

Housatonic Improvement Committee Minutes

January 6, 2022

6:30 pm

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

Dan read the required Massachusetts statements.

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm by unanimous agreement, 7-0.

Dan reminded members to complete their conflict of interest forms and submit them to Town Hall.

Acceptance of Minutes - The minutes from 12/ 8/21 were approved unanimously, as written, 7-0. Dan will send the minutes from 12/16/21.

Housatonic the Beautiful was invited to the meeting represented by Tom Norton. The group is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization which has been active since 2004 when the Housatonic Visioning project was done. The organization accepts donations for be spent on the Village of Housatonic. In the past few years, they have funded flowers in public spaces. Right now, they are in limbo but ready to get involved. They are waiting for projects to be presented by the community. They have raised up to \$10,000 and spearheaded Housy Clean-up Day. The flowers on the bridge were done by Housatonic Flower Fund, a separate group.

Jim Stark added that the basketball court and skating rink were created and, later, demolished. Now their activities are limited to the flower fund and cleanup. Dan proposed help in fundraising and coming up with ideas. Jim will send the mission statement.

Monday will be the discussion of the RFP for the Housatonic School at the Selectboard meeting.

Louise mentioned that the dog refuse receptacle has been installed at the rail trail and Main Street and wondered if it could be publicized. Perhaps Eileen Mooney could do that? Could there be more installed? Some of the locations where they exist already were noted.

The idea that HIC should get a list of projects together for the Selectboard including Old Maids, the bike trail, and the village commons was mentioned.

Citizen Speak:

Jim Stark reported that at one point the historic designation for the Village was put on hold until the Historic Commission was finished with their inventory. He suggested a beach or boat launch be installed using CPA funds. He is also interested in the GE land between Van Deusenville Road, north of Nolan's and south of River Street.

Tom Norton mentioned that the new agreement with GE gives a whole area of the land back to the Town. There is a restriction on Risingdale Paper.

Patrick Hollenbeck reported that the lights in Housatonic have gotten an amazing response. Maybe funding could be found to offer the lights annually? The intention is to keep them on until the first day of Spring.

Ben Elliott asked if there were an update about tarping. Eric responded that it will be discussed at the Monday Selectboard meeting.

Next Meetings: January 20, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Adjourned: 7:38 pm by unanimous agreement, 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Lomanto