

DRAFT
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Present: members, Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Maarty Reilingh, Vanessa Shafer, George Verilli, Jacob Testa (*ex officio Bard*), Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Robert McKeon (Red Hook Town Supervisor), Kim Gomez, Red Hook area Chamber of Commerce, Emily Sacher.

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. Verilli and second by Maarty Reilingh, the Minutes of the Meeting of October 7, 2020 were unanimously approved. The minutes of the meeting of September 30 remain to be approved.

Old Business:

- **Holiday Lights** . Kim has written a letter to the local farms but does not have email addresses for all of them. Maarty agreed to revise the email lists and migrate them to our server so that the emails on the lights, the bells and the Library programs on both Now and Then and Story Walk.
- **Local Business.** Flat Iron restaurant has installed 3 small green houses to accommodate some outside diners. The Village has approved them.
- **Sewer Project.** Ed Blundell reported that the USDA still has to review one more document.
- **Report from the Village Mayor. Halloween:** Ed Blundell explained that the Red Hook Halloween celebration and parade have been canceled due to the Covid epidemic. The Village will be putting out advice regarding trick or treating based on the CDC's advice. Ed suggests that if home owners do not want trick or treaters at their doors then they should keep their lights off. **Street Trees** Red Hook is part of Tree City USA and has planted over 800 trees in both public and private spaces. Ed will be contacting the owners of building opposite the Village Hall, where some mature trees were just removed, to see if the Village Green Committee can help replace the trees.
- **Red Hook Responds.** Dan Budd reported that they are just receiving their first supplies from the Food Bank which includes chicken, beef, pumpkin pie filling and more. RHR is currently delivering 57 meals on most days. Wednesday will become a double delivery day as well as

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Saturday. The walk in fridge is working well and is allowing for pickups to be made without going inside the Elk's Lodge. RHR is still in dire need of a freezer. Bard College has appointed a student who will provide tech support to RHR. RHR will be offering the Fire House food resources and the Food Bank for their Thanksgiving dinner.

- **STRs.** The Committee discussed the changes that the Pandemic has made to people's needs regarding STRs and that this experience may make a difference to how the new laws will be written. Robert will update us as to when the ITF will meet again and will have information on new members.

New Business

- **Comprehensive Plan.** Kim Gomez said that she had recently read the Comprehensive Plan and commented that it does not address tourism in detail and does not mention STR's because of when it was written. It was agreed that the Plan needs to be updated and Chairman Dousharm will circulate the current plan so that the Committee members can read it and discuss it at the next meeting. It is understood that any updates are done by the Red Hook Town Board although the committee can advise the Board. Robert mentioned measuring the appetite of the Town Board on revising the Comprehensive Plan
- **Sharing Strengths.** Dr. Verilli told of his experience in Nova Scotia where villages shared details of programs and events with other villages so as to encourage visits to each other's activities that has lead to more vibrant outcomes. He suggested that we should consider reaching out more to our neighboring towns and villages. Ed Blundell said that we have very good relationships with the neighboring communities.

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 21 via Zoom.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9.32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Amanda Bodian