

Housatonic Improvement Committee Minutes

July 22, 2021

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

Dan read the required Massachusetts statements.

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm by unanimous agreement.

Acceptance of Minutes - The minutes from 7/22 were approved unanimously. Angela asked if there was anyone who would like to take minutes or if there were a town employee who could assist.

Potential New Committee Members:

Leah House introduced herself to the attendees. Eric mentioned that he had encouraged both Daniel and Leah to get involved with the committee. The three others re-introduced themselves. The HIC voted via ballot with ranked choice. The two persons who will be recommended to the Selectboard are Daniel Bialowes and Louise Goldsmith. Patrick made a motion to recommend that the Selectboard allow for two alternative members for the HIC. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Patrick made a motion that the HIC recommend Louise Goldsmith and Daniel Bialowes to fill the two open positions. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Dan stated that he was encouraged by the involvement and thanked everyone.

Housatonic School update:

- The HIC reviewed what had been recommended in prior meetings and outlined some parameters for directing the architects. HIC agreed that Angela would draft an explanation for the architects giving the context of the project, the spirit and character of what we are trying to achieve, and a description of the adjacent plots. Angela committed to sending the draft to HIC members in time for discussion at the next meeting and urged each to edit as they see fit.
- HIC members want to stress that Housatonic is a place for growing families and all generations and occupations, that there is a strong community connection to the past and a rich history of the village, and that the project should complement the plans for the Ramsdell Library.
- Angela will invite Kerry Bartini, AIA to the next meeting.

All Things Housatonic:

- Bev: Urged that eyesores in Housatonic be remedied.
- Eric: The lights at the crosswalks on the new sidewalk and their frequency have disturbed some people. According to Sean Van Duesen, only 4 lights will be installed. Dan suggested that guidelines, the safety code, and state code be checked.
- Dan: The reports about the water system were discouraging and wondered if our state reps have been informed. Eric has written to Smitty Pignatelli, Adam Hinds, Elizabeth Warren, and Ed Markey and reported that Mark Pruhenski has written to Pignatelli and Hinds. Dan asked if there were a specific response from the Selectboard. Eric reported that the topic is on the next meeting's agenda.

Citizen Speak:

Pedro Pachano: Asked about a three-way stop at Pleasant and Main Streets. Dan will pass along to Sean Van Duesen. Pedro also invited those interested in an associate position with the planning board to step forward.

Eric reported that a dog refuse station is being procured and installed at the rail trail.

Michelle Loubert: Agreed that the intersection described by Pedro is dangerous. She also pointed out that public meetings shouldn't ask people to identify themselves before being admitted to a Zoom meeting.

Louise Goldsmith: Asked if traffic cones could be a substitute for flashing lights on Main Street. Also wanted to understand the benefit of having gravel on the rail trail. (Eric will check.)

Leah House: Wondered if there are studies that show a reduction in auto/pedestrian accidents if flashing lights are used.

Next Meeting: August 19, 6:30 pm

Adjourned: 8:06 pm by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Lomanto