

**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, January 12, 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; Victor Feldman [VF] (*Red Hook Daily Catch*)

**Call to Order:** With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Dr. Reilingh and second by Ms. Bodian the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of 01-05-2022

**Old Business:**

**Updates** – DB: business okay at lunchtime; great support from the Restaurant Resiliency Program permits 40-50 meals a day for now but ends in March; Covid among staffers is problematic but have been able to hire; MR: lots of interest in local places for sale and rent but inventory is very tight and prices are holding;

**Small Business Block Grants** – MR and ES to attend the NYS Community Block Grant Program; \$78 million available in the state; \$300 K to \$2million for towns like Red Hook and can be for overlapping municipalities, such as the two villages; money must be spent within a year; could go up to \$85 K for specialized jobs, such as a computer/marketing specialist; further specifics to be clarified before June 30 deadline for receipt of applications, which then will be approved on a rolling basis; applications must accommodate low- and middle-income residents, required by HUD;

Ideas? AB: marketing expert would be invaluable to work with our businesses for a year; need to specify what he/she/they would do; and specify what the grant will pay for, such as a single website for marketing all businesses; KD: need to clarify the tasks the marketing expert would do;

Potential Survey? DB: ask what does your business need? MR: start the “ask” with a clear description of the money being made available for small businesses for such things as: websites, window dressing, social media, e-commerce platforms, visual signage, etc.;

Also, what kinds of businesses should qualify? Every business, including self-employed businesses/consultants/professionals (Schedule Cs, EINs, other); VS: announcing money available and then gathering responses should be first step; MR: “Village business assistant” to run marketing programs for the EDC to

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follow up EDC “tasks;” essentially a project manager. VS: good model to pattern after is at: [www.mountdesertisland365.org](http://www.mountdesertisland365.org).

**Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 19, 2022, via Zoom.**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:21a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary