

Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Present: Kristina Dousharm [KD] (Chair), Amanda Bodian [AB], Dan Budd [DB], Chris Klose [CK] (Secretary), Ken Migliorelli [KM], Marty Reilingh [MR], Emily Sachar [ES], Vanessa Shafer [VS], members; Melkorka Kjarval [MK] (Trustee, Village of Red Hook); Victor Feldman (Red Hook Daily Catch); George Jahn [GJ]

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

Minutes: On a motion by Mr. Migliorelli and second by Dr. Reilingh, the Minutes of 06-08-2022 were approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Updates – KD: Grant update – Town resolved to go forward and will work with the Hudson River Housing Group (Poughkeepsie) as administrator; State has approved grant submission by end of July, with \$50K for HRHG and \$900K for farmworker housing; KD – very positive on all counts for cooperation among the parties, including groundwork by the EDC; ES – has Town indicated how the funds are going to be distributed? Not yet; going for maximum grant possible, backing out the 5-percent admin fee, then apportioning the available funds to the applicants who are best qualified; criteria to be determined; Town unanimously approved (06/14) applying for the grant;

KM – Need to confirm how the funds are distributed/awarded because significant cash needed to implement improved worker housing; possible to tap the Community Fund? Perhaps; ES – don't have to front the total sum; DB – JT previously said the Town has the funding to implement;

ES – Bard intern confirmed, starts early July working on the EDC mailing list for businesses aggregated in master list.

Village Update: KD – hobby shop opening in former Kimlin Energy on North Broadway; DB – Chickadee opening in former Modern Taco and updated the new J&J shop's owner (Lauren) on the ins-and-outs of Red Hook business success, including suggesting she speak with other restaurant owners, especially Flatiron's;

KD – EDC goals, please contribute new ideas; AB – new Chamber exec? Agatha starts 07/01; CK – one-stop info stop? KD – Yes, making certain everyone is in synch, from Red Hook Together to individual businesses; overarching goal is to communicate regularly with businesses via email; MR working with the Hardscrabble Committee and will meet with the Chamber about its new goals/plans; CK – central pool of Red Hook volunteers critical; DB – Red Hook Responds' volunteer group initially to be for all Red Hook volunteer needs;

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also, major priority would be an EDC-sponsored/organized business workshop (VS – share Business Boot Camp idea/plan); MR – Women’s Enterprise Development Center (Newburgh-based, regional in scope) is a good source of relevant information;

MK – Town Communications Committee meeting on 06/13; interested in expanding Town Calendar website to incorporate Red Hook in the Hudson Valley or something to position “Why Red Hook?”; DB – tried open-access updating by organization/business but failed, so a designated staffer to handle could be successful; Town Clerk and Deputy attended;

Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 22, 2022, via Zoom.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary