

Housatonic Improvement Committee

November 4, 2021

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

Dan read the required Massachusetts statements.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by unanimous agreement.

Acceptance of Minutes - Minutes not presented.

Housatonic School update:

A recap of the presentation to the Selectboard included a suggestion from Eric that we answer the questions asked and be more specific about the RFP. Dan mentioned that we need a doomsday plan. We need a date by which the report of the charrette will be presented. The group decided that the first week of December for the Dec. 13 Selectboard meeting would work.

Eric presented a recap of the charrette for those who could not attend. We recognized, with thanks, Kerry Bartini who organized the architects who participated, Craig Bero from Pleasant & Main who provided lunch, and the videographer Joe Futia and film editor Shane Bruno from CTSB.

We discussed what should be included in the report to the Selectboard and decided on: an explanation of a year's worth of work, results of the charrette, financial predictions, drawings, the resource list, a conclusion and a path forward with a tentative schedule of work.

There was discussion about whether the Town could start the asbestos abatement and the elevator and begin using the \$600,000 set aside for the building's envelope. There was discussion about project delivery methods (whether a public/private partnership, whether there can be tax increment financing, etc.. Dan, Patrick, and Angela will meet with Chris Rembold to ask these questions and similar ones including whether the RFP can be circulated beyond "normal" channels.

All Things Housatonic:

Linda Mason, a new Great Barrington resident, has a proposal for a body art, and hair and make-up museum in the Housatonic School, owned by the Town with assistance from investors. She will make a presentation.

Louise asked about the status of the dog waste receptacle.

Berkshire Grown has received permission to use the Housy Dome for the Winter Farmer's Markets.

Citizen Speak:

Pat Hollenbeck suggested the Town could get rid of asbestos and lead in the school now.

Ben Elliott mentioned that pedestrians are using the parking lot and sidewalks of the school now and will probably continue doing so. He is also excited about the Winter Farmer's Market and other events in the Housy Dome. He asked about the electrical service in the Housatonic School.

Jim Stark asked if locations of brown water have been identified. The directions for reporting brown water were repeated and identified as posted on the Town website.

Stephan Valter would like a recording of the HIC meetings or minutes.

Next Meetings: November 18, 6:30 pm.

Adjourned: 8:04 pm by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Lomanto