

DRAFT
Economic Development Committee
8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 12, 2017
Meeting Minutes

Present: Dick Wambach (Chair), Todd Baright, Amanda Bodian, Kristina Dousharm, Chris Klose (Secretary), Marty Reilingh, George Verrilli, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Brent Kovalchik (Deputy Mayor of Red Hook), Kim McGrath (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce); Vanessa Shafer (Gaslight Motel, Upper Red Hook)

Not Present: Dan Budd, Harry Colgan (*ex officio*), Ken Migliorelli, Erin Moore, Kevin Mowry, Jessica Stingo, members

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

Minutes: The Committee's prior three meetings were public information sessions on the new Red Hook sewer, co-sponsored with the Village of Red Hook, the Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce and the Red Hook Public Library; no minutes required.

Old Business:

- **Refugee Resettlement** – Mr. Klose is to transmit the Committee's recommended position statement on refugees to the Town Board for their consideration and action.
- **Sewer System Update** – Mr. Kovalchik reported that the co-sponsored information meetings about the sewer had been productive; that the draft conveyance document has been completed; the sewer-use law is being drafted; design is underway, and a promotional video is being produced.
- **Promoting the Village** – Ms. McGrath reported that the 20-member local merchants' committee is increasingly active, with "lots of chatter" on Facebook and a 10-percent off promotion underway.

New Business:

- **Red Hook Community Center** – Dr. Verrilli announced the new Community Center would host an "Open House" on Saturday, April 22, with a tree-planting ceremony to mark the center's official inauguration.

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- **Gaslight Motel, Upper Red Hook** – Vanessa Shafer, third-generation owner of the lodging begun by her grandparents 50 years ago, described the challenges she has encountered in gaining approval from the Town of Red Hook Planning Board to enlarge the motel from ten to twenty rooms, which, she noted, is both a “grandfathered” matter-of-right and complies with current zoning. The Committee asked that she provide a detailed accounting of the two-and-a-half year process, including her out-of-pocket costs responding to the Planning Board’s requests for information.

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 26, at the Village Hall, second floor.

Adjournment: On a motion by Dr. Verrilli and second by Ms. Bodian, Chairman Wambach adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary