

**SELECTBOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020  
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 7:00 P.M.  
AGENDA**

**Note: Not all the topics listed in this notice may actually be reached for discussion. In addition, the topics listed are those which the chair reasonably expects will be discussed as of the date of this notice. These meetings may be audio and/or visually recorded**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Draft minutes of Dec. 19, 2019
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/OPEN FORUM
4. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Adopt the South Hadley Falls Urban Redevelopment & Renewal Plan (A Capra)
  - B. Letter of Review, Comment and Endorsement of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (A Capra)
5. OTHER BUSINESS
6. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
7. CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT
8. Executive Session under MGL Chapter 39 Subsection 32 B for the purpose of bargaining (Police Union)
9. ADJOURN

**SELECTBOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 2019  
MEETING MINUTES  
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 7 P.M.**

*Present were Chair Andrea Miles, Vice Chair Jeff Cyr, Clerk Christopher Geraghty, member Sarah Etelman, member Bruce Forcier, and Town Administrator Michael J. Sullivan..*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Miles called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Forcier motioned to approve the draft minutes of Dec. 3, 2019 as amended. Etelman noted two updates that needed to be made. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Forcier said the Bag The Community Food Drive will take place Jan. 18 and 19.

Sullivan said Cable Studio Director Bob Smith is leaving the Town of South Hadley as of Dec. 27 for a job in the private sector. Sullivan said Smith is very talented and dedicated, and described him as the type of employee you don't want to lose. Smith will still help when needed on a temporary basis. Assistant Cable Studio manger Dan Pease will now become the studio manager.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Forcier motioned to accept the request for a Multi-Date Beer & Wine License from Susan Canedy for Jan. 10, Feb, 7, March 6, April 3 and May 1, 2020. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

Sullivan reminded the public if the event for which they've requested a license is cancelled, Administration can offer a credit to an applicant's next application **only** if the person who requested the license contacts the Administration Office within 48 business hours of the license date.

**APPROVAL OF 2020 ANNUAL LICENSES**

Etelman moved to accept the 2020 license renewals as publicly presented in the Selectboard packet and allow renewal upon completion of all applications, submittal of all fees, completing all required inspections, and any other laws, bylaws or regulations required for issuance. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

Geraghty asked about the status of the Hangar, whose owner purchased the former Polish American Club on Granby Road. Sullivan said he was informed the Hangar planned to open in January, but he suspects it will be more like March. He noted the Hangar is running out of time to use its alcohol license within the allotted time frame of having obtained it last year.

Cyr said he heard the Hangar owner has stated he is having a difficult time getting things moving in South Hadley because of permit coordination. Putting on his Water District 1 Superintendent

hat, Cyr said the owner said the Hangar would not open until June because of hang-ups with the South Hadley Board of Health.

Sullivan corrected him and said Health Department Director Sharon Heart brought in the state's health inspector to ensure South Hadley was being compliant due to the alleged different treatment by South Hadley compared to other communities in which the owner has locations. Some of the business' issues relate to the commissary style the South Hadley Hangar location is using. Sullivan said in at least one other community with a Hangar operation, that community missed some required inspections. The Hangar owner has since been apologetic and will comply with the town's Health Department requirements. Sullivan said he believes the Hangar is now on track. Cyr said it's in a prime commercial location and the Selectboard is welcoming the Hangar to the community.

### **MPIC SELECTBOARD REVIEW**

Judy Gooch discussed the updated Master Plan. She said MPIC has met with 15 boards, commissions and committees so far to share with them MPIC's proposed goals and objectives, and ask what each is doing to meet them. By the end of January MPIC will share their information with a consultant who will have a draft update by mid-February. A public comment period will then be held, after which the draft will be sent to the Planning Board to vote on adoption. Finally, it will be sent to town meeting for endorsement. The Selectboard will take the next steps of filling out the MPIC questionnaire.

### **RESIGNATION**

Forcier motioned to accept the resignation of Karen Donnelly as an associate member of the Cultural Council with thanks. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

### **FY 2021 BUDGET**

Sullivan said departments now have their worksheets and are scheduling their meetings with him to review the FY21 budget. He would like to have preliminary numbers from departments between January 15 and 30.

### **\$2 MILLION SHORT TERM BOND AUTHORIZATION**

Forcier motioned to authorize \$2 million in short term borrowing. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

Sullivan said this bond will roll into a larger, permanent bond in July to finish the borrowing for the senior center at that time. Rates are favorable right now, he said.

### **TA REPORT – WINTER PARKING**

Sullivan said the town should have been more aggressive in enforcing the parking ban during the first snowstorm of the year. Going forward, the town will step up enforcement of winter parking regulations, including ticketing and, if needed, towing. Residents who do not shovel sidewalks within 48 hours after a snowstorm will also be ticketed.

During a parking ban, residents should park in a driveway if possible. The parking ban is town-wide for all town streets. Residents should also clear around hydrants, unburden storm drains and/or help their neighbors.

For the full town administrator's report, see the Dec. 19, 2019 Selectboard Meeting Packet.

**ADJOURN**

Forcier motioned to adjourn. Cyr seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**  
**Kristin Maher**  
**Executive Assistant to Administration**

DRAFT

South Hadley Falls Urban Redevelopment and Renewal Plan Motion

I move to approve the South Hadley Falls Urban Redevelopment and Renewal Plan as endorsed by Special Town Meeting on November 20, 2019.



# Creating Connections – Open Space and Recreation Plan

Town of South Hadley  
2019-2026

**Tighe&Bond**  
Engineers | Environmental Specialists

**Tighe&Bond**

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Commonly Used Abbreviations	Definition
ANR	Approval Not Required
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation
DCS	Division of Conservation Services
DPW	Department of Public Works
EEA	Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
GIS	Geographic Information System
HG&E	Holyoke Gas & Electric
HRCAC	Mount Holyoke Range Citizen's Advisory Committee
MassDEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MassDOT	Massachusetts Department of Transportation
MassGIS	Massachusetts Geographic Information System
MCP	Massachusetts Contingency Plan
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MVP	Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness
NHESP	Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
PVTA	Pioneer Valley Transit Authority

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## Executive Summary

The Town of South Hadley undertook a concentrated planning process including extensive public outreach and engagement in the Spring of 2019 to update both its 2012-2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan and its 2010 Master Plan. Public input was obtained through public surveys, four community forums and nineteen meetings-in-a-box (smaller focus groups led by community volunteers) and was further informed by interview with key Town staff, officials, and volunteers. The input from the community helped define the open space and recreation needs and opportunities incorporated into the seven year planning horizon for this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

South Hadley residents highly value the natural environmental and open space and the positive influence these places have on the quality of life. The natural environment contributes significantly to the character of South Hadley and the residents' sense of place. One challenge South Hadley faces is how to balance development with protection of natural resources while providing opportunities for recreation for all.

One clear theme for this 2019-2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan was creating connections: connections for wildlife and habitat connectivity; safe connections for people to and from their homes to recreational, economic and institutional nodes; and connections to the Town's incredible environmental resources. The priorities that were identified through the planning process are:

- improvements to facilities that support walking and biking, including providing connections among residential areas, open space and recreation facilities and commercial centers (Connectivity)
- protection of ecological resources, including the drinking water aquifer (Ecological Integrity and Resiliency)
- the viability of farming in South Hadley (Local Farms)
- address the recreational needs of all South Hadley residents (Recreational Opportunities for All Ages and Abilities)
- a consolidated and united communication regarding available facilities and programs (Communication and Marketing)
- maintenance of existing facilities and resources (Maintenance and Stewardship)

Each of these need areas are identified as goals in this Open Space and Recreation Plan. They are described in more detail below.

### Connectivity

Connections, such as sidewalks and bikeways, provide recreational opportunities for all abilities, connects people together, and connects people with other resources (recreation, open space, commerce, institutions).

**Ecological Integrity and Resiliency**

South Hadley's identity is closely aligned with its natural resources. Protecting the large swaths of habitat and corridors provides for ecological integrity. Ecological integrity is the protection of larger, connected habitats to reduce fragmentation or isolation of ecologically valuable resources. Furthermore, ecological resources contribute to the resiliency (the capacity of the land to support the Town's ability to meet and recover from adversity) from the natural disasters such as flooding, that are exacerbated by climate change.

**Local Farms**

Farming has been an integral part of South Hadley's history and local farms are an important part of South Hadley's character and landscape. Local farms support the region's resiliency by providing a local source of food. With many farms struggling, South Hadley aims to support farmers and farming.

**Recreational Opportunities for All Ages and Abilities**

Recreational resources, including programs and facilities, should be accessible by all South Hadley residents. When facilities are built or upgraded, opportunities to improve accessibility should be incorporated into the design. South Hadley has been proactive in constructing the accessible River to Range trail and incorporating accessible structures and features in the upgrades to parks such as at Beachgrounds.

**Maintenance and Stewardship**

Maintenance and stewardship of existing properties and facilities was deemed of utmost important. Every effort should be made to fully maintain and upgrade, where necessary, existing open space and recreational facilities, including sidewalks.

**Communication and Marketing**

Knowing what properties and facilities are available to the public will improve the community's access to, enjoyment of and support of South Hadley's open space and recreation resources. This includes consistent signage, a consolidating listing of available programs, and easy to access trail maps.

Goals, objectives and action items, including timelines and responsible parties, were developed for each of these priorities and are presented in the Action Plan. This will provide a road map for the Town to continue its progress to meet the open space and recreational needs of the community.

Andrea Miles, Chair  
Jeff Cyr, Vice-Chair  
Christopher Geraghty, Clerk  
Sarah Etelman  
Bruce Forcier

Michael J. Sullivan  
Town Administrator

January 7, 2020

Honorable Selectboard,

I apologize for the tardiness of this report, it is a very brief accounting of activities we have been engaged at Town Hall in since my report....last year. Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who reached out to me with kind words of encouragement as I try to navigate my new health reality!

**Snow and Ice:** we have expended about \$87,000 of the Snow and Ice budget \$100,000 budgeted for FY 20. I think we would all agree there is a great deal left in this winter, so it would not come as a big surprise if we exceeded the appropriation. Keeping our collective fingers crossed does not cost us anything.

While we still have some sidewalks which have not been addressed, we would like to thank the vast majority of citizens who have cooperated in clearing their sidewalks, helped neighbors and removed snow and ice from storm drains and around hydrants. This type of citizen assistance goes a long way!

**Police Contract;** The South Hadley Police Union (MASSCOP Local 428) has accepted the terms of the memorandum of agreement developed through negotiations and Mass DLR Mediators.

The Selectboard will be considering the agreement this evening as part of an Executive Session related to the bargaining. As the MOA seems to be within the parameters set by the SB and negotiated by administration I am hopeful we will be able to put this year old process behind us. Thank you to all involved in the process including the union members who were respectful in the process.

When the contract is signed we expect there will be a shortfall in the budget, but we will do everything to make the impact as small as possible. This inevitable result was predicted and should not be seen as catastrophic for tis budget or FY 21. This has also affected our "Legal" budget as we had more need for advice of counsel during the mediation process.

**Opioid "Safe Haven";** I would like to thank Health Director Sharon Hart for developing this idea and for the cooperation and participation from Fire District #1 Chief Robert Authier, District #2 Acting Chief Todd Calkins, Holyoke Medical Center Community Outreach Director Kathy Anderson, Work Connection Director Pat McIntyre.

All the parties met recently to discuss what role they or their agency may play in this initiative or at this point this "idea". The goal would be to have a clear path to services for individuals who may be suffering from addiction, particularly addiction to opioids.

116 MAIN STREET, SUITE 109, SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01075-2896

The idea is to avoid including directly law enforcement with the process, as the fear is it would hinder participation by people seeking help. The South Hadley Police Department will be made aware of the project once it has been fully formulated.

One of the common misnomers continues to be that this is solely a “youthful” epidemic, while the truth of the matter is has become a blight for all ages. If this project develops as we hope it will allow the first responders to be able to access HMC services more easily and directly.

**IGM Meeting;** GM Mike Fontaine and Vice President Steve Gano meet with Rec Director Andy Rogers and I recently to discuss the past golf season. I believe from all perspectives it was a success, which is not to say there is not some kinks to work out.

Mr. Fontaine will be before the Selectboard on January 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss the 2020 golf season rates and some of the improvements which have been made and are being considered. We also discussed garnering IGM’s input on the capital needs at the Ledges to be presented to the Capital Finance Committee.

There may be a small seasonal discrepancy (\$20K or less) which would be corrected at the end of the season. However, there is an equal likelihood that with a good to robust spring this situation will correct itself. All in all if you add in costs historically not included in the calculus for Ledges (i.e. UI, employment taxes, and liability insurance) we will be better off financially than previous years. Get those fingers crossed again.

**Town/Gown Safety Committee;** Chief Gundersen, Acting DPW Director Viv Price and I traveled up to MHC yesterday to discuss progress on the crosswalk discussion. We reviewed the data provided by the PVPC related to their traffic analysis related to College Street along MHC.

The data actually provided a positive look at driver and pedestrian awareness as compared to professional statistical data. I will be work with Kevin McCaffrey from MHC to produce a report over the next several weeks which the Selectboard will be provided with copies as soon as the report is completed.

Respectfully submitted;

Michael J. Sullivan  
Town Administrator, South Hadley