

**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, January 5, 2022**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Kristina Dousharm [KD] (Chair), Amanda Bodian [AB], Dan Budd [DB], Chris Klose [CK] (Secretary), Amanda Bodian [AB], Emily Sachar [ES], Vanessa Shafer [VS], members; Melkorka Kjarval [MK] (Village of Red Hook Trustee), Kim McGrath [KG] (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce), Victor Feldman [VF] (*Red Hook Daily Catch*)

**Call to Order:** With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Dr. Reilingh and second by Ms. Bodian the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of 12-08-2021 and 12-15-2021.

**Old Business:**

**Short-Term Rentals** – KD: Town Boat passed Local Law G3, which goes into effect in June.

**Sewer** – Groundbreaking occurred, work begun; schedule to be posted on Village website.

**Village Rezoning** – AB: EDC's interest is in the Gateway Business zone; Unlimited Future, a 3D prosthetic production company in Rhinebeck, could have been located in the Gateway, perhaps? KD: residential apartments allowed in the Business District? MJ: Yes, now legal. KD: central business district surrounded by residential then to mixed use; why? MJ: it was considered but two residents objected to the extension of the traditional business district, so the County reduced the size. MR: same situation on East Market as on South Broadway – not much residential along the highways, so would have liked mixed use to extend into the residential districts;  
(Discussion ensued)

**Business** – KD: received comments from former J&J owner after closing; visitors and new residents said, over and over, why aren't the stores and restaurants open during Christmas Week? Retailers must understand they have to keep holiday hours lest word-of-mouth gainsay Red Hook as a friendly destination (bad for business); DB: there have been inquiries about the J&J space but nothing solid; business hours are difficult because of the lack of staffing, overtime pay, Covid, and other stresses; unfortunately, it's a bad time for a business to close for an extended vacation because it forces employees off payroll; also,

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minimum wage is now \$13.25/hour; can't have a sustainable business without a solid staff; (Discussion to be continued in re: business opening hours, staffing, etc.)

**New Business:**

**NYS Development Block Grants:** DB – applications open until June for essentially free funding to support small businesses, public infrastructure, small businesses (25 or fewer employees); EDC could apply as a Town Committee for a small business project; Villages and Town could apply jointly; also, food insecurity funds available, so RHR is going to apply; emailed the application to the Town Board and the Village of Red Hook (Red Hook Elks Lodge closing in April due to lack of members, folding in with Hudson, eventually to be sold by Elks National); DB and ES to attend January 13 seminar on the grant process, report back to the committee;

MR: perhaps funding for a full time ED officer with half-time admin assistant for the three municipalities (volunteer power not enough to achieve goals/projects that could be undertaken); VS: let's discuss/decide about a quarterly economic report by April 1; DB: let's also figure out what kind of businesses in future are resilient to new viruses, changing demands – envision a plan for the next five years, making it easier for customers to shop;

**Action Item:** Members to research successful grants, continue discussion at next meeting.

**Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 12, 2022, via Zoom.**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary