

**DRAFT**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, August 26, 2020**

**Present:** Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Chris Klose (Secretary), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Maarty Reilingh, Vanessa Shafer, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Kim McGrath (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce); Emily Sachar

**Call to Order:** With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Ms. Bodian and second by Mr. Budd, the Minutes of the Meeting of August 19, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

- **Tobacco Lane Discussion** – KD: No response to outreach so move on; Amanda emailed last week a list of vendors possible for a market; AB = just ask vendors for a three-weekend event to bring more people into the village, wherever the venue (barring Tobacco Lane); maybe a subcmte to explore the concept further? Yes, a few tables in a takeoff of the Chocolate Festival (which we're not having this fall); KMcG: Chamber closed until end of the year (out of funds) so incapable of producing events; will reconsider at the end of the year. Rhinebeck Chamber, too, is by appointment only; Choco Festival = \$9K cost; once Chamber figures 2021 dues income then can plan what may be possible; some main sponsors not in good shape, so they're in no position to help right now;
- **Red Hook Responds** – Dan: prepping freezer spaces for RHCS breakfasts and lunches and local food exchange, including TBudd's freezer truck; Nick Ascienzo helping with Del's Dairy Cream; really need the walk-in to work in order to get the foods out of RHCS system; need help to lift 300-pound compressor 8 feet to the roof, so could the Village go to the Elks Lodge to do? EB: yes. ASAP.

RHR produce to Community Action Partnership = successful, for the most part (walk in cooler will help); nurturing farmer relationships (Migliorelli been stellar); expect fall produce surplus so trying to get restaurants to prep frozen meals (local food keeps costs down 75%); community food drive last week/local community's shelf-stable foods drop off at the Masons; when local pantries need to order they can go to RHR pantry first (extra warehouse for the winter);

Trying to make sure helpers can help us so creating "sign up assistant" jobs to accommodate people who don't have computers but want to help

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especially meal assembly; donations have dropped off; RHR first in line for Bard's leadership scholars, which should be a boon in new ideas/help; inspection okay by Northeast Regional Food Bank (Fed-supported), documentation completed and civil rights training to come (for meal preppers); RHR needs to be community-supported in its financial costs going forward (always donations and volunteers needed, as well as a paid executive director); need more targeted fund raising to set financial goals, including Town and Village line items for particulars, such as computers;

Kim: RHR Board of Directors? Yes, Dan, Nick and Steve Appenzeller, so far; but need an expanded, more representative board plus a business plan for the long term (people with specific skills/experience are welcome and need to be cultivated to make "it" happen);

Maarty Reilingh: got charged 5% surcharge for a restaurant pickup (Salvatore Pizza); Dan: takeout supplies are very costly but necessary to keep protecting people (but generate overwhelming garbage, too);

Emily Sachar: new volunteer project/citizen editor of Indy Red Hook online publication (western Mass into Columbia County and Red Hook); calendar of events, et al; citizen-generated content so could we have the Chamber's e-list for a blast invite to participate; instantly updates but this raises liability issues due to misinformation (not meant as objective reporting, a la the NYT); Hudson = 50k unique visitors monthly.

- **ITF** – no meetings until further notice
- **Virtual Hardscrabble** – EB: looking very good/need to get the word out;
- **Sewer Update** – EB: all documentation in, waiting for bid green light to start; USDA cooperating; Village struggling a little bit; Labor Day coming up; cold weather makes it tough for our restaurants;
- **Potential Hotels** – EB: Tom LeGrand property (George Cole building) may become a 40-room hotel (Long Island investor interest); Red Hook Electric potential cooled off due to COVID and asking price (\$800K)

**Next Meeting:** 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 2, 2020 via Zoom.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary