Mike Mattoway (sp?) and Barights own Tobacco Lane but Mattoway wants only to sell and is averse to cooperating with the Village, which cannot officially do anything; KD: Village appears to be opening up and cooperating; let’s focus on generating more exposure, such as Williams store (may be a temporary closure, as Todd Baright has been told, but could be permanent.)

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Sewer update: continuing/possibly in three weeks take ownership of the RH Commons sanitation plant; late June early July go to bid, start building in late fall; optimistic; doing Zoom meetings/makes it more available, transparent.

**Next Meeting:** 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 10, 2020 via RingCentral.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary