

Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Present: Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Maarty Reilingh, Dan Budd, Jacob Testa (*ex officio*), Vanessa Shafer, Amanda Bodian, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Kim McGrath (Executive Director, Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce)

Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Old Business:

- **Tobacco Lane**

Owner seems uninclined to close TL to traffic out of respect for his first floor tenants. EDC considering commissioning rendering to exhibit what closing the lane to public traffic could conjure. Kim McGrath to draft a letter to both owners of Tobacco Lane on behalf of the EDC. Vanessa Shafer to coordinate rendering.

- **Village Update**

EB: Friday night music sessions has been rained out for the last two weeks. Noted a large number of village storefronts have sporadic, inconsistent hours.

Bard will be returning to campus in the next few weeks. EB suggests EDC and/or Village fund a welcome back banner.

Bard will be following stringent re-opening guidelines to ensure safe return for all on campus and in our community.

KM: Has sponsored stickers for stores and restaurants to post to exhibit that **all** are welcome which read "We Celebrate Diversity".

EB: Final easements on village sewer system have been signed. Village to go to bid Aug 3rd. A 60 day bid period will be followed by a 30 day review period.

- **Real Estate Market**

Those looking are mainly looking for move-in-ready quality homes. This could help Traditions which has been slower than expected to sell. Some controversy has begun on FB regarding water usage and the towns' plan to sell water to Traditions. EB explained the terms of the contract, how it will financially benefit the Village and in no way threatens its water quantity.

- **RH Responds**

DB: Business at Taste Budds has been busy. Hours are still slightly reduced but working out well. 50% of customers are new to the area. E-commerce business has been very successful. When in the business of quick service it's very helpful to incorporate advanced notice.

Dells recently had a positive COVID case of one of its employees that resulted in a temporary shut-down. This is a major threat to all service businesses, especially restaurants. It's essential to initiate plans to avoid it, and plans to handle it when it strikes.

Taste Budds has had no issues with unmasked clients entering the store. Everyone has been extremely conscientious.

Commended Wild Flower Café for doing a great job of transforming its outdoor space.

RHR is mainly run by college students who will soon be leaving for college which will leave large gaps to fill. The walk-in cooler is ready to be installed at Elks Club. McKeon to report back if formal Town approval will be required prior to installation.

DOH will require floor plan for service permit which is in the works.

The Masonic Lodge has offered their facility for storage.

Office of the Aging contacted RHR for volunteer food delivery to Staatsburg. It might be beyond the realm, distance wise, of what RHR can take on.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. Reilingh and second by Ms. Bodian, the Minutes of the Meeting of Jly 8, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Next Meetings: 8:30 a.m., Wednesdays, July 22, 2020 via RingCentral.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Vanessa Shafer, Interim Secretary