

# Housatonic Improvement Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023; 6:30pm

Via Zoom

**Members present:**

Angela Lomanto (chair)

Daniel Bialowas (vice chair)

Eric Gabriel

Beverly Nourse

Ben Elliott

Scott Shortt

Louise Goldsmith

**Members absent:**

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

items. The meeting was called to order with a roll call vote of 7-0.

Eric clarified that “HTB” refers to “Housatonic the Beautiful”.

Eric made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as written. Angela seconded this motion and the Committee approved this motion with 5-0 vote.

Angela stated that the Party in the Park is to be scheduled for Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Angela has submitted an application for an entertainment license to the Selectboard, and is awaiting approval. Angela has also started a spreadsheet with tasks and will share it with the Committee.

Ben volunteered to create a Facebook page and general ground maps page for website for the party.

Angela discussed current funding and more fundraising opportunities. Louise offered to reach out to BerkCirque. Louise expressed concern about a Muse open studio event drawing attendees away from the Party in the Park. Angela seconded this concern. Eric disagreed with this sentiment and thinks the events would compliment each other. Ben agreed with Eric, and reminded the group that Muse held an open studio during the farmers market and it worked nicely together.

Scott asked how the group would know if the event was a success at the end, and what the group’s

expectations were. Angela said that the Committee hopes for a few hundred people, and most people walking into town. Eric said that after talking with Betsy Andrus, he anticipates that the turnout will be below their expectation. Louise stated that she was unsure of the exact goal, and questioned whether the Committee wanted the event to be low-key and local or if the goal is to showcase the town. Scott says to put stake in the ground and suggested a survey to make the event better for the future.

Angela stated that she aims to spread the word via news blast. Scott suggested that a measure of success would be having 15-20% of Housatonic residents in attendance. Ben discussed the email list and news blast further. Scott offered to make something to help visualize goals for Party in the Park.

Louise brought up composting and not composting adds a large amount of emissions. She then proposed a green initiative to promote composting to combat the image of Housatonic having “dirty water”. Scott voiced concern that more bears would come to Housatonic, and Louise stated that bears tend to go for bird seed, not compost. Scott inquired about Berkshire Compost, and asked if they might be open to community pricing. Ben suggested looking into grants to help with this initiative.

Louise says that she learned via a New York Times article that a community can get very involved in composting, and maybe it can be promoted at the Party in the Park. Angela proposed a survey to gauge interest, and see if the library might be interested in hosting composting seminars. Angela seconded Louise’s request to invite Berkshire Compost to Party in the Park. Scott offered to reach out to invite Berkshire Compost to the next HIC meeting.

The Committee moved on to discuss All Things Housatonic.

Angela asked about size requirements for the new signs, and suggested a contest for the design. Eric offered to reach out to Joe Aberdale regarding sign size requirements. Eric mentioned Muse and their house party they were having, and Angela mentioned this month’s farmers market. Louise talked about the work that Andreas is doing through Center For Peace Through Culture, and mentioned specifically the spoken word events. Louise asked about the sidewalk extension project, and asked if the Committee could make a request for that. Eric said he would mention it at the next Selectboard priority meeting.

Ben stated that there is a need for a sidewalk up Front Street and around the Housy Dome. Angela seconded this. Ben asked for an update on the traffic study on Pleasant, Highland, Main, and Front Streets.

Citizen Speak:

James Garzone 84 North Plain Road- Compost, Board of Health doing research and discussion

The Committee scheduled the next meeting for Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> to take place at the Housy Dome.

Daniel made the motion to adjourn, and Eric seconded. The meeting was ended at 7:25pm with a 7-0

vote in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Gabriel