

June 2, 2020

### **Meeting Notes of the Housatonic Improvement Committee**

I. 6:00 PM – Open Meeting with comments by Mark Pruhenski, Town Manager

II. Call to Order

III. Roll Call Vote – all members present voted “Aye”.

IV. Welcome and Introductions

The following members introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of their motivation and interest in serving on the HIC. The Committee Members present were:

Beverly Norse for a term to expire June 30, 2021

Angela Lomanto for a term to expire June 30, 2021

Dan Bailly for a term to expire June 30, 2022

Jane Wright for a term to expire June 30, 2022

Eric Gabriel for a term to expire June 30, 2023

Patrick Barrett for a term to expire June 30, 2023

The committee member not present was:

Chris Tucci for a term to expire June 30, 2023

V. Organization of Committee

The following members agreed to serve in the following rolls on this committee:

Chair – Dan Bailly

Vice Chair – Eric Gabriel

Secretary – Jane Wright

VI. Review of Resolution

Summary of the purpose of the Housatonic Improvement Committee:

“The purpose of the Housatonic Improvement Committee is to promote growth of culture and arts in Housatonic; Identify and encourage redevelopment opportunities in Housatonic; Increase accessible affordable housing; Promote access to clean drinking water; Promote increased development of renewable energy infrastructure and sustainable practices in Housatonic; identify and advocate for improved infrastructure.

## VII. Next Steps – Discussion

Members identified the following areas of concern:

- Housatonic School
- Empty Mills
- Water Issues
- Fiber for Housatonic
- Lack of Housatonic Representation on the Great Barrington Town Boards and Committees including the Select Board and Planning Board

Angela Lomanto suggested doing a SWOT Analysis of Housatonic identifying the following:

Strengths  
Weaknesses  
Opportunities  
Threats

Angela also suggested taking a survey of Housatonic Residents. By polling the community, the HIC would have a better idea of what the residents at large have in mind for their community.

## VIII. Set Next Meeting Date

The next Housatonic Improvement Committee Meeting is scheduled for:  
**June 17, 2020 @ 6:00 PM.**

## IX. Citizen Speak Time

Tim Neuman, of the Great Barrington Economic Development Committee, joined the discussion and suggested the HIC consider the following:

- What is the vision of the future for Housatonic?
- Many people like the way things are while others envision “what could be”.
- The HIC must get all the residents of Great Barrington to embrace the “vision for Housatonic” if we are to be successful.

Ed Abrahams joined the discussion to report that Great Barrington has been working with Fiber Connect to bring Fiber to Housatonic. He also said he was happy the HIC has acknowledged that it will consider, “the economic impact of our ideas”.

Michelle Loubert joined the discussion and asked the HIC to consider the surrounding areas for opportunities, listing the many successful enterprises in Housatonic at this time that are not located in the Village Center.

#### X. Adjournment

Angela Lomanto made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM. At the roll call, all members present voted “aye” to adjourn the HIC meeting.