

Housatonic Improvement Committee

June 24, 2021

Attending: Dan Bailly, Patrick Barrett, Eric Gabriel, Angela Lomanto, and Beverly Nourse

Dan read the required Massachusetts statement.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by unanimous agreement.

Acceptance of Minutes - The minutes of May 20th and June 8th were accepted.

Housatonic School update:

- Dan provided an update to the Selectboard which gave the Housatonic Improvement Committee until October 25th to make a recommendation.
- Angela received the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and its most recent update as well as the Berkshire Blueprint 2.0 from 1Berkshire. Each committee member was asked to read the documents and be ready to talk about the highlights at the next meeting.
- A document from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network will be circulated.
- Each committee member was urged to take a tour of the school.
- With regard to historic tax credits, the documents were not filed by the Town in order to leave it up to any developer to decide if they are helpful. The research has been done to apply and it is available.
- The committee needs to define who will own the school and what uses are acceptable.
- The building will be secured.

Cook's Garage

- Dan: committee should make recommendation for use of the building and land.
- Eric: worried about building falling down and the domino effect.
- Ideas mentioned: Riverwalk, use of artisan well, memorial of some sort, use the large timbers

All Things Housatonic:

- Tim Newman: suggested a visioning exercise for Housatonic and that fiber optic cable would be a huge "plus."
- Brandee Nelson from the Planning Board will be invited to the next meeting to discuss zoning information.
- Housatonic the Beautiful would like to attend meeting.
- Michelle Loubert: stated that water needs to be fixed.
- Dan: reported that Main Street at South Street is going to be repaved and repaired, there will be crosswalks and lights at the rail trail and Oak Street, punch list is still being addressed. "Stop for Pedestrians" signs were discussed for the crosswalks.
- Dan: library and cemetery need to be mowed. On this topic, social media has been fairly quiet.

- Capital improvements for Housatonic scheduled: ramp at Ramsdell Library and new boiler and roof repair for the Housatonic Fire Station. Eric asked who owns the retaining wall behind the fire station – the railroad or the town?

Citizen Speak: None.

Next Meeting: July 6, 6:30 pm

Adjourned: 8:05 pm by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Lomanto