

NOTES
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Present: Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Amanda Bodian, Maarty Reilingh, Vanessa Shafer, Jacob Testa (*ex officio Bard*), members; Robert McKeon (Red Hook Town Supervisor), Nancy Lee (Petals and Moss), Juliet Harrison (Equis Gallery)

Call to Order: No quorum present.

Nancy Lee (Petals and Moss)

Reports slow down since beginning of Covid. Started off stronger with orders, now slowing down. Some individuals coming in, mostly from out of state. Street traffic is slow. Open Th-Sun regularly. Williams closure affected sales. Bookstore currently closed. Felicity closed. Taking orders from home, evaluating whether storefront is necessary.

Juliet Harrison (Equis Gallery)

Shops are dependent on each other being open. Red Hook Village needs a larger retail base, more activity to bring people in. Equis Gallery has always been supported primarily by online sales. Also contemplating whether storefront is needed. Last weekend was first strong weekend. People coming in from out of town/Bard.

Robert: Village could enact zoning to prevent service businesses from storefronts.

New population of people moving here may support additional businesses. Nature and character of our community is about to change quite a bit. There is a large population that does not shop downtown but wants to define what this community wants to be.

Germantown's success: close to Hudson, cheap houses, one business invested in bringing their friends.

STR legislation that is pro-business could possibly help.

Should EDC produce a document targeting specific businesses? What is working in similar towns? Other college towns in Northeast. Ice cream store, gelato? An anchor would be key. Target businesses in Rhinebeck and other towns that are looking for lower rent? Businesses that already have online business. Juliet and Nancy both willing to help in any efforts to support Village.

Respectfully submitted: Kristina Dousharm