

**VILLAGE OF RED HOOK WORKSHOP MEETING  
VIA RING CENTRAL  
AUGUST 19, 2021- 7PM**

PRESENT: Mayor Karen Smythe, Deputy Mayor Brent Kovalchik, Trustee Melkorka Kjarvel, Trustee Charlie Laing, Deputy Clerk Gregg Stolarik. Trustee William Noonan was absent.

Mayor Smythe opened the August 19, 2021 Village Workshop Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#1. Mayor Smythe began the meeting wishing to provide a public information session regarding the marijuana law officially known as the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act and provide information to the public about what is the law and what is allowable and not allowable in the Village. The Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act regulates the retail sale of adult use of marijuana but is not expected to begin until the very earliest late 2022. There are a lot of details around the regulations that still need to be worked out. Also there needs to be a Cannabis Control Board that needs to be developed with nobody being named to that board yet. The Mayor stating that adult use of marijuana is now legal in the state of New York. The sale of marijuana in a retail store is not and requires a license from the Cannabis Control Board that is still in formation. The 2 issues are, do we want to opt out of allowing retail stores within the confines of the Village and or opting out of on-site consumption sites. The laws that apply to smoking tobacco products would also apply to smoking marijuana products. So the question we have in front of us, (The Village of Red Hook) do we want to opt out of allowing either retail establishments or on site consumption sites within the confines of the Village. If the Village opts in we still have the ability to have zoning regulations that would determine where they are allowed and other perimeters around which they would be allowed to operate. If the Village chooses to opt out there needs to be a local law in place by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. In order to have that law in place we need to allow for by permissive referendum which requires 30 days and there are other things that go along with enacting a local law that requires us to make a decision by September in order to have a local law in place by the end of December. We can opt out now and choose to opt in later after passing another local law to opt back in. But if we do not opt out now, we cannot opt out later. If we choose to do nothing now we will be automatically opted in. Some zoning issue information that should be known is that the State forbids the retail sale or on site consumption within 500 ft. of a school and 200 ft. of a house of worship which is similar to the alcohol laws. All cannabis sales will be subject to a 4% local sales tax and 25% of that goes to the County and 75% stays with the municipality. If the Town and Village of Red Hook opts in we would split that remaining 75% of the 4% local sales tax and that split would be whatever we agree on with the Town. If an agreement can't be reached it will be split in half. So the Village will wind up with at least 1 ½ % of all sales within the Village. If the Town opts out the Village will get the whole 3%.

#2. Meeting continued with a discussion about the LED Purchase Program. Mayor Smythe handing over the mic to Trustee Charlie Laing. Trustee Laing stating the LED Purchase program has been something the Village has been working on for a long time. Basically a state sponsored program through NYPA (New York Power Authority) which gives municipal communities the ability to acquire and maintain their street lights which otherwise are maintained by Central Hudson. Part of the project which is to be a

more energy efficient and greener system by switching over to a mixture of sodium and non LED lighting to pure LED lighting which has a huge energy efficiency. The main goal is to no longer rent the street lights from Central Hudson and use the LED lights to be more efficient and save \$. Currently we are renting the speed light fixtures from Central Hudson and for a small budgeted municipality that annual budget of rental fees is considerable. Close to being able to move forward and pin down the finances.

#3. Hardscrabble Day. Mayor Smythe taking the time to thank Trustee Kjarval for taking the time and energy to take over such a **established event where the planning time was cut to less than ½ than** previous years and not having a Hardscrabble Day at all last year. Trustee Melkorka is heading the committee along with Amy Smith, Dawn Jardine, Corin Molinaro, Sara Ugolini, Laurie Husted, Moe Blackmore and Jeffrey Walsh. Still, lots of planning to be done.

#4. Mayor Smythe with a quick note about the Union negotiations for the Police and the Highway personal and that the Village will be in a position to present both those contracts at the September meeting.

#5 The Mayor then chose to motion to end the meeting and Deputy Mayor Kovalchik second the motion, Meeting adjourned.