

**DRAFT**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2020**

**Present:** Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Amanda Bodian, Dan Budd, Chris Klose (Secretary), Marty Reilingh, Jacob Testa (*ex officio*), Vanessa Shafer, members; Robert McKeon (Red Hook Town Supervisor) Ed Blundell (Mayor of Red Hook), Kim McGrath (Executive Director, 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 Dr. Reilingh and second by Dan Budd, the Minutes of the Meeting of April 29, 2020 were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

- **Coronavirus Update** – Chair Dousharm: update from Ed on Village; Ed: Last Friday received DEC plant operating permit; admin work goes on, including final easement; COVID-19 reopening vis a vis the village: manufacturing and construction component = Phase 1, retail = Phase 2, restaurants = Phase 3; analyzing what we can do to facilitate each phase/make rents affordable/reduction/create a community space to build restaurant capacity (on the sidewalk, for example, for those that have the space/or a visible community space like the Hardscrabble Day tent on the Village Parking Lot (foregoing the “paper chase” of the County and Village regulations); for example, the Soap Factory, which has a lawn and parking;

Kim: please keep the Chamber in the loop vis a vis rolling out plans through the Chamber’s network; Ed, particularly interested in working with the landlords to help keep their tenants “live” by, for example, relaxing some of the regs that govern businesses; working with the Town, Red Hook Responds, the County;

McKeon: arts, entertainment, education, summer recreation = Phase 4; Red Hook probably not going to have summer rec because of the liability; trying to get as many masks as possible to help facilitate summer activities; want to work with the Chamber to help support local businesses (225 on the list so far);

RHR stockpiling masks at the Elks/want to share? Goal is to get a mask to everyone, especially the vulnerable; if not, then mailing; want everyone to be prepared prior to Phase openings; Town will continue to leverage all sources to get the vulnerable population ready for July 1 Phase 4 opening; homemade masks okay? All Town can do is ask people to support local businesses/make sure people are aware of the businesses and what they can do;

**Economic Development Committee**  
**Minutes of May 6, 2020 Meeting**  
Page Two

McKeon: an alphabetical list that needs to be categorized vis a vis “auto repair,” “restaurants,” etc. Kim: may be a way the Chamber can sort it out prior to the list being publicized;

Potential Townwide fund for PPE, other needs (since national funding is unlikely); Marty: got an SBA email re: loan; Dutchess Business News update daily distributed = good forum; KD: if you’re proactive, it’s good, but confusing to those who need it most: might consider hiring someone to assist small business to help connect them technically to the helpful programs (one-stop info stop at the Town to handle, especially, the questions regarding reopening); NYS Restaurant Association has four people doing this/providing basic update info and Q&A; Ron Hicks doing it for the County but big concern is May 15 “opening” may take some time or even go backwards;

Dan: connect local businesses to the County’s resources, such as business seminars; send the County online address to the Chamber business list; all the business are being asked to reimagine how they will operate in the future vis a vis social distancing, monitoring, enforcing, especially in light of the Board of Health is understaffed and will be inundated; Village is “essential” but staffing is reduced because of potential positive virus tests (highway department is reduced, for example.

RHR: Red Hook Commons = very vulnerable/RHR delivering meals to the entrances only every day; some residents can’t leave their apartments so we need to get people to deliver to their doors; maybe have emergency responders in PPE to deliver or, maybe, use robots; met with Robo Raiders at the High School and they’re excited to help/looking at a drone to drop meals off on patios or hallway drone drop offs at doors identified by strips on the bottoms of doors; need RH Commons floorplan ASAP/Village will look but probably not have digital access; there is a site superintendent so can contact that person; RHR needs an elevator operator for the dinner delivery period between 4 and 5 to accommodate the robot delivery (could be a building resident just to press the floor button)

Dan: NYT interested in doing a piece on RHR, especially New Yorkers who are social distancing in Red Hook; mini-documentary of RHR sent to them; PR to all news outlets to share the good news; have smaller bites available for social media push, too; also, non-emergency transportation = necessary for those who do not want to use an ambulance, and, people who are unable to pay rent and medical bills/create a system to help, especially immigrants who have applied for asylum but are afraid they’ll be disqualified if they seek medical help; also, people are asking for money so there perhaps needs to be

**Economic Development Committee**  
**Minutes of My 6, 2020 Meeting**  
Page Three

some kind of fund for this; RHR maximizing resources to feed those under 60 because those over 60 are being served through the County Senior Services Committee; RHR has its top four services, could direct inquiries to the County; RHR operators strapped (424 volunteers now): McKeon: do the openings correctly lest we suffer further economic impact; Ed: think about a virtual graduation for RHHS seniors or, perhaps, an organized parade throughout town; Red Hook Moms working on a graduation celebration;

Dutchess Community Action Agency on East Market is the place to refer people seeking money/refer to food pantries, County and Federal resources; also, they prep bags of staples for pickup at the Agency;

Dan: highlight how our businesses are responding to the needs/could spur more business; people need to realize the way they were served pre-COVID is not possible/need patience;

**Next Meeting:** 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2020 via RingCentral.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary