

## Housatonic Improvement Committee Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022

Attending: Daniel Bialowas, Eric Gabriel, Angela Lomanto, Patrick Barrett, Louise Goldsmith  
(Beverly Nourse unable to attend.)

Angela read the required Massachusetts statements.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm with a vote of 6–0.

Angela asked for objections to committee members to skip the normal agenda of the meeting to begin with Party in the Park discussion. No objections.

Village-wide event discussion ('Party in the Park' planned for October 1):

Angela shared that all Permits for the Party in the Park were approved.

She sent flyers to the elementary and middle schools- once approved the flyers will go home to the parents. Asked Deborah at Berkshire Coop to plug to the members as they are a sponsor.

Ordered 20 yard signs. When they get here- can committee take three or four to place out in public visible places. All agreed. Soco creamery and Pulse will be selling soco icecream.

Patrick asked about restrictions on placing the signs?

Eric will double check, and report back to members. He believes it is okay being that it is a town event.

Louise asked about hard signs/posters, etc to hang? 50 posters were ordered. Angela replied yes, she does. They have been posting. Extra special teas should get one for Housatonic. Other locations, Library, post office, Great Barrington. Aberdales, fuel, stockbridge coffee shop, coop, market in west stockbridge. Eric can order more if needed.

Louise can post at Kilpatrick center, etc. (Angela will get her posters to distribute)

No banner was ordered.

Entertainers can promote for themselves.

Bryan House listed out the entertainment.

Bryan scheduled 4 main slots of entertainments- 45 minutes each. 11:30- 3 ish. Johnny Snyder (local), Soul Prophet (pioneer valley), Little Unit to play some music, Annie Guthrie / dragonfly album. He sent a request to connect with sound engineer regarding power- but figured it out with Gabriel Electric.

Eric asked Bryan about stage- do we need to help. Bryan- it will be delivered by Greenagers and set up. Just need to pass on where it is going to go. They want to set up on Friday if it works for the committee.

Eric can meet them as he is meeting white wolf for porto-johns as well.

Samara Klien, director at Great Barrington libraries. Ramsdell would like to do "Map Your Housatonic" project. Two parts to project - A community drawing of map of Housatonic for young and older residents. Second part would have props for a more individual map – spearheaded by Tim Abbott of the Housatonic Valley Association where they do different types of mapping projects This (party in the park) would kick off as a beginning of this project. Ramsdell in conjunction with Housatonic Valley Association, will provide tables and chairs – drawing materials. Canopy is being provided as well. It will be staffed by three of them. Side note: would like posters to put up at the libraries.

Angela will get posters to libraries.

Veronica from Pulse. They will be there all day – selling soco ice cream at the party in park as well as distributing promotional materials. Three things they want to do-

1. Tap/Jazz Performance: tap boards throughout park the jazz dancers will be dancing with ; has questions about locations to do this?
2. Partnership with leader of the Stockbridge Mohican Tribe; He is doing something/ music and dance. Working on a description from him.
3. Swing Dance Class: Loud fun teacher – 30 min to hr. Plan it or he can read the room. Questions are: How to confirm schedule ? Swing must be 2:30 or later. How to let people know when and where its happening?

Angela: Bryan music / timing of pulse

Bryan: - things can be flexible. It's a matter of knowing what and when to work around. Nail down times to make sure things are available. Pulse doesn't need stage. Put if it could be it would be nice, but since it seems not, adjusting.

Veronica can move Pulse around music piece. Jazz/tap is like 8-10 minutes. Mohican presentation is about 45 minutes.

Bryan - Can we open with it? We could push music back to 12 and put the Mohican first as a ceremonial opening.

Daniel – that works having swing at the end.

Bryan: Tap would be great between sets-

Eric will group message Bryans initial schedule so that he and veronica can work out details.

Angela will provide Veronica's numbers to Bryan so they can communicate. Email the committee the final schedule. Sometime in the 11 – 12 window to do announcements thanking sponsors.

Eric- we can plug between each performance.

Bryan to announce the sets and pulse / coordinate with Veronica.

Patrick – is Pulse bringing their own sound system or does PULSE need to use the sound system?

Veronica needs Bryan's systems she thinks. Will double check with Bettina and work out with Bryan and sound engineer.

Daniel brought up that the tap space wasn't covered.

Veronica – tap boards- she needs to know where it is okay to put them and she will place and they will serve to "hold" their own space.

Angela- suggests set up starting at 10 unless someone needs more time. Is that enough time for everyone?

Bryan mentioned sound needs to start up at 9am. He normally sets up 3 hrs in advance to have time to troubleshoot.

Louise- can Bryan thank the sponsors – can we get him a script?

Angela – Bryan – I will give you a script and note what can be repeated if you can weave announcements into what you are already saying..

Bryan agreed to do this.

Veronica revisited the question as to has a location been designated where she can set up class? Base of hill?

Eric mentioned a site map – that location she mentioned was discussed for dancing. He has tape and stakes to mark it off if needed.

Angela has spray for grass that washes away if you need to designate area.

Eric – Reviewed layout: food vendors are on the basketball court. One Food truck will be parked on opposite side of fence. Booths will be in old baseball area fence line, Chief Burger will have a fire truck there on meadow street road, plenty of space for the masses of those who show up.

Angela – 9 trees scheduled for the park near playground but Ingersoll will not guarantee that they will be there by then to plant. Perhaps when they are ready – the HIC committee could do something for that separately.

Angela ran over the food vendors: North Plain Farm, Soco, Crazy Arepas, Extra Special Teas, Grampies Food Truck.

Louise – Cheri / Extra Special Teas updates. Table in park- teas/products/baked goods, Tasters ; store will be open across the street – Bubble tea – will be available in the stores. Employees are all willing to help out in park. Gluten Free

Eric – young girls would like to have a baking table and donate food for cats on meadow street food. Full of gluten so not in conflict with the Extra special teas.

Angela- apologized for the mix up over meetings. Asked

Daniel- Hip hop artists were not able to make it. Aerial fabric performance not available.

Angela announced the committee has more money for more entertainment-

Berkshire Busk: Mimes / people who are in crowd with no music/ Stilts... would committee be in favor?

Eric mentioned we have quite a full booking of entertainment... he just wants to be sure it is not in conflict.

Angela was thinking about non-conflict type of entertainment.

Lousie asked about face painting status? One person / possible a second. Face painting section near library.

Angela- can everyone be there 10-4? Eric yes. He mentioned someone bringing rogers trucking or Joe bringing extra receptacles? Eric will confirm with Joe/Rogers trucking. Rogers was willing to donate. Library has yellow bags for community trash to pick up let overs. Can we also recycle?

No other person confirmed for time.

Angela- pdf / posts – can everyone post to their social media.

Daniel- yes he can keep up with posts on community board.

Veronica requested a poster for pulse.

Eric says he can get more posters. He handed off several piles.

Angela has 20. Eric had 30.

Eileen Mooney included in newsletter to Housatonic residents – about 250.

Louise asked Eric if he dropped off to Housatonic Real estate?

Angela – we have money to spend on fb ads if needed. Any other ideas to advertise?

Louise- The Edge – may do ad for free for town sponsored event. Angela will look into.

Patrick Barrett – radio stations will announce free local events.

Eileen Mooney – Print – saw it in the newsletter.

Eric- Check with shoppers guide – very popular. I can call tomorrow to announce or put in. Angela will follow up with press release – The Eagle and The Edge.

Angela reached out to radio station and will follow up with them as well.

Eric – food vendors – notified no water or power hook ups. Chief Storti – dog will be there as long as there is no calls. Meadow street will have the fire trucks. Chief Burger will get back to us.

Patrick -do we need to restrict parking on meadow street.

Eric – may need to block off /restrict parking on lower section.

Louise – early Saturday – stake it out and don't let them park there until the food truck and fire trucks arrive. Eric will do.

Eric will be there early for set up.

Angela – reiterated layout. She will check into shoppers guide, radio play, facebook ads. Has anyone heard if anyone is coming? Eric and Dan yes.

Angela -Anything else?

Village Wide Discussion:

Angela opened discussion. None.

Citizen Speak:

Ben Elliot- Curious is there a website for schedule or schematic? Angela replied no

Daniel said that schedules will be posted on FB Housatonic Neighbors and Great Barrington Community Board. Daniel will continue to post about it.

Eric – we will work on website for 2<sup>nd</sup> annual party in the park.

Eileen Mooney – can it be posted on Town Website.

Angela – she has asked town to put it on the HIC website.

Eric- I will push out in social media as well.

Bryan – will send the new schedule out tonight. I have included the dance.

Angela: What should be the Agenda for the 6<sup>th</sup> – be thinking about it please. Louise – recap how event went and what do we want to put energy do next.

Angela – new committee members. Eric- signage for entering village center.

Cooke's garage questions.

Next Meetings:

September Thurs 29 at 6:30 pm. / October 6 at 6:30 pm

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm by unanimous agreement, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Gabriel