

**Economic Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, June 16, 2021**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Kristina Dousharm (Chair), Chris Klose (Secretary), Dan Budd, Ken Migliorelli, Maarty Reilingh, Emily Sachar, Jacob Testa (*ex officio*), members; Karen Smythe (Red Hook Village Mayor), Melkorka Kjarval (Red Hook Village Board), Sarah Carlson, George Karpel, Bob Skypala, Gabriel and Nike Guccione, Denise Sullivan, Lisa Murray, Mat Zucker, Siobhan Liddell, Victor Feldman (The Red Hook Daily Catch)

**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 Ms. Sachar, the Committee unanimously approved the Minutes of 06-09-2021.

**Old Business:**

**Short Term Rentals (STRs) –** KD: STR presentation (attached) with questions at conclusion;

Comments: GK- any provision for inspection of the properties? Town or village? Specifics TBD but when zoning restricts uses, there are few options available through the Zoning Board of Appeals, so critical to hear from the public.

MZ – huge STR fan; attracts would-be residents; posture should be welcoming/how do we do more? How onerous is the proposed special permit for unhosted STRs.

GC – Health and safety standards? Details on the Town’s website to be posted; ES to send around to attendees.

BS – Move to restrict STRs? STRs not governed by prior regulation/legislation because it’s a new form of lodging; how many STRs lodge Bard parents? Unknown

DB – Three points: 1. Hear STR owner comments; 2. Encourage hosts to look up Host Compliance; 3. Need to welcome people to Red Hook to help businesses, which can offer discount cards to STR owners to distribute

SC – We host residents’ family members, tourists, Bard parents; (video interrupted); resumed: STR workshop by ITF in 2019/public questioned “why are we regulating?; ITF task force – members from every interest/business/municipality in town to represent the town-at-large; all Town committees constituted by volunteers applied to the Town Board;

ES – Vanessa describe the Comprehensive Plan as it relates to the issue; CP does not refer to tourism/28 years old/needs to be revisited due to changes of the last few decades;

MR – Agrees that the Comprehensive Plan does not adequately address STRs; disagrees that concurrent membership on the ITF and Town Board represents a conflict of interest.

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BS – My STR benefits jobs/hired a manager/contractors for maintenance and upkeep spent \$30,000 in 2020; my problem is the Town is making an issue out of nothing; 15 years owned the house/rehabbed for STR use (9G between Kerley Corners and Kidd Lane);

GAccascina – Same as BS's situation; we use 100 percent of the property to pay for our town and school taxes; one room in the house dedicated to STR/important to our living in Red Hook;

VS – In order to register for an STR, according to the ITF, it must be the principal residence; number of STRs in Red Hook fallen from 70 to 29 over the pandemic period, with only one formal complaint (in 2019);

KD – Speak if you'd like; Denise, Bob, Lisa;

Denise – super host/without management job, wouldn't have survived; did Omega prior to the pandemic; STRs great way to bring people to town to patronize our businesses, enjoy Red Hook;

BS – House was 15 years in disrepair; was considering investing in the town, so put lipstick on it initially; then \$160,000 to rehab the place for commercial purposes;

LM – Thanks for doing this as volunteers who work; one bedroom that I rent out; we don't have enough lodging; applaud you for your position; would a petition from the public help? STR regulation makes no sense so how do we stop?

KD – good idea/would you like to head the effort? Address letters to Town Board with copies to EDC; any/all public input would be good; mid-July = EDC submits STR proposal;

DB – EDC is advisory to the Town Board; I support a petition that includes local businesses, too; how does the proposal go before the Town Board? Supervisor makes up the agenda; it's urgent to get the EDC proposal on the agenda;

ES – Distribute draft petition to EDC for comment/uniformity;

SL – Unclear about the issue but do maintain a Barrytown STR;

**Next Meeting: 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 23, 2021.**

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

Respectfully submitted: Christopher Klose, Secretary