

Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Chris Klose (Secretary), Ken Migliorelli, Maarty Reilingh, Vanessa Shafer, Paul Sturtz, members; Ed Blundell (Red Hook Village Mayor), Kim McGrath (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce), Emily Sachar (IMBY)

Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Bodian and second by Dr. Reilingh, the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of 01-13-21.

Old Business

- **KD** – Welcome to Paul Sturtz as EDC member and congratulations to KMcG for her appointment to the ITF; KMcG: Audubon Sustainability program update: includes economic development, safety, etc. in redoing a town's comprehensive plan, beginning with a "sustainability" survey of town residents (every five years), so we need to have Red Hook's comprehensive plan revisited every five years; KD: Red Hook plan does have that five-year codicil; KMcG: one of the first steps is a community survey, including citizen volunteers to do the survey, followed by topical work groups to further focus on the community's will;

DB: Good idea to plan community-wide communication process in advance of tackling specific issues, especially making it as easy as possible for citizen participation;

KD: EDC on record with the Town Board on necessity of reviewing the Comprehensive Plan, especially regarding Short Term Rentals (STRs) and what Red Hook businesses think about them; DB: need to focus on specific topics, such as STRs, and not recommend a complete review and rewrite of the Comprehensive Plan;

KD: Let's develop the survey, via Google Docs or Survey Monkey, using Volunteer help; DB: looking comprehensively: 1. Review the Plan 2. EDC's recommendation 3. How/when would the Town Board review and vote (will the Town Board have all the requisite information by June?); MR: if discussing a survey, it's focused on businesses' POV re: STRs (done via email) but not a community-wide survey at this point; shouldn't we just take the Marbletown model, adapt it to Red Hook and propose it to the Town Board (KMcG: or do the same with the Lennox one-pager), which

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could then refer it back to the ITF and the EDC; MR: take the Marbletown or Lennox models, review and adapt them in our next meeting, then send it on to the Town Board for comparison with the ITF's draft STR recommendation;

EB: Marbletown law stands alone as a template from the EDC to the ITF to consider it (without the need for EDC review and revision in advance) – better suited to the necessary timeliness (send it to the Town Board members individually and *en banc*);

Consensus: Marbletown model comments next meeting for review/consensus; survey of businesses for ongoing review;

EB: Sewer bids now out and waiting for response (\$4.9 million investment!); lining up bond steps in advance to accommodate the core project financing, if warranted; initial pricing, regulatory approval...

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., January 27, 2021.

Adjournment: Chair Dousharm adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary