

Housatonic Improvement Committee

February 10, 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 6:33 pm by unanimous agreement, 7-0.

Acceptance of Minutes - The minutes from 1/27/2022 were approved as written by a vote of 6-0, with Dan Bailly abstaining because he hadn't read the minutes.

All Things Housatonic:

Deb Guhl and Lauren Clark were guests from the Housatonic Flower Fund. Deb has been very involved in the flower project for 18 years. Both women explained how the Flower Fund worked and what needs to be done to go forward – a reorganization and developing a way to publicize the efforts.

Lauren will call a Housatonic the Beautiful meeting to discuss reorganizing and what the group's goal is. They need 4 – 5 new board members, according to Lauren. Patrick Hollenbeck added that he found that they have lost their not-for-profit status and would need another NPO to accept donations.

Some discussions revolved around the day-long event idea. Louise suggested that it include gardens, food, child-friendly features, and art. She suggested that the Farmer's Market signs could be repurposed for the village-wide cleanup. Eric has reached out to Boondocks to find out about an outdoor movie. Angela had talked with Betsy Andrus who is willing to help with layout, meeting with town authorities, and sharing her knowledge of events. We will invite Betsy Andrus, Executive Director of Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, to the next meeting.

Eric reported that the Selectboard is looking into fiber optics in the village and perhaps HIC would ask them to look into publicly accessible WiFi for the village.

Dan Bailly reported that the Town can update the "Welcome to Housatonic" signs. He wondered if there could be a competition for a design and involve local artists. He also wondered if the Historic Society could present a specific program about Housatonic.

Bev asked about the ramp at the library. The funding for the ramp and landscaping is included in the budget for Town Meeting.

Angela asked that the topic of the bicycle path be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Citizen Speak: None.

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

Adjourned: 8:14 pm by unanimous agreement, 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Lomanto