

**DRAFT**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, September 30, 2020**

**Present:** Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Chris Klose (Secretary), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Maarty Reilingh, Vanessa Shafer, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor, Village of Red Hook), Robert McKeon (Supervisor, Town of Red Hook), Emily Sachar (IMBY)

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

**Minutes:** On a motion by and second by, the Minutes of the Meeting of September 23, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

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- **Holiday Décor in the Village** – Baright Family decorated their buildings in the past but may not going forward so maybe try something different? Such as tractors or the 1929 Buffalo RHFD pumper in front of the Elmendorph, elsewhere; CK = 1950 Farmall A and virtually decorated wagon; Amanda = display on the Soap Factory lawn; George V's old car/truck displayed, too; Vanessa = speak with I2Evolve (Popolizzo); spaces = Key Bank, Elmendorph front lawn, Baright office building lawn(?), Soap Factory lawn, plus individual businesses, municipality sites (Town and Villages); holiday decorations lighten everyone's mood; virtual Santa Claus /festival of lights reverse-parade through both villages; judged contest for best snowman, etc;

Ed: tie in with tree lighting, Santa Claus-in-the-Village motif; talk with Todd, report at next meeting; Village newsletter for the holidays can publicize the resulting plan(s); Also, Village moving Friday night eats to Saturdays between 4 and 6 p.m. and a headliner band for the Columbus Day weekend to cap the COVID019 outdoor season;

Robert McKeon: lighting upgrades around town from October 1 for six weeks, changing to solar power/led lights; community solar award (Heisenbottle) on November 9; Town Board meeting 09/23 agenda is on the Town Calendar – mostly technical but also to enable Intramunicipal Sharing Agreements by authorizing an officer of another municipality to perform functions in the building and zoning department.

Dan: drift of bells distributed throughout the village to be rung in unison throughout the holiday season (or the Dutch Reformed Church bell

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ringers); "Red Hook Chimes In!" weekly, set-time bell ringing from Dutch Christmas through Epiphany; Red Hook Responds working with Rhinebeck now, delivering 400 meals there; food pantries, churches and Red Hook Fire Department supported for holiday meals (Thanksgiving and Christmas) to celebrate community; 30 donations jars soon to be placed around town to raise funds; NYS Dept of Health searching for a venue for breast and prostate cancer screening education/testing campaign; food bank food safety ordering and training/six hours required; many local businesses need to apply for PPE loan forgiveness (six months deadline) now to be in compliance (applications submitted only once, so need to be very careful);

Emily Sachar – IMBY story suggestions about things in the pipeline? Winnakee Land Trust; Henry Heisenbottle Award contact? Reached out to Bard and RHCS re: IMBY article suggestions/writing; Kristin: follow up with the High School because they're looking for activities to do before fulltime schooling resumes post-pandemic;

- **Local Business Update** – Maarty: real estate tide is rising with Brooklynites quickly gobbling up properties at above-market prices; entry and senior downsizing residential properties flying off the shelf (Kingston listing/3 offers above list, with one bid from California); for the most part, people moving here to stay lock, stock and barrel; Red Hook School District #1 attraction for families;

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

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary