

2026 HiC Goals (Final)
November 18, 2025
Listed in no specific order of priority

1. Support Ramsdell Renovation Efforts

Goal: Support the Ramsdell Library Renovation by helping the community stay informed and engaged in the lead-up to Town Meeting in May and beyond

2026 Targets:

- a. Recurring Ramsdell Building Committee updates at all HiC meetings at least through May 2026
- b. Host two public events with community library stakeholders (including Board of Library Trustees, Ramsdell Building Committee, Friends of the Library, and Library Trust) to discuss and disseminate information about the Ramsdell Renovation process to the broader Housatonic community before May 2026
- c. Create and distribute at least one educational resource (print or digital) summarizing renovation progress and community impact by May 2026

2. Create More Opportunities for Community Connection

Goal: Foster social, intergenerational, and creative community life through regular gatherings and public celebrations

2026 Targets:

- a. Host or co-host three community events (e.g., Halloween 2026 (+ dog parade), Winter Lights 2026, support Housatonic the Beautiful Fund with Party in the Park and Earth Day 2026)
- b. Pilot at least one new community gathering format, such as a potluck, speaker series (“Housy Talkin”), PorchFest, or concert at the Commons, by October 2026
- c. Engage at least 10 local volunteer or partner groups (e.g., schools, businesses, or nonprofits) across all 2026 events

3. Advance Local Trail and Canopy Restoration

Goal: Improve access to nature and restore Housatonic’s tree canopy to enhance environmental resilience and quality of life

2026 Targets:

- a. Develop an actionable plan for connecting the Flag Rock Trail to the village core by December 2026, including feasibility steps and partnership outreach
- b. Plant at least 20 new trees in coordination with local partners (e.g., Great Barrington Tree Committee, Housatonic the Beautiful Fund, Great Barrington DPW)
- c. Launch a community tree sponsorship program to fund ongoing planting and support community maintenance

4. Advocate for and Advance Public Outdoor Spaces and Improvement Efforts

Goal: Support the revitalization of Housatonic’s shared outdoor spaces through advocacy, collaboration, and tangible improvements

2026 Targets:

- a. Host at least one public forum or listening session to gather community priorities for outdoor and public space improvements (e.g., Old Maid’s, Rising Pond, sidewalks, pocket parks). Could be in conjunction with Great Barrington Planning Board’s Open Space and Recreation Plan process
 - b. Submit at least two letters of support or formal recommendations to relevant town boards or committees (e.g., Parks Commission, Selectboard, Planning Board) regarding outdoor space improvements or land use related to Housatonic
 - c. Collaborate with Housatonic the Beautiful Fund and Great Barrington DPW to identify and implement at least three “quick-win” beautification projects (such as trash/recycling bins, dog waste stations, or sidewalk weeding) by October 2026
 - d. Develop an inventory and visual map of potential public improvement sites (parks, open parcels, sidewalks, vacant lots) and present it publicly by September 2026 to support funding and planning discussions
5. **Strengthen Housatonic’s Shared Story and Visual Identity**
Goal: Celebrate Housatonic’s heritage, creativity, and future through storytelling, signage, and design
2026 Targets:
- a. Design and install wayfinding signs for key local points of interest by October 2026
 - b. Begin design conversations with local artists for a public mural on the train trestle by August 2026
 - c. Develop and share a public map of Housatonic highlighting cultural, historic, and natural assets by September 2026
 - d. Create a village logo and one-page story capturing Housatonic’s past, present, and future, written in accessible language for the broader community, by December 2026
6. **Improve Communication Between HiC and the Community**
Goal: Ensure transparent, consistent, and accessible communication between the Housatonic Improvement Committee and the community
2026 Targets:
- a. Develop and adopt a formal communication plan (including meeting summaries, event promotion, and outreach methods) by May 2026
 - b. Publish quarterly community updates highlighting HiC activities and upcoming opportunities for involvement
 - c. Establish at least one shared communication channel (newsletter, social media page, or bulletin board) by June 2026 to improve accessibility of information