

APPROVED
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.

STRs. Robert McKeon confirmed that the ITF has not been meeting during the Covid crisis.

The consensus of those EDC members who have attended the ITF meetings was that the group lacked diversity and was unwilling to hear opinions that did not match their own. It was explained that the Task Force members are supposed to serve for a limited term but this has not been the case in recent times. Mr. McKeon acknowledged the Committee's concerns.

Dan Budd gave an update on RHC and said how well the new farm program is doing. Farms have plenty of lettuce currently so they are able to donate that.

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