

**DRAFT**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, September 29, 2021**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Kristina Dousharm [KD] (Chair), Amanda Bodian [AB], Dan Budd [DB], Chris Klose [CK] (Secretary), Maarten Reilingh, [MR], Emily Sachar [ES], Vanessa Shafer [VS], Jacob Testa [JT] (*ex officio*), members; Karen Smythe [KS] (*interim* Mayor, Village of Red Hook), Melkorka Kjarval [MK] (Village Board member), Victor Feldman [VF] (Red Hook Daily Catch); Nichola Gray [NG] (Kate Mcleod)

**Call to Order:** With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Ms. Sachar and second by Ms. Dousharm, the Committee unanimously approved the amended Minutes of 09-22-2021.

**Old Business:**

**Cannabis** – KD: Recap of Town Board Meeting of Wednesday, September 22 (posted on PANDA-23); three hours duration; essence: MR spoke on EDC behalf on STRs and Cannabis; cannabis public hearing scheduled for October 12, with possible public information meeting prior; Board discussed EDC survey and comments; Board wanted separation of Village/Town data, but difficult because EDC represents the entire town; EDC survey matched Rhinebeck Village survey vis a vis “pro” for dispensaries, evenly divided on consumption sites; JT: Board did move to keep deliberation open via a local law “opting out” on both dispensaries and consumption sites by the end of the year; AB: NY State law cutoff for opting “out” is 12/31. EDC position to date: “for” dispensaries and “divided” on retail consumption sites. Data changes since Town Board meeting? 69-31 “fors” and practically evenly divided on consumption sites.

KS: EDC information is helpful to village residents but not many have evinced interest in the issue; DB: EDC Minutes from June on need to be posted on Town website (CK to send complete sets of approved Minutes from June to date to Town for posting).

**Short Term Rental (STRs)** – KD: synopsis of Town Board discussion of its 09-22-2021 meeting: Board focused on three points: 1. Allow un-hosted STRs in R-3 and R-5; 2. Allow “in” those properties adjoining ABD properties that are purchased by ABD farms, and 3. Prohibit in the R-1.0 and R-1.5 and Hamlet districts; KD: seems these points focus “on” the ITF proposal; MR restated the EDC proposal but there was apparent frustration by some Board members, who cut off his presentation; JT: wasn’t out of frustration but need to go into executive

session within the three-hour meeting limit; KD: should have been more time for discussing the EDC proposal; JT: there was too much time devoted to another,

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separate issue; ES: need opportunity to present EDC proposal to Town Board formally; KD: EDC did so three months ago, including all details then and subsequent follow up; JT: EDC memo was in the meeting packet and the Board members feel they know the EDC proposal and have heard the discussion points; getting on a future Board agenda could be helpful; personally, want to hear as many viewpoints as possible to understand the issue better before the Board sets a public hearing;

KD: ask, again, why are STRs permitted in the 1.0 and 1.5 districts and not the hamlets? JT: board consensus seems to be to keep hamlets as is; VS: respond to the issues that are outstanding; hard to counter ITF when two of its members are Town Board members; KD: JT, any advice as to how EDC should proceed? JT: most arguments are vetted and understood, so EDC should be involved in the public hearing, when it occurs; KD: watch the PANDA videocast of the Board meeting, then send a memo to the Town Board responding to the three points raised, while continuing to drum up more public support in advance of the public discussion;

DB: important to look at the future of the ITF, which currently is comprised of Town Board members; JT: disagree; members working on issues and then voting on them is appropriate; DB: the ITF's funding by the Town is problematic, puts EDC, other Town committees at a disadvantage;

KD: watch the video consider the three points, prepare for the public hearing and speak out, with additional support, at the hearing; KD: thanks to MR for a great job at the Town Board meeting; MR: had little time, unsatisfactory; maybe personal chats with specific Board members outside of meetings might help; believe the Board is focused on the ITF proposal;

**Village Update** – KS: thanks to all who made Hardscrabble Day, prepping for Halloween, too, with the VFW; CK: also, Historic Red Hook cemetery tour begins October 9 and at 7:00 p.m. this evening, a presentation by Peter Bunten of Enslavement and Anti-Slavery in the Hudson Valley, via ZOOM (registration required via [historicredhook.org](http://historicredhook.org));

**Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 6, 2021, via Zoom.**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary