

Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, July 28, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Chris Klose (Secretary), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Ken Migliorelli, Maarty Reilingh, Emily Sachar, Jacob Testa (*ex officio*), members; Karen Smythe (Red Hook Village Mayor *interim*), Melkorka Kjarval (Red Hook Village Board), Kim McGrath (Red Hook Chamber of Commerce), Nancy Lee (Petals and Moss), Nichola Gray (co-owner, Kate McCleod, located in the Chocolate Factory with 15 employees)

Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Minutes: On a motion by Dr. Reilingh and second by Ms. Bodian, the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of 07-14-2021.

Old Business:

Village Updates – KS: sewer contracts signed, pre-construction meeting convened, construction to start in fall; Hardscrabble Day planning underway; East Market street water valves being replaced to stop leaking (repairs affected some businesses/Village will advise in advance of similar, future occurrences); NL: email blast to businesses would be most effective; KMcG: in-person notification is best based on past experience; KS: please give the Village the EDC business address lists to facilitate timely communication; DB: use Village water bill inserts to alert people, too;

STR Update – KD: pending before the Town Board; JT: on the board's August agenda but no action contemplated at the moment; AB: delay the process until after the election? KD: Town Board will soon act according to Supervisor McKeon; EDC should generate more letters of support; ES: how about AirBnB hosts petition from our list of owners? KD: we have contact list of those who came to info session, so good to ask them to continue to engage; JT: all letters received go in the public record; KD: feels like momentum has diminished; JT: there will be a public hearing prior to any Board action, which could or could not be done immediately after hearing is closed but most likely would not. ES: will send out petition form to the business list;

Red Hook Responds – DB: we're taking care of those who need help most, including the newly ill, elderly, single-parent families, the infirm; important for everyone to advocate for RHR (create a "Health Day" calendar for the community to keep the help going); first paid executive director to be named in August by the RHR Board, an at-home job done (40 hours/week); meal counts rising, don't know why (35 meals a day, including to Pine Plains); board said "yes" to mobile kitchen, first in this region -- \$130,000 kitchen on wheels, funded by a single donor's grant; need a docking place for refitting, either through the village or the town; kitchen assures local produce gets to people; \$50K grant from Cahill's

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office for food security will kick in soon; donations have dried up, so desperately need a grant writer; a principal goal is to become a line item in the village and town budgets; volunteers needed!; business side = labor shortage is severe, especially kitchen help; teenagers been wonderful filling in; lunch business booming.

Meeting Schedule – KD: meet on Wednesday, August 4, then resume second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in September.

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 4, 2021.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary