

Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Present: Kristina Dousharm [KD] (Chair), Amanda Bodian [AB], Dan Budd [DB], Chris Klose [CK] (Secretary), Ken Migliorelli [KM], Emily Sachar [ES], Vanessa Shafer [VS], Jacob Testa (*ex officio*), Town of Red Hook Board liaison to the EDC, members; Karen Smythe [KS] (Mayor *interim*, Village of Red Hook), Kim McGrath [KMcG] (Executive Director, 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 8:34 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Mr. Migliorelli and second by Ms. Bodian the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of 01-26-2022

Old Business:

Updates – KD: business? Village: KS: Sewer underway despite the cold weather; pipe laid; zoning revised/proposed law and revised map on the Village website; public hearing on 02/14/2022; special meeting tonight to discuss water personnel; Jen Cavanagh appointed new Village Clerk; “Notify Me” is an open page on the website for notices from the village and others with news of any kind in order to broaden communications; 03/15/2022 election to officially elect the Interim mayor and a trustee vacancy, Noon to 9:00 p.m., at Village Hall; Covid test kits free today at Village Hall and the Library; KD: RHCS has lots of tests, too; DB: RH Responds is on the kit-giving list, approved by the Town, and are intended mostly for those who are restricted, can’t get out, immune compromised;

Small Business Block Grants – DB: Block grant overview; CARES Act has new provision to help communities through the pandemic; Red Hook qualifies for specific uses for the grants, preceded by workshops to inform municipalities and non-profits about applying by June 30; \$300K - \$5M; have to be expended in 12 months; KD: two challenges: 1) understanding which businesses could qualify, and 2) how the funds could be used; EDC has summarized the CBDG in a survey for Red Hook businesses, previewed by the Town and Villages prior to application; KS: might be difficult for individual businesses to cooperate, including use of the grant money, so need to clarify the goal (understand it’s a reimbursable grant, so difficult to fund given tight budgets) DB: this type of grant may stop us in our tracks but we are going to survey and inform the municipalities of the survey results; businesses would have to prove their payrolls; JT: Town Board met on the grant last week, discussed grouping all

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needs together under one grant package (for municipal and business needs), so we should work together; have the EDC survey preview the survey prior to distribution; KD: Certainly, for Town and Villages; singly or together, grant applications must be approved by each board; non-profits would have to answer all the qualifications, then could apply alone, or petition the municipality to apply with them; good idea could be an air handler for the Historic Red Hook to install a new air handling system to permit Covid-free gatherings indoors;

AB: can the money only be used for the specific purposes? DB: Yes. KS: for our restaurants, such as Rhinebeck's moving out into the streets? KD: Rt. 9 is a state road, so could not be used for outdoor seating/service; there are "grab and go" signs permitting stop-and-go takeout; ES: build the survey or go out now through Survey Monkey? KD: put it in Survey Monkey format, preview to the municipalities, then distribute after their okay; KD: just starting but most important step is to determine whom we are helping; Goal = distribute survey by March 1; KD: Daily Catch can distribute it and readers can pass it along, too; KD: draft out by Friday, 02-04-2-22, responses by Friday, 02-25-2022;

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 9, 2022, via Zoom.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary