

Housatonic Improvement Committee

January 27, 2022

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 6:34 pm by unanimous agreement, 7-0.

Acceptance of Minutes - The minutes from 1/6/2022 were approved unanimously with a spelling correction, 7-0. Dan will send the minutes from 12/16/21.

All Things Housatonic:

Eric reported that a handful of basic changes were made to the Housatonic School RFP. The town may choose to award the \$650,000 earmarked for the building envelope. Dan read the conditions named in the RFP. Dan mentioned that the water pressure may not be adequate for the sprinkler system. HIC discussed how a developer may look at the property and noted that high-speed internet is needed. Eric noted that the RFP must be formally requested from the Town so that any updates or changes can be sent to those who requested the document as well as be invited for a tour of the school.

Dan asked if there are infrastructure items HIC was to address like natural gas supply to the village. Angela mentioned that the PACE Program, just the Town, will be incentivizing solar and cleaner energy like propane while addressing energy approved by efficiency. Solarize Mass and Mass Saves may still have programs.

Louise asked to define our main task. She mentioned dog effuse stations and beautification but wondered about redoing welcome signs at all entry points and bring them closer to the center.

Eric suggested some smaller items that are easy to get in motion and to keep pride up. That could include supporting Housatonic the Beautiful, painting the train underpass, water of plants that are in public spaces. (Perhaps fire dept. or merchants could water?). Someone should ask "Flowers by Stephanie. We could ask all merchants to install flower pots. Eric will ask Deb Gould to attend the next meeting.

Village-wide event:

Angela suggested a paper-themed event could underscore Housatonic's history with paper. Other ideas include an ethnic food event, open studios, craft fair. There was an ethnic food event for the village's 250th anniversary. Eric thought it would be fun to see outdoor cooking lie at the Winter Farm's Market maybe one Saturday per month in summer. Another suggestion was a "Walk Housy" craft event using front porches and/or a hidden garden tour. Angela will contact the Southern Berkshire Chamber to see if they could be involved.

A discuss followed about branding the village. Could banners be installed on light poles? There will be a marketing discussion at the Monday Projects meeting of the Selectboard.

Eric reported that the DPW will soon announce a new standard and requirements for water.

Eric visited Extra SpecialTeas and noted the interior mural by a Housatonic artist. They are now open and their hours are 9-5, specializing in gluten free baked goods.

Citizen Speak:

Ben Elliott supported the ideas for events and suggested checking Boondocks for an outdoor movie events or events; partner with BIFF, have something regularly scheduled like from 5 – 9 pm. He suggested that there be a sidewalk installed on the park side of Pleasant Street and also mentioned that the DPW was slow to salt the sidewalks. Louise reported that sidewalks across from her home were fairly well cleared.

Next Meetings: February 10, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Adjourned: 7:58 pm by unanimous agreement, 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Lomanto