

APPROVED
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
Meeting Notes

Present: Kristina Dousharm, Amanda Bodian, Jacob Testa (*ex officio*), Chris Klose (Secretary), Marty Reilingh, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Kim McGrath (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce), Emily Sachar and Joel Gordin

Call to Order: Without a quorum, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Minutes: Without a quorum, approval of the Minutes of December 11, 2019 were tabled until the next meeting (Wednesday, March 11, 2020).

Old Business:

- **Discussion** – Marty Reilingh re: state of the real estate business; back to pre-boom prices in 2014 but plateauing since; affordable housing is very tight for starters and empty-nesters downsizing; fixer-uppers are going like hotcakes, however, and being turned or rented; under-300K houses are moving, 500K or higher are not; everybody (part-timers/second homers) is considering AirBnB, charging what they can get; people want the walking village, privacy, water and other special land features; traditional village houses are in demand, in Red Hook and Tivoli; 2020 outlook: industry is busy due to mild weather, national politics, NYC financial industry bonuses, other factors
- **Introductions** – Jacob Testa new Town Board liaison: overviews and recommendations central to the Board's consideration and potential action, monthly reporting to the Board; EDC members; Emily Sachar and Joel Gordin;
- **Sewer Update** – Third version of the design now with the DCty Health Dept and expecting approval soon; also working with DEC for comments on wastewater discharge prior to going out to bid (Riverkeepers = key commenter); also, need title to existing RH Commons sewage treatment plant; litigants beginning to agree (Bucky Coon); going out for bid as soon as these steps are accomplished.

Also, Village Board modifying zoning from Highway Business to General Business to include the old GLF/Red Hook Electric and Zitz's gas station, as well as Firehouse Lane to enable connection to the Town's TND);

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- **AirBnB** – Discussion re: lack of transparency by ITF, etc; set up separate, independent STR task force; email to group in re: Northern Dutchess Alliance (NDA) involvement in the STR/supersede the ITF;

Next Meeting: Attend NDA breakfast (\$35/head) Meeting at the Beekman Arms, 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 26. EDC to meet Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Adjournment: Chair Dusharm adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary