

# Housatonic Improvement Committee Meeting

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023; 6:30pm

Housatonic Community Center (the Housy Dome)  
1064 Main St, Housatonic, MA 01236

## **Members present:**

Angela Lomanto (chair)  
Daniel Bialowas (vice chair)  
Eric Gabriel  
Louise Goldsmith  
Scott Shortt  
Ben Elliot

## **Members absent:**

Beverly Nourse

Angela read statement MGL. c. 30A sec. 20 (f) regarding recordings and agenda items.

Daniel made a motion to open the meeting. Eric seconded this motion. The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm with a roll call vote of 6-0, with one member absent.

The previous meeting minutes will be voted on at the next meeting on May 2nd for Committee approval.

## **The first agenda item was Party in the Park.**

Eric reported that he has sent out requests for food vendors. North Plain Farm responded and said that the Farmer's Market is a conflict, but they are looking into staffing. The Public Works Department said that more trash receptacles will be placed in the park for the event. Eric reported that the school will still provide power for the stage.

Ben stated he is waiting to hear back about a logo, and will follow up with T Square. Angela asked Scott to reach out to the compost people to see if they would like to table.

Angela stated that she has reached out to WDM, and that they have offered to sponsor the event. Angela also stated that she will reach out to Greylock FCU. Eric reported that the town does not currently have social media guidelines, so the Committee may proceed with making their own social media.

Angela reported that Housatonic the Beautiful has not committed to the ice cream fundraiser, so Louise offered to follow up with the Girl Scouts.

Eric reported that Jim Mead from the Fire Department would like to be involved, and will bring a truck. However, the department isn't sure they have the staff to provide food. Eric also stated that he will follow up with more food vendors, and will follow up with Ernie Jordan regarding the hot dog cart.

Richard from T Square displayed Housatonic based designs to the Committee. Richard suggested that the banner be placed on the fence, and reported that 9'x3' banners cost about \$125 at VistaPrint. Richard also provided some examples of possible poster designs.

Angela reported that she offered WDM a table at the event. Ben reported that he had a meeting with Andreas from the Center for Peace Through Culture- Andreas showed interest in the event, and said he may be interested in having a table.

Angela reported that other organizations can do events on the same day, but the HIC will not advertise them. Eric agreed that the HIC needs to focus on the event within the park. Ben suggested putting others events on the Facebook page. Angela requested that by the next meeting the food be finalized, as well as other tables.

#### **The second item on the agenda was All Things Housatonic.**

Eric presented images of proposed sidewalk locations. At the priority meeting, these sidewalks have been moved into design and cost phase. After that, it will have to be approved and installed.

Eric also reported that he spoke with the Public Works Department about paving spots in Housatonic. The department said that he hopes to finish the previous paving contracts this spring. On that agenda is Grove Street and Chestnut Ridge. The next ones in line are Hart Street- Kirk Street and North Street were on the agenda for last year so will hopefully happen this year. Route 41 is on the list, but the town is hoping for state may pick it up.

Regarding the welcome signs, the Department said they can be any size but preferably not larger than the GB signs. The Committee discussed various locations for these signs, and if they should be on the other side of the welcome to GB signs. Angela asked if T Square might want to design the signs. Daniel proposed a town juried show of signs. Angela asked if the town will pay for the sign- Eric will follow up. Angela asked if the signs will include please come back as well as welcome to, as well as how many signs were needed. Louise stated that she thinks it should be arrival only. Eric asked if the sign locations should be just replaced or if they should be expanded. The Committee decided that it should be just on the main routes.

Scott suggested that for the Party in the Park has a social media background (step and repeat) with a similar branding. Ben suggested making a frame for people to take pictures behind with the water tower behind it. Angela asked if Ben could think about a possible location for the frame. Daniel noted that someone would have to clear it with the Parks Dept to have it permanently installed.

Eric reminded the Committee that April 22 is the Earth Day cleanup with bags at the library and at A&B, starting at 8am.

Eric reported that the VFW will begin going through the veteran list and try to get flags for members along with military photo. This year, they will do something like GB does sign wise. Louise asked about the Rail Trail; Eric forgot to ask- he will follow up. Angela also noted that there should be a bike path from GB to Housatonic as noted in the town plan. Eric noted that replacing poles and upgrading infrastructure is to be discussed for the budget this year at the May town meeting. Eric also needs to follow up about Cooks Garage.

**The third agenda item was Citizen Speak.**

Jim Garzone of North Plain Road wanted to know if anyone from Housatonic was running for Selectboard.

Nobody from media is present.

Ben made a motion to adjourn, Daniel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Gabriel