



Housatonic Improvement Committee Meeting

May 18, 2023; 6:30 pm

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

Members present:

Angela Lomanto (chair)
Eric Gabriel
Scott Shortt
Beverly Nourse
Ben Elliot

Members absent:

Louise Goldsmith
Daniel Bialowas (vice chair)

Angela read statement MGL. c. 30A sec. 20 (f) regarding recordings and agenda items, as well as the statement about Zoom recordings, as this meeting is being recorded.

Eric made a motion to open the meeting. Bev seconded. The roll-call vote was unanimous. The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

The first agenda item was Party in the Park.

Angela stated that the party is in just a few weeks; posters, banners, and signs have been printed! Angela extended a thank you to Richard for producing all of the graphics for the party. Angela reported that she has started to contact organizations such as CATA, Simon's Rock, and the schools to distribute posters. Richard stated he put together a layout for event, which Angela presented. The stage will be set up the night before. Angela asked the Committee members to be on site by 9:30am to help with setup and direction- strings of flags have been ordered for decoration, and they will need to set up. Angela also requested that the Committee members help direct attendees to Berkshire Compost to get rid of their compostable waste during the event. Eric stated that many members of the public and vendors of the party were present virtually. Bryan House then reported on the music and inquired about the timing of the event. With each performance scheduled for 35-40 minutes in length, the proposed lineup included:

11:00; Soul Prophet
11:45; John Blonde
12:30; Berkshire Pulse; African Dancing



1:30; Bryan in the House

2:00; Jackson Whalen

3:00ish; Berkshire Pulse- swing dancing

Angela requested that Berkshire Pulse perform during the event hours. Bryan stated that Berkshire Pulse having half of the performance time (two hours) could be problematic, and that he is hoping to extend the performance time. Angela asked if Berkshire Pulse requested two hours, and Bryan stated that they requested more than two hours. Angela asked how the members felt about the event running over, Eric stated he thought it would be exciting. A member of the public asked if the vendors will be strictly packing up at 3:00, and Angela asked Abby if she plans on being strict on leaving at 3:00- Abby said she can be flexible but she thinks other people might be packing up on time. Ben suggested that they look at the crowd the day of. Scott requested that Pulse should stay within the allotted time to avoid confusion and to build anticipation for next year. Jill stated that she will be leaving at 3:00pm as originally expected. Bev reminded the committee that the clown would likely leave at 3:00pm as well, as this is the time he is being compensated for. Angela asked for Bryan's fee, and he stated it would be \$1300 for sound, stage, and everything else regarding the performance.

Angela moved on to review the budget, of which there is \$1300 leftover after all vendors and fees are paid. Angela asked how the committee would like to spend that money, and asked Andreas if he could explain his idea for the project he wanted to propose for the event. Andreas described his idea, which includes creating murals on the boarded up school with varying artists. This project has been approved by the town, and now the last thing to consider is material cost. Angela showed the committee the proposed artwork. Andreas stated he would love to paint all sides of the building if possible, and that the cost would range from \$500-1500, with the canvas alone costing \$500. Andreas reported that community donated paints could be of use if they are able to withstand weather, and he thinks that this project could draw a lot of press and positive attention to the event. Eric thinks that this project could be funded, and the Committee could then use some leftover money for inexpensive Facebook ads, along with Angela going on the radio. Ben also stated that he is planning to distribute flyers at the childcare centers, and thinks this is a great way to spend the rest of the budget instead of more advertisements. Scott requested information regarding the timeline for the school building project progression and how long these pieces would stay up for- Eric stated that he believes the pieces would stay up until the late fall.

Angela asked the members of the public in attendance if they would be coming to the event- many said yes, and offered a lot of support. A member of the public expressed concern over the volume of the event. Another member of the public stated that she was excited for the event, and thought that it should strictly end at 3 because participants will be exhausted. Eric stated that Muse will be doing an open house, and reminded everyone to bring sunblock and water. Eric also stated that he feels the Committee should have a presence as a table and have a water filling station. Angela said she would call Berkshire Mountain Spring water to see if they can supply a filling station. Bryan raised his hand and wanted to bring it back to the schedule, and asked the Committee to make a decision regarding the lineup and acts taking place within the event time. Eric agreed that the event should end at 3:00, and that the committee should request that Pulse fills a one hour time slot. Eric made a motion to allocate



\$1000 for Center for Peace through Culture for artwork. Ben seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to support this project. Angela asked how the Committee would like to spend the rest of the money. Scott suggested hot air balloon company called "Worthington Balloon Rides". Eric asked what the cost might be for them to come to the event. Scott said he would follow up and see if they can work within the budget. Eric and Ben discussed placing ads for around \$200 in the Shopper's Guide and social media. Angela asked the committee if everyone is in agreement to allocate \$400 for the balloon, and if not, use the funding for advertising.

Angela asked about the frame, and Eric stated he saw a large frame Daniel is working on. Angela asked about the website, and Ben stated it's ready to go, it just needs content from vendors and performers. Ben showed the attendees the draft website. Eric stated he will send the performers reminders to submit bios and information on their acts. Ben requested more images in general, including high resolution logos from sponsors. Andreas suggested that the website goes live as soon as possible since the flyer is out already. Angela presented a rain plan layout. Angela requested volunteers to put up the banners; Eric offered his crew to do this work. Angela also asked if there is anyone that can install the frame. Angela asked if assistance is needed for setting up the stage on Friday. Bryan said he felt the team that brings the stage will be able to assemble it. Angela reminded the Committee that the floor will have to be covered if event needs to be moved inside. Housatonic the Beautiful and the Housatonic Improvement Committee will share a tent with water filling station. Andreas asked if there is a hashtag for the event, Ben is looking into this. The group agreed on #housyparty.

The second agenda item was Citizen Speak.

Margaret Tringalli offered to volunteer. Angela said she will reach out via email.

Nobody from the media was present.

Eric made a motion to adjourn, Bev seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46.

Respectfully submitted, Eric Gabriel