

DRAFT
Economic Development Committee
8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 8, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Present: Dick Wambach (Chair), Todd Baright, Amanda Bodian, Kristina Dousharm, Chris Klose (Secretary), Ken Migliorelli, Erin Moore, Marty Reilingh, Jessica Stingo, George Verrilli, members; Harry Colgan (*ex officio*), Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Brent Kovalchik (Deputy Mayor of Red Hook), Kim McGrath (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce)

Not Present: Dan Budd, Kevin Mowry, members

Call to Order: With a quorum present, Mr. Wambach called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. Verrilli and second by Mr. Baright, the committee unanimously approved the Minutes of the meeting of February 22, 2017.

Old Business:

- **Refugee Resettlement** – After discussion, a motion by Dr. Verrilli and second by Ms. Bodian, the committee voted unanimously to amend (with two examples of successful resettlement) its position statement on refugee resettlement (attached) to the Town Board for consideration and adoption.
- **Sewer System Update** – Mr. Kovalchik reported that the Village has completed final paperwork for the \$4.9 million in financing from the US Department of Agriculture and New York State, including short-term bridge-financing by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, for the new system, and that the Village is coming to closure with Red Hook Commons on its acquisition of the Commons' treatment plant and accompanying acreage. Chairman Wambach thanked Mr. Baright for having his staff produce the final mailing list of recipients for the EDC's "Save a Date" postcard (attached), designed and printed by the chairman and ready for immediate stamping and mailing in time for the first "Sewer Conversation" at 8 a.m. at The Elmendorph on Wednesday, March 22.
- **Promoting the Village** – Ms. McGrath reported that some 20 village merchants had met in a "fluid, cooperative" meeting to develop ideas for promoting Red Hook businesses. She noted the meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the month, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Red Hook Community Center. Mr. Baright said that he had distributed Google My Business forms, urging would-be participants to complete them by March

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22. Adding historical perspective, Mr. Klose quoted from a 1948 *Red Hook Advertiser* editorial: "...After all, business in Red Hook is the business of all of them. One store forced to close can hurt every other store. But if Red Hook grows and prospers, so will every merchant and businessman in it. The time is now to think about that."

Next Meetings: 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 22, at Historic Red Hook at The Elmendorph Hall.

Adjournment: Chairman Wambach adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary