

HOUSATONIC IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Whereas, in accordance with the authority granted to it by the Great Barrington Town Charter, the Selectboard may create special purpose committees; and,

Whereas, the support of a thriving Housatonic Village is a goal of the 2013 Great Barrington Master Plan approved by the Planning Board and Selectboard;

Whereas, a thriving Housatonic Village will benefit existing and future residents and businesses of the Village specifically as well as the Town of Great Barrington generally.

Now therefore, in response to the need to encourage redevelopment, infrastructural advancement, and cultural growth in the Village of Housatonic, on this day of December 9th, 2019, the Selectboard hereby resolves and creates the Housatonic Improvement Committee, as set forth below.

ARTICLE I: TITLE AND PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Housatonic Improvement Committee (hereinafter the “Committee”) is to foster the social, and cultural well-being of Housatonic.
2. The purpose of these regulations is to establish the responsibilities, duties, composition, and procedures for the operation of this Committee.

ARTICLE II: RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

1. Research, understand, evaluate and advocate local issues, challenges and opportunities encountered by those who live, work, and do business in Housatonic.
2. Coordinate and collaborate with other local groups organized to meet the needs of Housatonic residents.
3. Review and make recommendations about policies, procedures, services and activities of departments and agencies of the Town of Great Barrington as they affect residents of Housatonic.
4. Work in cooperation with the departments and boards of the Town of Great Barrington - to bring about maximum participation of Housatonic residents.
5. Initiate, monitor, and promote legislation at the municipal, state, and federal level which advances the prosperity and opportunity of Housatonic residents.

6. Recruit and recommend prospective Committee members to the Town Manager. At least one month prior to making recommendations, the Committee shall solicit nominations and ensure that said nominations meet the necessary criteria.

7. File an annual report, which shall be printed in the Town report.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

1. The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Town Manager. All members must live in Voting Precinct B. At least one member shall be either an elected or appointed official of the Town.

2. The terms of the first members of said Committee shall be for one, two or three years, and so arranged that the term of one-third of the members expires each year, and their successor shall be appointed for terms of three years each.

3. Resignation shall be made by notifying the chairperson of the Committee and the Town Manager in writing.

4. If any member is absent from three regularly scheduled meetings in any one calendar year, a recommendation shall be made to the Town Manager that he/she be removed from the Committee, unless any or all absences have been excused for good cause by the chairperson. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to: illness, a death in the family, weather, and professional responsibilities.

5. The Town Manager shall fill any vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment.

6. The Selectboard may remove or override the appointment of members of said Committee for cause by majority vote of the entire board, as described in Chapter C, Section 6 (d) (4) of the Town Charter.

7. Members shall get the approval of the Committee prior to making statements or joining activities on behalf of the Committee.

8. All members shall have full voting rights in Committee matters.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

1. The officers shall include a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary.

2. Officers shall be elected annually by the majority vote of the Committee, at the first meeting after the annual Town elections in May.

3. Duties:

- a. The chairperson shall:
 - i. Develop the agenda in coordination with the other officers;
 - ii. Preside over all meetings;
 - iii. Appoint Subcommittees as needed;
 - iv. Authorize expenditures as needed.
- b. The vice chairperson shall perform all the functions of the chairperson in his/her absence.
- c. The secretary shall:
 - i. Keep records of all meetings attendance, minutes, and correspondence.
 - ii. Post notices of all meetings forty-eight (48) hours before each meeting at the Town Clerk's Office.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

1. Regular meetings shall be held at least four (4) times a year.
2. A quorum shall consist of four (4) members.
3. Meeting minutes will be reviewed, amended and approved at the next meeting.
4. Special meetings can be called by the chairperson.
5. Decisions will be made by a majority of the quorum.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed amendments to these regulations may be recommended to the Great Barrington Selectboard, which may in turn vote to approve, modify and approve, or disapprove on proposed amendments.

HOUSATONIC IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE GOALS

1. PROMOTE GROWTH OF CULTURE & THE ARTS IN HOUSATONIC.

- Identify cultural and arts organizations in the community and explore ways through which they can bring their work to Housatonic.
- Work with the Cultural Council to identify grant funding opportunities for the arts that pertain to Housatonic.

2. IDENTIFY & ENCOURAGE REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN HOUSATONIC:

- Explore redevelopment opportunities for unused or underutilized properties, whether publicly or privately owned, in Housatonic.
- Explore ways through which former mill facilities can be redeveloped in a way that benefits all in the community.
- Promote other vacant properties and encourage development.

4. INCREASE ACCESSIBLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- Work with housing authority to increase adaptable and accessible housing.
- Meet with local builders/developers to encourage development of accessible and adaptable housing.

5. PROMOTE ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER

- Work with Housatonic Water Works to ensure that the quality of drinking water in Housatonic is on par with that provided in Great Barrington.
- Work with Housatonic Water Works to ensure that infrastructure pertaining to water is well maintained.

6. PROMOTE INCREASED DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN HOUSATONIC

- Working with appropriate staff and boards including the Selectboard, Town Manager, Planning Staff, Building Inspector, and Department of Public Works, identify ways through which Housatonic can promote renewable energy infrastructure and other sustainable practices.

7. IDENTIFY AND ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE

- Working with appropriate staff and boards including the Selectboard, Town Manager, Planning Staff, Building Inspector, and Department of Public Works, identify ways through which Housatonic's infrastructure can be improved.
- An example includes reviewing and, if need be, addressing pedestrian safety measures in the village.

Revised:

February 10, 2020

March 9, 2020