

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCT. 20, 2020
VIRTUAL AGENDA
7 P.M.**

Join Zoom Webinar from your computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81736593995?pwd=bHJQKzVPME1nRWtYUUF2MjNaOVFzZz09>

By phone: US: +1 312 626 6799 Webinar ID: 817 3659 3995 Passcode: 041193

Watch live on SHCTV Channel 15 or <https://shctv15.com/watch-live/>

<p>Note: Not all topics listed here may 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. This meeting may be audio and/or visually recorded.</p>

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes: Draft Minutes of Sept. 8, 2020, Sept. 15, 2020, Sept. 22, 2020, and Oct. 6, 2020
3. Open Forum/Announcement
4. COVID 19 Update (S Hart)
5. Election Update (C Hamlin)
6. Ledges Discussion (A Rogers)
7. FY 2021/2022 Budget Discussion
8. November Selectboard Schedule
9. Town Administrator's Report
10. Adjourn

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPT. 8, 2020
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM – 6 P.M.**

Present were Chair Jeff Cyr, Vice Chair Sarah Etelman, Member Chris Geraghty, Member Bruce Forcier, Member Andrea Miles, and Town Administrator Michael J. Sullivan.

CALL TO ORDER

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

COVID UPDATE

South Hadley's total cumulative number of positive cases in town is 212.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen said a report of the last three months showed there has been a 15 percent increase in calls for service, and a 220 percent increase in calls reporting domestic violence. Last year during the same time period there were 18; this year there were 60. Additionally, motor vehicle break-ins have increased more than 100 percent. She noted the department is working with a Connecticut police task force regarding a younger group of people who have been breaking into vehicles.

Gundersen highlighted a new section of the police department website that includes statistics and provides more transparency with what the department does regularly and the demographics of who officers are stopping. She noted there is now a way to commend an officer, offer complaints and view the department's unbiased policing policy.

Etelman said she heard third hand of an escalating situation during a political rally held at the town common during which Gundersen appeared to deescalate. She said residents were pleased with how Gundersen handled the situation.

The board discussed a potential Symposium of Understanding that would center on policing.

ATHLETIC FIELD USE

Recreating Director Andy Rogers ran through various modifications the recreation programs must make in order to allow programming like flag football, soccer and Girls on The Run. He mentioned one adult baseball group has been told it cannot return to play on town fields for not following rules set in place because of COVID. Residents can use the fields at their own risk if there are no activities already scheduled and if they follow posted guidelines.

Athletic director Eric Castonguay said if South Hadley's COVID status turns red according to the state's map at any point during the season, sports will be done.

FY21 REVENUE DISCUSSION

Sullivan said the town's revenues are fairly good and will continue to be monitored. Communities like South Hadley that don't have large commercial revenue seem to be fairing better than those that do during the pandemic. A final number for state aid likely won't be available until October.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENT DISCUSSION

Tri-annual interviews will be held Sept. 15. There are eight residents interested in vacancies on various boards.

Staff are working on creating Zoom policies and training for board chairs.

TA REPORT

Sullivan encouraged residents to use the ballot drop box between town hall and the police station to return primary ballots. Early voting will be available and hours will be announced soon. Residents are encouraged to go online to request ballots.

Cyr congratulated Conservation Administrator / Planner Anne Capra on securing a Municipal Vulnerability Program Grant for \$105,000 to be used for rebuilding culverts.

The South Hadley Dog Park work is completed, and signage is being installed.

For the full town administrator's report, please see the Sept. 8, 2020 Selectboard Packet.

ADJOURN

Miles motioned to adjourn. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Kristin Maher

Executive Assistant to Administration

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPT. 15, 2020
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM – 6 P.M.**

Present were Chair Jeff Cyr, Vice Chair Sarah Etelman, Member Chris Geraghty, Member Bruce Forcier, and Member Andrea Miles.

CALL TO ORDER

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

TRI-ANNUAL INTERVIEWS

Board members interviewed Alexandra Ripp for the Cultural Council, Christopher Bassett for the Bike Walk Committee, Jennifer Ducharme for the Cultural Council, Mary Zawatski for the Conservation Commission, Christina Remie for the Board of Health and Johanna Ravenhurst for the Board of Health.

Appointments will be made at the Sept. 22 meeting.

ADJOURN

Etelman motioned to adjourn. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

Forcier left the meeting before roll call was taken. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPT. 22, 2020
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM – 6 P.M.**

Present were Chair Jeff Cyr, Vice Chair Sarah Etelman, Member Chris Geraghty, Member Bruce Forcier, Member Andrea Miles, and Town Administrator Michael J. Sullivan.

CALL TO ORDER

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

COVID UPDATE

Emergency Management Director Sharon Hart reported there has been one COVID positive case in the last 21 days. South Hadley is now in the grey area on the state reporting map, meaning it has fewer than five cases. Hart said she is prepping for flu season and working on an outdoor drive-thru flu clinic to be held in the next few weeks.

Capacity will be added to reservations for the transfer station and compost area. Additionally, there will be two curbside leaf pick-ups for residents.

Sullivan said CDC guidelines for trick-or-treat activities are posted on the town website. He noted the town received complaints about McCray's Farm hayrides violating COVID guidelines and said Hart will work with McCray's Farm to make sure they understand the protocol. If there are violations, the state task force will be notified. Sullivan reiterated that the town's advice is to avoid crowds.

RESIGNATIONS

Etelman moved to accept the resignations of Karen Buscemi from the Council on Aging and Leslie Fields from the Cultural Council with thanks. Geraghty seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

TRI-ANNUAL INTERVIEWS

The board interviewed Kathleen Sharkey who is interested in the Conservation and Recreation commissions.

JOINT PLANNING BOARD ASSOCIATE MEMBER INTERVIEW

Members of the Planning Board joined the meeting to interview a candidate for the vacant associate member position. However, the candidate did not show up.

JOINT BOARD OF HEALTH VACANCY APPOINTMENTS

Members of the Board of Health joined the meeting to appoint candidates to two vacant positions on their board. Both the Board of Health and the Selectboard unanimously voted to appoint Johanna Ravenhurst and Christina Remie to the two vacant positions to be held until the next town election.

BOARD / COMMITTEE ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS

The board unanimously appointed:

- Alexandra Ripp to a three-year term in the Cultural Council
- Jennifer Ducharme to a two-year associate member position on the Cultural Council
- Christopher Bassett to a one-year term on the Bike Walk Committee
- Mary Zawatski to a three-year term on the Conservation Commission
- Kathleen Sharkey to a three-year term on the Recreation Commission

The board renewed the term lengths of:

- Larry Dubois, Lucia Foley and Marilyn Gass to one-year positions on the Bike Walk Committee
- Vern Blodgett to a three-year term on the Bylaw Review Committee
- William Deluca and Veva Tolopko to three-year terms on the Conservation Commission
- Rita Starzyk and Carol Constant to three-year terms on the Council on Aging
- Dick Matteson and Paul Lambert to three-year terms on the Cultural Council
- Eleanor Small to a three-year term on the Historic District Study Committee
- Judy Gooch, Margaret Jodoin and Nate Therien to three-year terms on MPIC
- Ray Carillion to a three-year term on the Recreation Commission,
- Nicole Casolari to a three-year term to the Board of Registrars
- John Howard to a three-year term to the Sustainability and Energy Commission
- Dennis Swartout, Genevieve Van de Merghel and Michael Lamontagna to one-year terms on the Tree Committee
- Bob Blaney to a three-year term on the Trustees of the Old Firehouse Museum

Etelman motioned to appoint the candidates. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

O'MEARA LOT #2 CHAPTER 61 CONFIRMATION VOTE

Etelman moved the board reaffirm its August 25, 2020 vote electing to NOT exercise the town's right of first refusal under G.L. c. 61A, s 14 irrespective of the proposed purchase price for Lot #2 aka 10 Lithia Springs Road however it may be negotiated or renegotiated prior to sale and further to authorize and direct the Town Administrator and Town Counsel to provide any notices and/or to take any actions that are necessary and/or

appropriate under the statute to effectuate the Board's vote. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye
Miles – Aye
Cyr – Aye
Forcier – Aye
Geraghty – Aye

EXTENSION OF ALLOWANCE OF OUTDOOR TABLE SERVICE FOR ON-PREMISE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Etelman moved to extend all previous permits for outdoor dining issued during 2020 through December 31, 2020. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye
Miles – Aye
Cyr – Aye
Forcier – Aye
Geraghty – Aye

ZOOM POLICIES DRAFT

With regard to virtual meetings, Etelman noted nothing about town meetings has changed except that board and committees are not meeting in person. Etelman motioned to accept the draft Zoom policies with the understanding that as the platform gets used there may need to be tweaks and the public be understanding of that. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye
Miles – Aye
Cyr – Aye
Forcier – Aye
Geraghty – Aye

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Etelman nominated Geraghty and Cyr to serve on a subcommittee charged with hammering out granular details of the financial policies with Sullivan, the Appropriations Committee chair, and Collector Treasurer Donna Whitely. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye
Miles – Aye
Cyr – Aye
Forcier – Aye
Geraghty – Aye

REMINDER

Etelman reminded residents to respond to the 2020 Census. Sullivan said TOSH is at an 80 percent response rate.

ADJOURN

Miles motioned to adjourn. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Kristin Maher
Executive Assistant to Administration

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCT. 6, 2020
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM – 6 P.M.**

Present were Chair Jeff Cyr, Vice Chair Sarah Etelman, Member Chris Geraghty, Member Bruce Forcier, Member Andrea Miles, and Town Administrator Michael J. Sullivan.

CALL TO ORDER

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

OPEN FORUM / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Etelman reminded folks to not take political yard signs from others yards.

Executive Assistant to Administration Kristin Maher informed the public there will be a drive-thru flu shot clinic coordinated by the Health Department and sponsored by Walgreens on Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 11 to 3 p.m. in the Beers & Story parking lot on Newton Street. Masks are required.

Sullivan said in-person early voting will take place at the South Hadley Public Library on the following schedule:

Saturday, October 17: 9 AM - 1 PM

Sunday, October 18: 9AM - 1 PM

Monday, October 19 through Friday, October 23: 10 AM - 2 PM

Saturday, October 24: 9 AM - 1 PM

Sunday, October 25: 9 AM - 1 PM

Monday, October 26 through Friday, October 30: 10 AM - 2 PM

He said 1,500 mail-in ballots were sent out yesterday and another 1,600 were sent out today. All requests will be fulfilled by the end of the week.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Etelman motioned to approve the draft meeting minutes of July 28, 2020, Aug. 4, 2020, and Aug. 25, 2020. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

COVID UPDATE

There are four new cases of COVID in South Hadley. Sullivan said two overall cases were revoked. Two people tested positive in California, but their true residence is South Hadley. Because the individuals are still in California the two cases were returned to California and not reflected in South Hadley numbers.

Numbers continue to creep up in town. The 14-day period of new cases is eight. Sullivan encouraged residents to social distance, wash hands, wear masks, stay away from crowds and stay home as much as possible.

Sullivan said TOSH continues to work with McCray's Farm to help them stay within guidelines. The state has expanded outdoor gathering numbers to 250 for any business with an entertainment feature, which includes McCray's Haunted Hayride. There still needs to be social distancing and opportunities for people to wash their hands. Advance scheduling is required.

Sullivan reminded residents the town does not regulate Halloween but hopes residents will use common sense and stay home on Oct. 31.

APPOINTMENT

Etelman moved to appoint Raghu Raghavan as the Mount Holyoke College representative to the Sustainability and Energy Commission. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

440 AMHERST ROAD CONSERVATION RESTRICTION

Etelman moved the Town of South Hadley Selectboard accept a Conservation Restriction under Massachusetts General Law chapters 184 and 40 with the support of the South Hadley Conservation Commission for 440 Amherst Road, South Hadley Massachusetts (Hampshire County Registry of Deeds at Book 12875, Page 201) and as further described in the document presented. Furthermore, she motioned to allow the Selectboard Chair sign on behalf of the full board on this matter. Cyr seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

SEWER USE FEE WARRANT

Etelman motioned to accept a Sewer Use Fee Warrant for the billing date of Oct. 1, 2020 in the amount of \$1,190,140. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

ELECTION WARRANT

Etelman moved to accept the election warrant as presented. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

ONE-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE DISCUSSION / MCCRAY'S REQUEST

Members discussed their concerns with allowing one-day beer and wine license approvals during the global pandemic and weighed the pros and cons of contingent approval based on state guidelines.

Sullivan noted state guidelines during the pandemic require liquor license holders – including one-day beer and wine licensees – to have seated service. Wait staff would have to bring food and drink out to customers seated at a table. Customers could not walk around holding alcohol.

Michael McCray said he was unaware of the seated service requirement. Because of that, he said it would be logistically impossible to try and pull together at such short notice and revoked his one-day beer and wine license requests.

Sullivan said he would research other potential options. If he found any, he would bring that information to the chair who could then call a special meeting to decide on issuing one-day licenses to McCray.

REMINDERS

Etelman reminded residents to complete their 2020 census.

Sullivan informed the board iPads for the Cyber Access Project are on the way. They will be paid with CARES Act funding. Council on Aging Director Leslie Hennessey will soon have them available to lend to qualifying residents. The school department is working with Comcast Essentials.

ADJOURN

Etelman motioned to adjourn. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles – Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Kristin Maher
Executive Assistant to Administration

ELECTION DAY - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

7am - 8pm

PRECINCTS A & B
GYMNASIUM

PRECINCT C
CAFETERIA

PRECINCT D
TIGER'S DEN

PRECINCT E
LIBRARY

SOUTH HADLEY HIGH SCHOOL
153 Newton St

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

Michael J. Sullivan
Town Administrator

October 15, 2020

To all,

It is that time of year when we need to start to think about our next budget. Yes, believe it or not we will start to build the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. I know this seems somewhere between stropy and unreasonable, even a bit awkward given that we have not finalized the FY 21 budget and the Commonwealth has not even given final figures for aid for this year. Although we did hear yesterday that we will get less than was originally proposed by Governor Baker in the revised allocation for FY 21 (about a quarter million), this comes as no surprise and could have been a lot worse. However, it still must go through the legislative sausage making process before we will know for sure. So, we probably will not know until around November 10th (guessing) the final figures.

Regardless we must press on. I would suggest we look to make our budget similar as best we can to FY 19. I expect revenues will be restrained, although so far it has not been as bad as some predicted. I thank you all for taking a steady, calm, and reasonable approach during these trying times. I am aware for smaller departments you will have a difficult time, but I respectfully ask you to get creative.

Please makes sure you review your capital needs and include those as well. I will be advocating for capital investments for FY 22, as I feel we need to not take our foot of the gas in respect to those investments at this time, lest we fall back from the progress we have made. Given that fact, we need every department to revisit, scour or otherwise ensure that any money from past projects (articles, encumbrances, grants, appropriations, borrowings etc.) are identified. Those projects should be completed, contracted or you should notify administration immediately as to why we have not used the funds provided and what you are planning.

We still need to deliver services, but as Deputy Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz has previously stated, we need you to take a close look at all services we provided. Which services may be realigned or reinvented? Are there some that should be eliminated which are not at the "core" of your departments or the Towns mission? Are there ones we need to allocate more resources which will lead to savings in time and money in the future? All these are questions we must ask in this time of necessary innovation.

Thank you all for your diligence and perseverance during the pandemic, you each have been inspiring, as has been your staff. These are not easy times and public service employees often takes the brunt of the populous frustration. Many of you have faced significant family challenges outside of work as well, stay positive! I am proud of the way collectively we have handled these challenges together while we are apart, there are more challenges ahead.

Lynn Roberts will be sending out the work sheets by November 12th for the FY 22 budget. I would ask that you make a reasonable effort to send me your draft electronically by December 4th. I will start to schedule budget "Zooms" December 7 through December 16. I plan on having the first draft of the budget to the Selectboard and the Appropriations Committee by mid-January. I will also be looking to review progress on your last PBE when we meet....I can hear you in my mind eye:)

Respectfully and with gratitude,
Mike

Copy Selectboard
Appropriations Chair

FY2021 Preliminary Cherry Sheet Estimates
South Hadley

PROGRAM	FY2020 Cherry Sheet Estimate	FY2021 Governor's Budget Proposal	FY2021 Governor's Revised Budget Proposal
Education Receipts:			
Chapter 70	8,248,287	8,702,261	8,530,839
School Transportation	0	0	0
Charter Tuition Reimbursement	253,052	304,914	154,085
Smart Growth School Reimbursement	0	0	0

Offset Receipts:			
School Choice Receiving Tuition	1,032,173	992,169	961,286
Sub-Total, All Education Items:	9,533,512	9,999,344	9,646,210

General Government:			
Unrestricted Gen Gov't Aid	2,773,350	2,851,004	2,773,350
Local Share of Racing Taxes	0	0	0
Regional Public Libraries	0	0	0
Veterans Benefits	232,798	190,784	190,784
Exemp: VBS and Elderly	89,097	99,043	99,043
State Owned Land	29,343	29,187	29,136

Offset Receipts:			
Public Libraries	32,151	31,688	31,688
Sub-Total, All General Government:	3,156,739	3,201,706	3,124,001

Total Estimated Receipts:	12,690,251	13,201,050	12,770,211
----------------------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------

PROGRAM	FY2020 Cherry Sheet Estimate	FY2021 Governor's Budget Proposal	FY2021 Governor's Revised Budget Proposal
County Assessments:			
County Tax	0	0	0
Suffolk County Retirement	0	0	0
Sub-Total, County Assessments:	0	0	0

State Assessments and Charges:			
Retired Employees Health Insurance	0	0	0
Retired Teachers Health Insurance	0	0	0
Mosquito Control Projects	0	0	0
Air Pollution Districts	4,592	4,668	4,668
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	0	0	0
Old Colony Planning Council	0	0	0
RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	14,100	13,660	13,660
Sub-Total, State Assessments:	18,692	18,328	18,328

Transportation Authorities:			
MBTA	0	0	0
Boston Metro. Transit District	0	0	0
Regional Transit	188,233	178,980	178,980
Sub-Total, Transp Authorities:	188,233	178,980	178,980

Annual Charges Against Receipts:			
Multi-Year Repayment Program	0	0	0
Special Education	0	22,970	24,181
STRAP Repayments	0	0	0
Sub-Total, Annual Charges:	0	22,970	24,181

Tuition Assessments:			
School Choice Sending Tuition	568,678	530,603	587,278
Charter School Sending Tuition	1,720,477	1,855,603	1,690,239
Sub-Total, Tuition Assessments:	2,289,155	2,386,206	2,277,517

Total All Estimated Charges:	2,496,080	2,606,484	2,499,006
-------------------------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

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

Michael J. Sullivan
 Town Administrator

October 13, 2020

Town Administrator’s Report to the Selectboard

Honorable Selectboard,

Please accept this report as an overview of projects and activities of the municipality during the last two weeks. As always, your support and patience are appreciated and critical to our collective success.

COVID 19 Update

While the data contained within this and previous reports can seem confusing, conflicting and even overwhelming, the most important issue to recognize is that COVID 19 is very much present in South Hadley and by all indications.

The “LBOH” count below is presented weekly either at SB meetings or in this “TA” report in the alternate week. The count below is specific to South Hadley and prepared by the Commonwealth and delivered through the MAVEN system by the Department of Public Health. I have added two columns in red at the right of the graph which represents the counts from prior weeks.

As you can see the confirmed case have not gone up from the October 7 data, however the contact cases have increased by two cases.

LBOH Count - Events Per Disease and Classification in Jurisdiction				
Classification: confirmed,contact,probable,revoked,suspect				
Jurisdiction(s) selected: SOUTH HADLEY				
Jurisdiction(s) used for report: SOUTH HADLEY				
The report contains confidential information. The data are current as of 10/13/2020 and are subject to change.				
Disease	Status	Num of Cases	10/07/20	9/29/20
Novel Coronavirus	CONFIRMED	221	221	217
Novel Coronavirus	CONTACT	222	220	218
Novel Coronavirus	PROBABLE	9	9	9
Novel Coronavirus	SUSPECT	6	5	3

The map below is the now all too familiar “red” light map. This week South Hadley is in “green” which indicates it has four or less per hundred thousand case rate last week you may recall we were gray, which is where you want to be.

The map shows Holyoke, Springfield, Sunderland and Amherst have all categorized as red. This would indicate a precautionary tale for Hampden and Hampden/Hampshire County. You may recall in the early stages the Commonwealth smaller encouraged

South Hadley: GREEN

Total Case Count: **221**

Two Week case Count: **8**

Average Daily Incidence Rate Per 100,000: **3.16**

Relative Change In Case Count: **Higher**

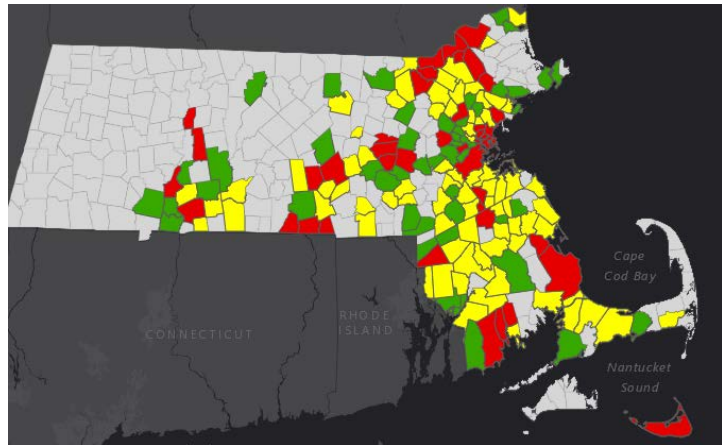
Total Tests: **10,314**

Total Tests Last 14 Days: **2,002**

Positive Tests Last 14 Days: **9**

Percent Positivity: **0.45%**

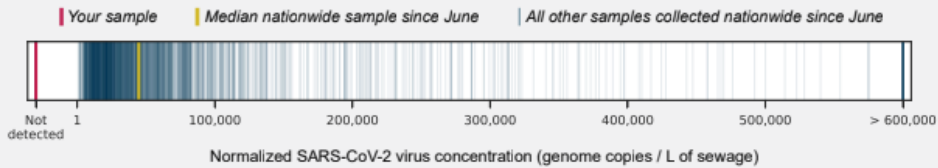
Change In Percent Positivity: **Higher**



municipalities to approach this from a regional perspective. Given that we continually travel from community to community out of need or otherwise we need to consider that approach. Please note the map and the information on the left of the map is for a different period (9/20-10/3) than the MAVEN data on the previous page.

Normalized virus concentrations in comparison

Your sample had no detectable levels of SARS-CoV-2. **16%** of all samples collected since June also had no detectable levels.



Biobot COVID19 incidence estimate*

** using Biobot's current analysis model v2.0, which reflects active R&D and will change over time with developing research*

-- new cases / day
(--% incidence rate)

Using a reported flow rate of 2.2 MGD

For more information, read the whitepaper:
<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.06.15.20117747>

This incidence estimate represents the projected average of **confirmed new clinical cases (per day)** that will be reported in your community 7 days from the sampling date. This estimate reflects active R&D.

This number is derived from Biobot's latest proprietary case model, leveraging thousands of samples analyzed for Covid-19. For context, USAFacts reports **8 new cases** on this sampling date in **Hampshire County, MA**.

Visit our website for more details behind the process:
<https://www.biobot.io/case-estimates>
<https://www.biobot.io/updated-model>

Please note the positivity rate has continued upward for the second week in a row. The BioBot data measuring the fecal RNA continues to be below the median and shows the levels are at “non-detectable” levels, which is a positive indicator. For more information and data go to <https://www.southhadley.org/1026/COVID-19-RESPONSE> or to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>.

Voting, Early In-person, Mail-in, Traditional,

It is not a surprise the Town Clerk is expecting record breaking numbers for voting in the 2020 State/Presidential Election and Clerk Hamlin should be commended for offering numerous voting options, while diligently overseeing and monitoring the process to ensure everyone in South Hadley can be confident your vote will get counted.

There is very important and helpful information @ <https://www.southhadley.org/156/Clerk> please take the time to review the information. Doing so will allow you a clear understanding of what is required of you as the voter to cast your vote. The site will give you information on all voting options, locations, and deadlines for registering, submitting requests and other valid information.

The website also will allow you to familiarize yourself with the ballot specimen, including the initiative petition questions being put forth on the ballot. Being prepared prior to arrival will help make your choice process more expedient.

Early In-Person will be held for ten days at the South Hadley Public Library, the schedule is as follows.

- Saturday, October 17: 9 AM - 1 PM
- Sunday, October 18: 9AM - 1 PM
- Monday, October 19 - Friday, October 23: 10 AM - 2 PM
- Saturday, October 24: 9 AM - 1 PM
- Sunday, October 25: 9 AM - 1 PM
- Monday, October 26 - Friday, October 30: 10 AM - 2 PM

Please wear face covering, practice social distance and if you feel sick do not attend. Bringing “political advertising” into a polling place is a violation of election laws, this includes but not limited to, hats, t-shirts, buttons, signs, decals, or pamphlets which espouse a candidate or position on ballot questions. We ask that everyone be respectful of the law and help make voting a pleasant experience for voter, poll workers and others, thank you.

Mail-in or Drop Off the requests for mail in or absentee ballots have been sent. I would like to thank everyone in Town Hall who pitched in to assist the Town Clerk’s

Office in getting the over 6,000 requests for ballots assembled, labeled, and mailed out to voters. It was an incredible “team” effort.



Ballot applications or ballots themselves can be deposited in the “drop-box” depicted to the left. The box is maintained daily to receive ballots or applications.

The drop box is located at the rear of the South Hadley Police Department please use entrance off Bridge Street where the directional sign guides you the drop box. There are two cameras trained on the ballot drop box as a preventative measure and to ensure your safety.

The Town Clerk is working very closely with the South Hadley Postmaster to coordinate any USPS mailed ballots. Similar to the successful experience from the primary elections, if you mail your ballot in South Hadley (and use the envelope supplied) it will never leave South Hadley. Unlike other mail which even if you are mailing it to another SoHa address it is likely traveling to Springfield or Hartford to be sorted and then returned to town.

We also encourage voters to make themselves aware of the recent bulletin from Attorney Maura Healey’s advisory about “intimidation” of voters and unlawfully interrupting the process of voting. <https://www.mass.gov/news/ag-healey-announces-statewide-voter-protection-initiative> We would also remind people that damaging or removing a political sign from someone less property is a crime.

Please note November 3rd from 7 AM until 8 PM there will be in-person voting at the South Hadley High School, please consult the Town Clerk’s page for additional information if necessary.

Senior Center

Progress on the Senior Center continues, everything is relatively on schedule and within the allotted budget. The Senior Center Building Committee, the OPM (Colliers), the contractor (Souliere and Zepka), the designer (edm) and the long list of other professionals involved in the project seem to be all working well together, of course under the watchful eye of Director Hennessey who I commend for being able to work with so many different groups and personalities.



Presently furniture is being chosen to be put out for bid, the envelope is getting buttoned up as they get ready for winter, although I hope it never comes and cement work is being completed. Once it enclosed the sub-contractors will go to work inside.

There have been some minor changes to drainage and to the parking lot, but all changes thus far have been inconsequential in terms of the project. We have applied for a grant through the Massachusetts Office of Disabilities to add an accessible exercise area outdoors which would not interfere with any of the playground activities or planned additions. This project if the grant is received will begin when the building is substantially complete, so not to interrupt the building process.

Recent Derecho



As you can see from these photos the most recent storm which passed through the area was powerful and was quite damaging throughout South Hadley. Again, the SHELD and the DPW did some outstanding work overnight and well into the next day.

There was over 2,000 SHELD customers left without power after the wind subsided, nearly a third of all homes and businesses in South Hadley. In a cooperative effort the DPW and SHELD worked to remove trees with the common goal of restoring power to everyone within 24 hours.

While some towns have homes still without power a week later in other locales it is hard to calculate the value and talent of your MLP in South Hadley. Depicted is the Steven Circle area where you can see where a massive tree was uprooted unceremoniously by the storm.



We continue to address trees throughout the community and under the direction of the Conservation Administrator Anne Capra we have launched a new tree planting program through our Municipal Vulnerability Grant, the link below will give you all the details on how you can be part of this initiative.

<https://www.southhadley.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=483>

As difficult as trees are when they fall their value far exceed the trouble, if we hope to make an effort to fight climate change this seems like a no brainer. Please consider participating in this program!



Dog Park Now Open

No sooner was the park ready to open a tree fell on the north side of the park, right on the brand-new fence. Fortunately, it fell in such a way that it acts as a natural fence and therefore we were able to proceed with the opening.

The DPW has it on a long list of parks and properties which we need to address fallen limbs.... they are moving at the speed of safety and we appreciate the

public's understanding.

On my most recent visit I found the Friends of the South Hadley Dog Park's notable member Jen Cullen and Brenda Mathieu cutting grass, finishing up some planting, planning for installation of benches and generally administering to the park's needs. They have been great partners and instrumental in moving this project in the right direction.

I would encourage all residents to take a drive by, it is an excellent setting, with some beautiful views. I would also like to thank the South Hadley Selectboard for their support and patience with this project. I would be remiss if I did not thank the Stanton Foundation and Kate Dumeer for their dedication to making this a reality. They provided over \$240,000 in design and construction funding out of the total \$265K cost of the park. It was ruff but we got through it!

Budget 2022

Yes, we are just beginning the planning for the next fiscal years. In a recent discussion with my colleagues from across the state planning for next years budget is like being in a car as you see an accident in your future. Hearing some of the predicaments other communities make me thankful that I am in South Hadley. I still feel very confident the Town of South Hadley is in a good position to weather the storm.

It was very interesting how many communities were handling their approach to capital and the message was clearly to be cautious about not moving on any capital projects. There was also great trepidation as we await the Governor's revised numbers on the budget. More to come...

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Sullivan
South Hadley, Town Administrator