

RED HOOK TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 25, 2026

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York was convened in public session at the Town Hall, 7340 South Broadway, Red Hook at 7:30pm.

Present: Supervisor Robert McKeon
Councilmember William Hamel
Councilmember Kristina Dousharm
Councilmember Jacob Testa
Town Clerk Deanna Cochran

Also Present: Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke

Via Videoconference: Attorney for the Town Christine Chale, Esq.

Absent: Councilmember Kenneth Migliorelli

Supervisor McKeon opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and reviewed the agenda.

Announcements:

The Fishing Contest for Kids will be held Saturday, April 11th, 2026 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Saw Kill Creek in the Recreation Park East.

The Repair Café will be held Saturday April 18th, 2026 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Red Hook Community Center.

Arbor Day will be celebrated Saturday, April 25th, 2026 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Town Hall.

The Drive Electric Vehicles Demo will be held Sunday, May 3rd, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Town Hall.

Clean Up Day will be held May 2nd, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm beginning at Town Hall.

A Drive Electric Vehicle Demo will be held on May 3rd, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Town Hall.

E-Waste Day will be held Saturday, May 9th, 2026 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Highway Department parking lot.

Apple Blossom Day is being held Saturday, May 9th, 2026 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Village of Red Hook.

Shred Day will be held Saturday, May 9th, 2026 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Public Comment:

Roxanne Fischer, Barrytown resident, stated the Town missed a legally required March 18th, 2026 deadline to answer a petition challenging the December 9th 2025 determinations and local laws, with a final deadline of April 10th, 2026. Roxanne Fischer stated this is third proceeding surrounding the eminent domain acquisition of the Red Hook Boat Club, showing a pattern of prolonged litigation and mounting legal expenses. Roxanne Fischer stated that either Councilmember Hamel or Councilmember Testa could rescind their vote and halt proceedings.

Surplus Properties of Water District #1 – Discussion:

Supervisor McKeon stated the Water Department is interested in disposing of several smaller parcels in the Linden Acres area. Supervisor McKeon stated the land is not buildable and has a maintenance easement for mowing. Supervisor McKeon stated the Board could explore obtaining the parcels and build a micropark. Councilmember Dousharm asked what the cost of maintaining the park would be. Councilmember Hamel stated the board could do an evaluation. Supervisor McKeon stated the Board should do a site visit. Councilmember Dousharm stated she would like to review recent projects for their cost of maintenance and make sure the Town is not spending more than the Board expected.

Task Order for Traditional Neighborhood District Water District Map, Plan, and Report:

Supervisor McKeon stated the proposed task order would amend Task Order 2024-9 for the preparation of a preliminary review and a Map, Plan, and Report for the possible creation of new water district to coincide with Sewer District #1. Councilmember Dousharm asked if she could be provided the legal fees associated with this project. Town Attorney Chale stated she could estimate the cost and provide the information for the next meeting.

On a motion by Supervisor McKeon seconded Councilmember Dousharm to approve Task Order No. 2026-3 related to the Map, Plan, and Report

Adopted Ayes 4 McKeon, Hamel, Dousharm, Testa
 Nays 0

Champlain Hudson Power Express Pilot Agreement Request:

Supervisor McKeon stated this project has been added to the Assessment Roll, with a valuation of approximately \$12.5 million dollars being within the Town. Supervisor McKeon stated the State is being challenged because the utility is not yet operational. Supervisor McKeon stated the Board has been given a pilot agreement to review which would provide a predictable schedule for payment to the Town. Supervisor McKeon stated the Board does not need to take action tonight. Councilmember Testa stated it would be useful to see a comparison of revenue from a flat tax rate versus the pilot agreement. Supervisor McKeon stated he would provide comparisons to the Board for their review.

Resolution Authorizing Application for NYS LGRMIF Records Management Grant

Town Clerk Deanna Cochran reviewed the grant application for an inactive records inventory. Supervisor McKeon reviewed the resolution.

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
RESOLUTION NO. 12
DATED: MARCH 25, 2026**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR NYS LGRMIF
RECORDS MANAGEMENT GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk has requested the submission of a grant application to fund a records management project for Town records in order to enable more efficient compliance with FOIL requests, identify records required for document retention, and improve planning for future records maintenance and management;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, County of Dutchess, State of New York (the "Town"), as follows:

1. The Town Supervisor, or in his absence or unavailability the Deputy Supervisor, is authorized to submit an application to NYS Archives/SED for a 2026/2027 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grant in an amount not to exceed Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) to fund review and indexing of Town records and updating of procedures for records maintenance and disposition.
2. The Town Clerk is the Records Management Officer for the Town.
3. The Town confirms that it has adopted the State Archives' Record and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1).
4. The officers, employees and agents of the Town are hereby authorized and directed for and in the name and on behalf of the Town to do all acts and things as may be necessary or, in the opinion of the officer, employee or agent acting, desirable and proper to effect the purposes of this resolution.

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Hamel, seconded by Councilmember Testa, to wit;

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
RESOLUTION NO. 12
DATED: MARCH 25, 2026**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR NYS LGRMIF
RECORDS MANAGEMENT GRANT**

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Robert McKeon	VOTING <u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Kristina Dousharm	VOTING <u>Aye</u>
Councilmember William Hamel	VOTING <u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Kenneth Migliorelli	VOTING <u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Jacob Testa	VOTING <u>Aye</u>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted

Reorganization:

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

On a motion by Councilmember Testa seconded by Councilmember Dousharm to appoint Christine Kane as a member of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for a term to expire December 31st, 2026

Adopted	Ayes	4	McKeon, Hamel, Dousharm, Testa
	Nays	0	

11 members *2-year appointment*

Chair- Julia Solomon **2026**

Vacant **2026**

Christine Kane 2026

Laurie Husted 2026

Dennis Kanuk 2026

Jennifer Mañon 2026

Chuck Mead 2026

Hart Migdal 2026

Sam Phelan 2026

Tricia Reed 2026

Ben Shute 2026

Julia Solomon 2026

Consultant: Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress

Liaison: Jacob Testa

Bard College: Taun Toay

Village of Red Hook: Melkorka Kjarval

Village of Tivoli: TBD

Housing Committee

On a motion by Councilmember Testa seconded by Supervisor McKeon to appoint Van Scott as a member of the Housing Committee for a term to expire December 31st, 2027

Adopted	Ayes	4	McKeon, Hamel, Dousharm, Testa
	Nays	0	

9 Members *2-year Appointment*

Chair- David Sokol **2026**

Vacant **2026**

Vacant **2026**

Vacant **2027**

Hart Migdal 2025

Trish Dantzic 2026

Adrienne Truscott 2026

Cat Viega 2027

David Sokol 2027

Van Scott 2027

Liaisons: Jacob Testa

Town's liability insurance would cover the program and would not have a material increase from the program. Councilmember Dousharm asked for options regarding the potential program.

Department and Committee Reports:

ASSESSOR: The office is finishing exemption renewals with a deadline of March 31st, 2026. The Tentative Assessment Roll is being prepared with a deadline of May 1st, 2026. Grievance Day will be from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on May 26th, 2026 at Town Hall.

BUILDING & ZONING: For the month of March 2026, there were 17 building permits, 65 inspections, 73 CO / CC's, 2 complaints, and \$4,125.00 in revenue.

Highway – Request for Authorization to Purchase Two Pick-up Trucks:

Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke reviewed a request for purchase of 2 standard pick-up trucks. The request states that the Highway Department determined electric vehicles were not suitable options as the vehicles would be required to provide emergency services. Councilmember Hamel asked if there are no EV trucks that have caught up to standard vehicles for the purpose of emergency services. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke stated her research has not found any that are equal to or better than their current trucks and that the electric option is not best for the Department. Councilmember Dousharm stated she agrees with Highway Superintendent Burke. Supervisor McKeon stated he disagrees that EV's would not be suitable, that if she studied the topic of EV's as much as he does then she would know, and the Town Procurement Policy requires the Highway Department to provide green procurement options. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke stated the Highway Department would not be applying for the trucks. Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke left the meeting. Councilmember Dousharm stated she does not believe the Highway Department is rejecting the idea of EV's but finds them inappropriate for this emergency use. Supervisor McKeon stated if Councilmember Dousharm studied the topic she would not think so. Councilmember Hamel stated he would like justification from other towns that have utilized EV's as to why the Town should use standard vehicles. Supervisor McKeon stated he would send the green procurement policy to the Highway Superintendent so the request can comply with it. Councilmember Dousharm stated this should not stop the process and asked if the Board should take action on this request. Supervisor McKeon stated they would not and he would take his time to send the Highway Superintendent the electric options he knows are comparable. Supervisor McKeon stated he is very in touch with the community, and it is in favor of reducing emissions.

Department and Committee Reports (Continued):

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: For the year of 2025, highlights include paving on Jefferson Road, Adams Road, Woods Road, cape sealing on Grandmour Drive and Seymour Drive, and drainage pipe and catch basin installation on Shady Lane. The Department responded to 27 winter storm events, replaced 210 feet of culvert pipe, removed downed trees at 47 locations, mowed 470 miles of road shoulder and patched roads using 676 tons of asphalt. The Department provided shared services to the Town of Milan and Town of Rhinebeck and assisted the Recreation Department with hauling materials. The Department facilitated the Town Electronics Recycling event through coordination with the CAC. The Department purchased a "Chipper Truck" for \$167,000.

POLICE REPORT: For the month of December, 2025, there were 133 incidents in the Town, with another 12 incidents in Tivoli, 29 tickets, 0 parking tickets and 2 arrests. For the month of January, 2026, there were 111 incidents in the Town, with another 11 incidents in Tivoli, 24 tickets, 1 parking tickets and 3 arrests. For the month of February, 2026, there were 106 incidents in the Town, with another 10 incidents in Tivoli, 27 tickets, 0 parking tickets and 5 arrests.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: The Recreation Director attended the State OCFS Grants Application Workshop, requesting another \$15,000 this year. Branden Tator and Scott Stoddard will be running this year's fishing contest. The stream will be stocked on April 10th, 2026. The NYSPHSAA spring sports season began on 9 March 2026. Joe Coon, Gary Coon, Tom Peters, and Brian Merrihew will return to work at the park in 2026. The High School Spring Sports Season opened March 9th, 2026 with a baseball game scheduled for March 18th, 2026. The Recreation Director submitted the signed 2026 DCCFS Grant Agreement on 16 December 2025. The Town will receive \$15,000 to support the 2026 summer youth programs. Resolute winter walkers and runners in the park put deep footprints in the stone dust track. To prevent injuries, all of these should be repaired at the very start of spring. Stone dust trails are a great cushioned surface for runners and walkers, but they do require constant maintenance to repair washouts. The Recreation director will reach out to former Summer Recreation Playground Councilors this month regarding

job offers. Summer Program Signups are scheduled for the first two Saturdays in June. The Summer Programs are scheduled to begin June 29th, 2026 and end July 31, 2026.

TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION: The 2025 Tree City USA Recertification Application has been approved. A written proposal requesting permission to install a bench at Rec Park West has been approved the Recreation Director. Plans for the April 25th, 2026 Arbor Day Celebration continue to evolve, with invitations being sent to the Community Center, Liberty, and the Conservation Advisory Committee and tree and handouts having been ordered. Spring tree planting sites have been finalized for Budd's Corners Road, Pitcher Lane, and Rec Park West. Tree City materials, including 2 new signs, 20 -year stickers and a new flag, have arrived. More is on the way, including materials about the 25 Million Tree initiative. Mill Road School nature outings are being scheduled for the end of April.

WATER DISTRICT NO. 1: Councilmember Hamel stated there is nothing outstanding to report for the March Work Session Summary and the Town is going out to bid for rehabilitation on Well #1. Councilmember Hamel stated there were some homes experiencing dirty water but the department is aware of it and is exploring solutions.

Correspondence:

Supervisor McKeon reviewed a request from the Red Hook Library asking for funding from the Town to partner with the Dollywood Foundation Imagination Library, an initiative that delivers a free monthly book to children from birth to age 5.

On a motion by Councilmember Hamel seconded by Supervisor McKeon to approve collaboration with the Red Hook Public Library to partner with the Dollywood Foundation Imagination Library

Adopted Ayes 4 McKeon, Hamel, Dousharm, Testa
 Nays 0

On a motion by Supervisor McKeon seconded by Councilmember Testa to enter into Executive Session to discuss a matter under negotiation the disclosure of which could materially effect the price

Adopted Ayes 4 McKeon, Hamel, Dousharm, Testa
 Nays 0

The remainder of the minutes are provided by Supervisor McKeon:

11:50 pm On a motion by Councilmember Testa seconded by Councilmember Hamel to exit Executive Session

Adopted Ayes 4 McKeon, Hamel, Dousharm, Testa
 Nays 0

11:55 pm On a motion by Councilmember Hamel seconded by Councilmember Testa to authorize the Supervisor to work with counsel on matters in negotiation that were discussed in Executive Session

Adopted Ayes 4 McKeon, Hamel, Dousharm, Testa
 Nays 0

11:56 pm On a motion by Councilmember Hamel seconded by Councilmember Testa to close the meeting

Adopted Ayes 4 McKeon, Hamel, Dousharm, Testa
 Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Cochran, Town Clerk

