

**APPROVED**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

**Present:** Kristina Dousharm, Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Jacob Testa, Chris Klose (Secretary), Ken Migliorelli, Marty Reilingh, Vanessa Shafer, George Verrilli, members; Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook); Kim McGrath (Red Hook Area Chamber of Commerce)

**Call to Order:** With a quorum present, Chair Dousharm called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

**Minutes:** On a motion by Mr. Budd and second by Ms. Bodian, the Minutes of the Meeting of March 18, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

- **Coronavirus Update** – Mayor Blundell: landlords considering possibility of rent accommodation/relief; both businesses and landlords need each other; complex situation. Based on feedback from Kim and Ed, is there any way the EDC can assist the dialogue, figure out options; federal small business loans? Majority of Red Hook businesses don't own their buildings; also, average = \$10K/NY county (62 total); who is to survive, who not and how is the decision made? Tivoli and Red Hook Villages are at risk (Enchanted Café has closed permanently)

Restaurant curbside business at 30% of normal and is not sustainable; Dan Budd's focus on Red Hook Responds: food prep and delivery system to feed the hungry; (online presentation); recap of mission, website up later today; volunteer bank/preferences/times/etc; database management and hotline (with prompts to users in re: what's available, from whom, when and where, etc.); now outreaching to 700+ elderly to get them the information re: RHR Responds and if they're computer savvy; main piece is to harvest volunteers (who will be screened and trained); vols get email invites to specific tasks, times; donate = GoFudMe page as RHR LLC 501(c)3; need funds to operate; [Dan does dry run for the Committee]; won't deliver groceries for the time being; pharmacy pickups similar (CVS taking orders over phone, volunteers can pick up and deliver); neighborly chat/connection to volunteers, who could connect them, in turn, to available social services; meal delivery responds to requests (name and addresses) to Red Hook Eats (St. Christopher School, St. John's Lutheran, 3 others), all food prepared, put in 1- and 4-portion bags for pickup; available 1X/day between 1 and 5 pm; "Menu of the Day" available in the morning, with food stored in McKeon's cold storage and another; system backing RHR = shift leaders (meals, pharmacy, etc) need to be online to receive requests from RHR operators (4 to start) – apps would

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notify the volunteers of their daily assignments; cooking team/financing team (Steve Appenzeller, Nick Ascenzio)/pharmacy team; all volunteers wear RHR t-shirts for identification/reassurance; "I have a passion for this; feel chosen; it's in my lap now..." Dan Budd.

Kristina: thank you for all you've done! How can we keep this going to help our businesses (in addition to the humanitarian mission); Dan = can tread water until the virus passes but can't think about that now; No Dutchess Hospital contracted Taste Budd's for 40 meals/day for Kingston; Kristina, getting the word out is the challenge, how can we help businesses with info on how to negotiate with landlords, what help may be available, etc...

Ed: Chamber doing a good job; thrust is to keep people alive through RHEats; bigger question: RHR needs insurance so going to put them under the Village policy (technically within the Village's confines, only); fear that Town is reluctant to follow suit, so EDC should reach out to the Town; must cover the volunteers and those served; Dan: think the Town may consider me a conflict-of-interest (Dan, "EDC help with all your power to make it happen! Can't worry about the insurance any more; have to get on with the mission of feeding people.")

Jacob: Town Board mtg tonight will discuss...

KD: invite businesses to next meeting to tell us what they need, how they can help? Kim: can e-blast to the business community, including topics they can respond to, what may be common issue(s) and how to deal with them; Board will use virtually/digital platform to be identified; RingCentral platform being used = Village's subscription;

KD as Chair of the EDC insists that the Town include Dan Budd in its insurance coverage; KD = do it!

**Next Meetings: Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. until further notice.**

**Adjournment:** Chair Dousharm adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary