

DRAFT

Housatonic Improvement Committee Meeting

August 17th, 2023; 6:30pm

Housatonic Community Center (the Housy Dome)
1064 Main St, Housatonic, MA 01236

Members present:

Angela Lomanto (chair)
Eric Gabriel
Ben Elliot
Louise Goldsmith
Scott Shortt (virtual)

Members absent:

Beverly Nourse
Daniel Bialowas (vice chair)

After sorting out technical difficulties Eric made a motion to open the meeting at 6:49PM. Ben seconded. The meeting was opened by unanimous vote, 5-0.

Angela read Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18 as well as MGL. c. 30A sec. 20F regarding recording meetings.

The first item on the agenda was the Housatonic wide garage sale.

Heather was present to talk about the town wide garage sale. She stated that the energy from PITP (Party In The Park) inspired this effort, and 22 houses would like to participate. Heather had questions about permitting. The town was aware of this event, but wasn't sure how to permit. The town is now asking for a permit for all participants. Heather also asked all participants to put up and take down signs. The Berkshire Eagle and the Berkshire Edge will help to promote this event, along with iBerkshires and the Shoppers Guide. The purposes of this event is to say hi to neighbors, to resell things to people who will love them and keep them out of landfills, and some participants will be donating proceeds. The event is Saturday the 26th of August from 9-2 with a rain date of Sunday.

The second item on the agenda was approval of minutes.

Eric made a motion to accept the minutes from May 18- June 6 and June 15 as revised to include roll call votes opening the meeting.

The third item on the agenda was Committee reorganization.

Eric nominated Angela to remain chair. The Committee unanimously voted to keep Angela as chair with a vote of 5-0. Angela proposed putting the vice chair position discussion on hold, as Daniel was absent, and the Committee agreed.

The fourth item on the agenda was areas of work for the Committee.

After spending the previous months focusing on the Party in the Park, the Committee decided what the next priorities are. Angela requested that everyone reads the Cooks Garage report. Eric suggested having Joe Aberdale in for a meeting to discuss current projects, and also requested discussing permanent power At the Housatonic Park. Louise asked if the picnic tables were permanent, and Ben reported they were.

Scott proposed a few ideas, including trying to make cell phones work better in Housatonic, work that is being done for fiber optic to the library and fire station, looking at the Housy Dome, how it's used, what it needs, abandoned buildings in town, and potentially making Pleasant Street one way. Angela brought up the baseball field, and said that it appears to be owned by BNRC. Louise updated the status on her research into a dog park. Eric reported that Great Barrington was looking into this, and has a proposed space. Ben added the idea of doing another public event in the fall, such as a Halloween parade. Angela requested that Ben outline what that could possibly look like, and start small.

Angela stated that the Planning Board would like to meet with the Committee to understand what's going on, along with Chris Rembolt.

The final agenda item was Citizen Speak.

Richard wanted to put forth an offer to design a Halloween poster.

Angela proposed the next meeting be on Thursday, September 21st. The Committee agreed on that date at 6:30PM.

Nobody from the media was present.

Eric made a motion to adjourn at 7:17pm, Ben seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17PM.

Respectfully submitted, Eric Gabriel