

Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, August 4, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Chris Klose (Secretary), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Ken Migliorelli, Maarty Reilingh, Emily Sachar, Vanessa Shafer, Jacob Testa (*ex officio*), members; Karen Smythe (Red Hook Village Mayor *interim*), Melkorka Kjarval (Red Hook Village Board), Kim McGrath (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce), Nichola Gray (Kate McLeod), Victor Feldman (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 Dr. Reilingh and second by Ms. Bodian, the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of 07-28-2021.

Old Business:

Village Updates – KS: County Covid rate going up so Village requires masks in the Village Hall; notice to proceed with sewer construction issued and work to begin in September/October; Village can opt out of commercial and retail marijuana but must act by December (seeking broad community input first); AB: EDC must consider consequences of the decision vis a vis retail tax revenues; like the Town, the Village can create its own law with conditions, such as 500' from a school, smoking, etc; JT: Town Board is meeting on the issue on August 10th and would appreciate public input; the Village board meets similarly on August 9th.

Discussion ensued in re: EDC position on opting out or permitting; in order to opt out, a local law must be passed by 12-31-2021; if opting out, there is an option to reverse through another local law “okaying,” which buys time to deeply consider the impact on the community, especially zoning changes to accommodate marijuana businesses;

Consensus: further consider the issue at the next meeting.

DB: need to prepare for the winter now due to the Delta variant, which is and will continue affecting Red Hook businesses, especially e-commerce, Covid requirements, employee shortage, supply delays, etc. KMcG: convene a meeting with the businesses to prepare, share experiences, determine the most common challenge and how to help ;

Consensus: **Meet Tuesday, 3pm on August 31** with businesses to identify their prime need(s) and any practical, manageable, achievable ways to meet it.

STRs – KD: EDC has received three public comments, spurred by ES's petition; JT: typically, Town Board agendas are announced two to three days before meetings; suggest EDC continue to support its STR proposal, including speaking at public meetings and generating positive public opinion.

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Meeting Schedule – Wednesday, August 4, then resume meeting the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in September.

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary