

**DRAFT**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, September 2, 2020**

**Present:** Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Dan Budd, Chris Klose (Secretary), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Maarty Reilingh, Vanessa Shafer, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Kim McGrath (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce); Laurie Husted (Bard College/Town of Red Hook), Jude Alexis (Stuff4Hire)

**Call to Order:** With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Dr. Reilingh and second by Ms. Bodian, the Minutes of the Meeting of August 26, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

- **Local Business Update** – KD/et all re: progress; Has Been Books is working on reopening this month on a timed basis; Oblong doing the same in Rhinebek; Has Been opening the storefront is most important to add a sense of renewed life in the business district; Petals to Moss is moving to Greig Farm; Flair(sp?) moving into Paws storefront/how to present a more public space/attraction; former Mercator re-opening as a French restaurant; Sidelines re-opening as Sub Rosa Mexican restaurant (purchased the building);

Ed: Village outdoor dining scene coming down due to change in seasons; where is the restaurant business headed? Maybe pick-up foods for home consumption/more shelf-stable and lasting? Baright buildings being painted, Red Hook Eats remain open; Bard = monitoring returning students; Virtual Hardscrabble banner to replace Welcome Back Bard going up this week; sewer about to go to bid after approvals from the Feds of the bonding papers, titles, easements, etc; Exec Order 203 = police retraining/work with DC Human Rights Commission (5 across the county) on listening session/fact setting with DC Sheriffs, State Police, local police departments; Big concern is what happens to the village come the fall and winter?

Listening sessions need to be preceded by public information about the structure and form of local government, as per hamlets, villages, towns, counties, states; people don't know who's in charge of the police, how the system works; Dan: education = #1 and work with concerned groups to clarify the structure, the process, etc.

- **Restaurants** – Dan Budd: concerned about the change in weather’s impact on outside dining; TBudd’s ordered two outdoor heat stoves for the patio and the lawn, plus some snow sculpture for winter outdoor interest; supplies of paper goods = major garbage problem/help from Laurie Husted/Bard; staffed up for Bard return but didn’t spke normal business.

**Red Hook Responds** prep and delivery hours redone to accommodate volunteers; need a real mobile freezer (fund raiser needed) [thanks to Del for his freezer/RHCS for helping; IMBY piece by Emily Sachar excellent; Food Bank Agency: RHR becoming a member of the Regional Food Bank as a “soup kitchen”; TBudd’s continues to prep one-quart take out soups, other small products but has never taken off;

- **Grants** – Amanda: any grants available for the Chamber of Commerce? Kim: nothing now so will keep going through the end of the year, at which time we will resume dues payment schedule; Ed: Feds have the money under the CARES Act, which has focused on PPE/coronavirus-related crises, not funding business entities like the Chamber; Chambers not included in the SBA loan program; Red Hook Chamber down about \$25K at the end of the year; Chambers = 1950s model that is obsolete for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (tough last five years plus pandemic prevents getherings).

### **New Business:**

- **Jude Alexis, Stuff4Hire** – Dan Budd re: Jude Alexis (Stuff4Hire) -- thanks to Dan Budd for the invitation to present and Emily for her excellent IMBY piece on our business (presentation attached); S4H goal = restore community to improve quality of life; introducing platform for the Hudson Valley for finding like-minded businesses and individuals to work together/share infrequently used items (borrow rather than buy new);

KD: involve a local Scout troop, for example, for “services,” like gutter-cleaning/fund raisers? JA: at some future point, yes; also, lending groups can be created on the S4H website to promote familiarity of community and permit greater control of items borrowed; also, would appreciate S4H collaborating with local businesses, such as REALTORS working with new arrivals to the area;

- **Virtual Hardscrabble Day** – Laurie Husted: Town composting site video (20 mins) = one of the highlights;

**Next Meeting:** 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2020 via Zoom.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary