

**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, January 6, 2021**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Chris Klose (Secretary), Keny Migliorelli, Maarty Reilingh, Vanessa Shafer; Robert McKeon (Supervisor, Town of Red Hook), Ed Blundell (Red Hook Village Mayor), Kim McGrath (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce), Emily Sachar, Paul Sturtz (Upstate Films)

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

**Minutes:** On a motion by Ms. Bodian and second by Ms. Shafer, the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of 12-09-2020 and 12-16-2020.

**Old Business**

- **KD** – Comprehensive Plan and Short Term Rentals (SRTs) linked? AB: yes; EB: two distinct processes, so linking would muddy the waters; conceptually linked but administratively differing processes; VS: both have to be tackled, for sure; draft letter to the Town Board okay; DB: STRs impact the economy and should be considered within a revised Comprehensive Plan; ES: topics inextricably linked; RMck: develop your recommendation independently (opinions will vary on each and every issue); Town Board’s role is to represent the whole, so must account for both “sides” of the STR issue; zoning must correspond to the Comprehensive Plan; entire plan doesn’t need to be redone if the STR change needs to be done timely; ES: should the EDC ask for a hiatus on the STR issue? MR: Let the letter stand on its own and be considered when the time comes, vis a vis the need to update the Plan and coordinate with the zoning code; EB: ITF has been working on the STR issue for years so there will be pressure to adopt it without Plan revision; KMcG: the two reviews are not in synch; VS: letter should emphasize the Plan needs to be updated and cite STRs as one of the elements needing consideration;

**EB:** Village now owns the sewer plant and is about to take ownership of the Red Hook Commons property; discussion ensued about getting more people into the village now that we have the new sewer system; visitors will need a place to stay, so the STR is a key piece of the necessary infrastructure; EDC should keep the pressure up on the Town to accommodate the village’s needs;

**Economic Development Committee**  
**Minutes of 01-06-2021**  
Page Two

**KD:** ITF update received: “not meant in more than a year; working on a recommendation, share with the EDC, continuing the process, then back to the Town Board for further review and potential action (after all appropriate information meetings and public hearings);

**RMcK:** recall that the ITF was planning to meet with the EDC prior to any recommendation to the Town Board; so clarify with the ITF; invite Bill O’Neill re: what’s the status and meet with us to discuss; only time a document needs to be “final” is when it goes to a public hearing;

**DB:** Must be collaboration between the EDC and the ITF; what’s the difference? Seems the ITF has power to have legal counsel, get things done; **RMcK:** ITF = 17 year history as an overall planning advisory committee that could/would work with all committees to advance the town’s interests; we want all viewpoints so keep the lines open and continue working together; not appropriate to leave issues alone, such as the STR; any document for a public hearing cannot be changed to ensure that everyone is on the same page; **ES:** EDC/any committee can bring a recommendation to the Town Board for “official” process, including legal review and language?; ITF’s purpose is to look at overall planning and zoning, hence the budgetary support;

**KD:** ITF has access to budget without going through the Town Board for approval, whereas the EDC/other committees to specific permission to access the budget; **ES:** what funds has the ITF used? **RMcK:** will supply the figures; a

**DB:** meeting with the ITF in the Village Hall was not very productive so would recommend that small businesses in the town be polled, included in developing a wider understanding of how the process works; need as broad a collaborative solution as possible; **RMcK:** concur that businesses should be included in the process, especially enumerating how much of their business is dependent on tourism/visitors (hard figures are critical); need to reach out to businesses and the public in order to move forward; **MR:** develop a survey? **KD:** discuss next meeting.

**Red Hook Responds** – **DB:** Christmas was outstanding accomplishment delivering meals, bell ringing; excellent fund raising through donations, the Spark Plug Foundation, others; freezer truck body to be installed soon – a free donation, with help from Todd Baright, others in donating all the necessary equipment for installation; Menus out for January, new surge of active volunteers; new services (gardening for the spring), Boy Scout

**Economic Development Committee**  
**Minutes of 01-06-2021**  
Page Three

snow shoveling; sharing food with other non-profits; considering monthly stipend increase to the Elks for their generous cooperation since they, like other community organizations, haven't been able to conduct their normal fund raising activities; raised \$103K-plus since founding RHR; new tutoring service with RHCS and the Bard Squad (6-8 tutors; bilingual support); TBudd's down 35 percent in December and 65 percent in January to date: running in the red but working to get through the first half of the month; thanks to the Village for quick snow removal; ready for the next round of loans to keep open but some staff about to go on unemployment because they need steady incomes... Volunteer!

EB: Thanks to EDC for the Holiday Display effort; lit up the village!

**Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., January 13, 2021.**

**Adjournment:** Chair Dousharm adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary