

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021
VIRTUAL AGENDA
7 P.M.**

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| <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> |
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1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes: Draft Minutes of Feb. 16, 2021
3. Open Forum/Announcements
4. COVID-19 Update (Sharon Hart)
 - a) Update on confirmed cases.
 - b) Update on vaccines.
 - c) Review of public building re-opening requirements.
5. Public Hearing for Right-of-First Refusal to Acquire 315 Amherst Road (Map 58, Parcel 96) under MGL Chapter 61A
6. Mosier SOI discussion
7. Vote Board of Assessors as Special Municipal Employees
8. Town Administrator Search Update
9. FY 2022 Budget Update
 - a) Veteran Service District Plan
 - b) Borrowing Senior Center
10. Other Business
11. Town Administrator's Report
12. Executive Session under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 39 section 23B: Contract Negotiations AFSCME Units A&B
13. Adjourn

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021
MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM – 7 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.

MINUTES

Geraghty motioned to approve the draft minutes of Feb. 16, 2021. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Etelman – Aye

Miles - Aye

Cyr – Aye

Forcier – Aye

Geraghty – Aye

COVID-19 UPDATE

Emergency Management Director Sharon Hart said new COVID case counts are down. The vaccine supply for Western Mass is inadequate. She said the City of Chicopee is looking to use the Knights of Columbus location as a corporate-run vaccine center, joined by Holyoke and South Hadley.

Selectboard members asked Sullivan to craft a letter to send to Governor Charles Baker about the vaccine inequity in Western Mass.

Sullivan said he discussed a town hall reopening plan with Hart. Reopening will not happen quickly or immediately. Appointments will remain for the landfill and compost areas - it works better for staffing efficiencies and the municipality can better watch its waste flow ensuring residents aren't dumping what they shouldn't.

MUNICIPAL GIFT POLICY

The Selectboard directed Sullivan to develop two related separate policies for gifting items to the municipality and for naming municipal buildings/facilities/places.

FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH HADLEY SENIORS POOL TABLE OFFER

The Selectboard authorized Sullivan to send a letter The Friends of South Hadley Seniors regarding the acceptance of a gift of one or two pool tables to the senior center at 45 Dayton Street.

SUPPORT LETTER FOR MSBA FOR MOSIER SCHOOL

The Selectboard tabled a vote on the Mosier statement of interest until its next meeting. Cyr asked Sullivan to reach out to school officials to invite them to the next Selectboard meeting.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DISCUSSION

The Selectboard began discussions for planning the annual town meeting. Sullivan suggested early May. He will reach out to St. Theresa's Church to discuss a drive-in meeting like last year.

TA SEARCH UPDATE

Geraghty said the TASC met that morning to review applicants. Twenty people applied. Six were selected as semi-finalists to be interviewed March 17 - 18. From that group three finalists will be chosen for Selectboard members to interview.

FY22 BUDGET UPDATE

Sullivan gave various updates to the draft FY22 budget.

APRIL ELECTION BALLOT

Etelman motioned to accept the ballot for election of town officers in accordance with the South Hadley bylaws and other applicable Massachusetts General Laws for the Annual Town Elections to be held April 13, 2021 for precincts A,B,C,D and E at South Hadley High School 153 Newton Street South Hadley from 10 AM until 6 PM for all South Hadley registered voters. Miles seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Miles motioned to allow Sullivan to sign on the Selectboard’s behalf. Etelman seconded. All in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

For the full town administrator’s report, see the March 2, 2021 Selectboard packet.

ADJOURN

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Maher
Executive Assistant to Administration

**PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER CHAPTER 61A NOTICE OF INTENDED SALE FOR
315 AHMERST ROAD, SOUTH HADLEY**

Public Hearing Purpose

In accordance with MGL c.61A, sec. 14, the South Hadley Selectboard must hold a public hearing to give notice of intent to acquire property in response to the Notice of Intended Sale provided by the property owner, which was received by the Town of May 7, 2020. The property is 20.7 acres of open space located at 315 Amherst Road (Parcel ID 0058-00096-00). The Selectboard did take up the Notice of Intended Sale at their May 26, 2020 meeting and voted to notify the seller of the Town's intent to exercise their right of first refusal to acquire the property. This was not a legally advertised Public Hearing, and thus upon the advice of Attorney Winner, we are conducting this Public Hearing.

Acquisition Cost

The property will be acquired in fee, under the care and control of the Conservation Commission, for the purchase price of \$190,000, of which \$134,436 will be provided by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs through a state Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant. The balance of the acquisition costs will be paid from the Town's Conservation Land Fund (\$55,564) plus another \$10,000 in closing costs and grant requirements (title certification, survey, Baseline Documentation Report, property sign, etc.).

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move to issue a Notice of Exercise, together with a proposed purchase and sale agreement, under MGL Chapter 61A, Section 14 for the property located at 315 Amherst Road, known also as Parcel 0058-00096-00, to acquire the property under the care and control of the Conservation Commission, for the amount of \$190,000.

Project Background

Below is a link to a series of maps that illustrate the location and open space values of the property. This parcel is recognized in the recently updated Open Space and Recreation Plan as an undeveloped parcel of interest for conservation. The Town of South Hadley has established criteria for evaluating land for possible acquisition within the Town of South Hadley Policies: Chapter 403 Criteria for Land Acquisition or Acceptance, Section 403-1 Required Characteristics <https://ecode360.com/31758305> In order for land to be considered for acquisition or acceptance by the Conservation Commission, the parcel or parcels in question *should have at least one* of the following characteristics listed in Table 1 below. For each characteristic, I have provided a summary of the data available to substantiate how the property meets the criteria. Of the 16 criteria, the parcel meets 13 of them.

Detailed maps of the site and the natural resource values are posted online here:

<https://www.southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/7947/315-Amherst-Road-LAND-Grant-Application>

Table 1 Chapter 403 Criteria for Land Acquisition or Acceptance, Section 403-1 Required Characteristics <https://ecode360.com/31758305>

| Characteristic | Present | Description | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---|---|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|--------------------------|---|---|---|----|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>Adjacent to other conservation or recreation lands.</i> | YES | Bachelor Brook Conservation Area owned by the Town of Granby is to the east in Granby. Downstream and to the west is the Mugg CR ,South Hadley Swimming Club, Camp Lewis Perkins, and the Town of South Hadley’s Bachelor Brook East, and Bachelor-Stony Brook Conservation Area. Within the watershed of the site and Bachelor Brook are hundreds of acres of protected land on the Mount Holyoke Range, due north of the site. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Part of the Mount Holyoke Range, or have frontage on the Connecticut River.</i> | NO | The property is at the base of the Holyoke Range with the watershed for Bachelor Brook extending to the ridgeline of the Mount Holyoke Range. The property is a major tributary to the Connecticut River, the mouth of which is on the Town of South Hadley’s Bachelor Brook-Stony Brook Conservation Area off of Ferry Street. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Rare species habitat [as identified by the National Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)].</i> | YES | <p>The Bachelor Brook watershed is part of NHESP Priority Habitat #2064. In an information request to NHESP regarding rare and endangered species in the watershed, NHESP provided the following information on 2/6/19:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Endangered</th> <th>Threatened</th> <th>Special Concern</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Invertebrate Animal</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>10</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vascular Plant</td> <td>19</td> <td>10</td> <td>6</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vertebrate Animal</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>27</td> <td>15</td> <td>21</td> <td>63</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Endangered | Threatened | Special Concern | TOTAL | Invertebrate Animal | 5 | 1 | 10 | 16 | Vascular Plant | 19 | 10 | 6 | 35 | Vertebrate Animal | 3 | 4 | 5 | 12 | TOTAL | 27 | 15 | 21 | 63 |
| | Endangered | Threatened | Special Concern | TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Invertebrate Animal | 5 | 1 | 10 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vascular Plant | 19 | 10 | 6 | 35 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vertebrate Animal | 3 | 4 | 5 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 27 | 15 | 21 | 63 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Public access and possible parking for a few cars.</i> | YES | Property has frontage on Amherst Road/Route 116 (entire western boundary is on road) and has been accessed for cutting hay annually by tractors and other farm equipment. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Important water features, such as distinctive or unique wetlands, springs, brooks, waterfalls, or vernal pools.</i> | YES | Bachelor Brook (and Stony Brook) is recognized by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as one of the best examples statewide of a small-river floodplain forest. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Streamside or riverfront area, for passive recreation, habitat, greenways, wildlife corridor.</i> | YES | The entire northern border is formed by Bachelor Brook. There is also a mapped intermittent stream flowing through the center of the property into BVW along Bachelor Brook. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>High visual or aesthetic value, including nice views of or from the location.</i> | YES | The property is spectacularly beautiful both from the roadside as driving by and on the property itself. The property is within “Noteworthy Scenery” as mapped | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | |
|---|-----|--|
| | | by Kestrel Land Trust. |
| <i>Diverse landscape or habitat, such as a combination of woods, fields and water.</i> | YES | The property has open fields, shrub swamp wetlands and likely other wetland types, some early successional forest, and riparian habitat along a perennial river. |
| <i>Unique or distinctive historical, archaeological, or geologic features.</i> | YES | The property is within area identified by The Nature Conservancy as important for "climate change resiliency". |
| <i>Add to a potential greenway or trail system.</i> | YES | The property has the potential for trail development, and is within the Bachelor Brook riparian corridor which has been identified for development of a protected greenway corridor. See info about adjacent protected lands above. |
| <i>Preserve farmland.</i> | YES | Approximately 2/3 of the property has soils mapped by USGS as Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. An upland portion of the property has been cut for hay for a number of years which is why it is currently enrolled in Chapter 61A with the South Hadley Assessor. |
| <i>Priority Natural Vegetation Community type, according to NHESP definitions.</i> | YES | Small-river Floodplain Forest (see above) |
| <i>Within the "Special Landscape Areas" boundaries as identified in the 1999 South Hadley Open Space and Recreation Plan.</i> | ?? | Unknown, map cannot be located |
| <i>Within NHESP's BioMap Core Habitat or Supporting Natural Landscape, or Living Waters Core Habitat or the adjacent riparian area.</i> | YES | Approximately half of the property is within BioMap Core Habitat 2943 (Aquatic Core 683 and Species of Special Concern Core 2326) and Critical Natural Landscape 836. See description of rare species above. |
| <i>Protect public water supply wells or reservoirs.</i> | NO | Outside of the Dry Brook Well Zone III |
| <i>Five or more acres in size.</i> | YES | 20.7 acres (Assessor); Deed states 20.5 |

Vote to Appoint the Board of Assessors as Special Municipal Employees

This motion is necessary as a member of this board may appear before other boards or commissions in relationship to their regular employment. The board member has been granted this status in the past by the Selectboard. The law requires if one member requires this designation the whole board must be granted the same under the law.

Proposed Motion: “I motion to designate the Board of Assessors as Special Municipal Employees in accordance with MGL c. 268A”



SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Town Hall—116 Main Street
South Hadley, MA 01075-2898
(413) 538-5060
(413) 532-6284 FAX
dbonneville@shschools.com

Diana Bonneville, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

February 17, 2021

South Hadley Selectboard
116 Main Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear Members of the Selectboard:

As the Selectboard is aware, we did not apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for consideration of a renovation/building project for Mosier Elementary School last year. The process would require us to resubmit a Statement of Interest in order to be considered in the next cycle.

At its regular meeting on January 25, 2021, the School Committee voted to submit a 2021 Statement of Interest for Mosier School. As the next step, we respectfully request that the Selectboard vote by late March to advance a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority during the current open window that closes in early April 2021. A copy of the Required Form of Vote to Submit a Statement of Interest is attached.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the South Hadley Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Diana Bonneville, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

pc: School Committee
Appropriations Committee
Capital Planning Committee
Mike Sullivan, Town Administrator

Attachment

SOUTH HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 25, 2021

REQUIRED FORM OF VOTE TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on January 25, 2021, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of South Hadley, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated on or before May 6, 2021 for the Mosier Elementary School located at 101 Mosier Street, South Hadley, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future;

Priorities: 5. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility. A new fire suppression system is also deemed a safety priority;

HVAC: Replace current hot water boiler installed in approximately 2000; replace heating boiler installed in 2004;

Electrical: Upgrade electrical service throughout the building to accommodate the use of computers and new equipment. The main electrical panel is a Federal Register panel, which is no longer on the market;

Windows: Replace (110) windows/frames throughout the building. The metal-framed windows are more that forty years old and are inefficient;

Portables: Replace portable classrooms with permanent classroom space;

And hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the South Hadley School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.



South Hadley-Easthampton Veterans' Service District

4 March 2021

VETERANS' SERVICES ACTION PLAN

- Veteran Service Office Purposed Hybrid Schedule (32 hours per week)
 - South Hadley: Monday/Wednesday/Friday/Saturday (16 hours total) available by appointment also allows for fluid scheduling for home visit appointments, outreach events and veteran events outside of normal business hours.
 - Easthampton: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday (16 hours total) available by appointment also allows for fluid scheduling for home visit appointments, outreach events and veteran events outside of normal business hours.
 - Any appointments conducted at a municipal office will require health questionnaire prescreening, wearing of a mask or face covering and that the client be escorted while inside of the municipal building. These procedures will be subject to change in accordance with all state and local guidelines. The South Hadley-Easthampton Veterans' District will accommodate in-office appointments as available and allowable under the COVID-19 restrictions set by each community.
- Annual Compensation increased to \$60,000 per year in line with Department Head Compensation for Departments with similar workload.
- Budget Expense of \$20,000 to hire seasonal staffing or contract support for periods of absence or during time of increased workload. (Possible Municipal agreement to handle Recertification increased workload with another Veteran Service District/Office)
- Access to Wi-Fi Hotspot/Cell Phone to allow remote work and reduce redundancy of filling out paperwork and then later having to enter it into VSMIS/VetraSpec. Will also reduce the need for follow up appointments for signature after inputting data. Department has gained digital signature capabilities which will allow for the reduction of needless paper applications. A cell phone would streamline the contact process instead of three different phone numbers leading all to the same point. I currently use a cell phone app, but it is very unreliable.
- Establish Monthly curbside check distribution managed by myself or another staff member of each community when I am not available. This would be a two-hour window each month where clients would be able to pick up checks if they are not picked up in the time allotted, they will be mailed. Easthampton is the Thursday before the 15th of the month. South Hadley would be the Wednesday before the 15th of each month. Both would be from 3-5pm.
- Establish a clear understanding for role of Veteran District Committee in relation to what they can and cannot approve without higher level guidance.

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

Michael J. Sullivan
 Town Administrator

Report to the South Hadley Selectboard
March 11, 2021
 Town Administrator
 Michael J. Sullivan

COVID 19 Update

South Hadley continues to trend in a positive direction, this is largely due to the

Please use the following link to obtain more information on the progress of the virus, re-openings and vaccines <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-covid-19-vaccination-data-and-updates>

Below the South Hadley numbers indicate slight uptick in “confirmed” case, but a much more substantial increase under “contact” over the previous week. The number of contacts has been in the past a harbinger of things to come for confirmed cases. It makes sense, as the contacts are people who were likely exposed to a confirmed carrier. This is a statistic which would suggest we need to stay diligent in adhering to the guidelines.

LBOH Count - Events Per Disease and Classification in Jurisdiction

Classification:

confirmed,contact,probable,revoked,suspect

Event Dates from 03/01/2020 to 03/10/2021

Jurisdiction(s) selected: SOUTH HADLEY

Jurisdiction(s) used for report: SOUTH HADLEY

The report contains confidential information. The data are current as of 03/09/2021 and are subject to change.

| Disease | Status | Num of Cases | 3/2/2021 | 2/16/2021 | 2/9/2021 | 2/2/2021 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc) | CONFIRMED | 891 | 866 | 842 | 807 | 782 |
| Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc) | CONTACT | 692 | 663 | 648 | 617 | 588 |
| Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc) | PROBABLE | 63 | 53 | 49 | 46 | 40 |
| Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc) | SUSPECT | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |

As of March 2nd the positivity rate continues to trend lower for South Hadley and for the first time in a long time has dipped below 1% to .96%.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard – Thursday, March 4, 2021

Count and Rate of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Tests Performed in MA by City/Town, January 1, 2020 – March 2, 2021

| City/Town | Total Case Count | Case Count (Last 14 Days) | Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 (Last 14 days) ¹ | Relative Change in Case Counts ² | Total Tests | Total Tests (Last 14 days) | Total Positive Tests (Last 14 days) | Percent Positivity (Last 14 days) | Change in Percent Positivity ³ |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|--|---|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Somerset | 1793 | 55 | 21.2 | Lower | 28485 | 1633 | 62 | 3.80% | Lower |
| Somerville | 4753 | 220 | 20.8 | Higher | 385618 | 35503 | 247 | 0.70% | No Change |
| South Hadley | 882 | 39 | 15.4 | Lower | 44748 | 4982 | 48 | 0.96% | Lower |
| Southampton | 342 | 18 | 21.4 | Lower | 9621 | 763 | 20 | 2.62% | Lower |
| Southborough | 403 | 20 | 14.8 | Lower | 27854 | 2832 | 24 | 0.85% | No Change |
| Southbridge | 1604 | 60 | 25.6 | Lower | 25444 | 1667 | 75 | 4.50% | Lower |
| Southwick | 481 | 22 | 16.0 | Higher | 11658 | 720 | 22 | 3.06% | Higher |
| Spencer | 730 | 40 | 24.9 | Higher | 16813 | 1134 | 41 | 3.62% | Higher |
| Springfield | 17730 | 881 | 40.3 | Lower | 296791 | 22701 | 1053 | 4.64% | Lower |

As you can see by the above analysis South Hadley’s trend is consistent with other cities and towns. I found it interesting that per capita SoHa is experience far more testing that Springfield, I have no idea what that means, but still interesting.



COVID-19

MASSACHUSETTS

STATE PROFILE REPORT | 02.28.2021

| | STATE | STATE, % CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK | FEMA/HHS REGION | UNITED STATES | | |
|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| NEW COVID-19 CASES (RATE PER 100,000) | 10,852 (157) | -2% | 24,139 (163) | 470,453 (142) | | |
| VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TEST POSITIVITY RATE | 1.9% | -0.3%* | 2.3% | 5.1% | | |
| TOTAL VIRAL (RT-PCR) LAB TESTS (TESTS PER 100,000) | 546,792** (7,933**) | -11%** | 890,107** (5,996**) | 7,666,602** (2,309**) | | |
| COVID-19 DEATHS (RATE PER 100,000) | 294 (4.3) | -18% | 590 (4.0) | 14,791 (4.5) | | |
| SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 CASE | 6%† | -2%* | 6% | 7% | | |
| SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW STAFF COVID-19 CASE | 12%† | -4%* | 13% | 13% | | |
| SNFs WITH ≥1 NEW RESIDENT COVID-19 DEATH | 3%† | -2%* | 4% | 4% | | |
| CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED NEW COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS (RATE PER 100 BEDS) | 1,433 (8) | -2% (-2%) | 2,895 (8) | 82,786 (11) | | |
| CONFIRMED NEW COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS (RATE PER 100 BEDS) | 710 (4) | -6% (-6%) | 1,500 (4) | 42,108 (6) | | |
| NUMBER OF HOSPITALS WITH SUPPLY SHORTAGES (PERCENT) | 2 (3%) | +0% | 16 (9%) | 362 (7%) | | |
| NUMBER OF HOSPITALS WITH STAFF SHORTAGES (PERCENT) | 5 (8%) | +0% | 24 (13%) | 689 (13%) | | |
| COVID-19 VACCINE SUMMARY | DOSES DELIVERED | | 1ST DOSE ADMINISTERED | | 2ND DOSE ADMINISTERED | |
| | TOTAL | RATE PER 100,000 | TOTAL | PERCENT OF POPULATION | TOTAL | PERCENT OF POPULATION |
| | 2,091,730 | 30,347 | 1,220,455 | 17.7% | 496,356 | 7.2% |

The above profile captures various indicators of the progress we are making in the Commonwealth. It suggests that overall, we are making progress in comparison to the national numbers including in respect to vaccines.

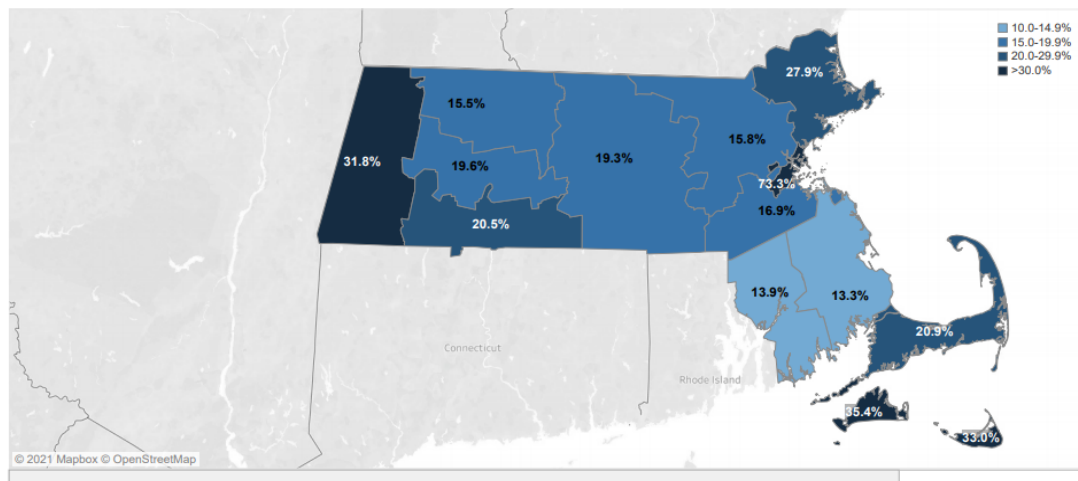
It would seem there has been a breakthrough for appointments in the last week. I did get an appointment last Thursday for March 11 at Eastfield Mall, strangely though I received a follow up email scheduling my second Pfizer vaccine, but it was scheduled in Dartmouth, Mass. I expect I will be able to change that at my appointment.

I have heard of some people getting vaccines the same day they tried to schedule, I know of one of my adult children who is a teacher getting the Johnson and Johnson one shot vaccine last Saturday. He signed in at 2 AM (baby was up) and got an appointment at the Granby CVS for that afternoon.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard - Thursday, March 4, 2021

Cumulative COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Shipped to Massachusetts Providers by County of Provider as a Percent of County Population

Data as of March 02, 2021



Note: Due to inputting and processing, it may take 24-48 hours or more for shipping or administration data to appear in MIIS. MIIS data are available for analysis one calendar day after they are reported to the MIIS. As of 2/26/21, data reflect transfers between providers reported to the MIIS. Some federal facilities in MA receive vaccine from a separate federal distribution system and would not be included here. These proportions use 2019 Donahue population estimates. Data on doses shipped does not include shipment data from the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program and jurisdictional transfers to retail pharmacies shipments.

My advice on seeking a vaccine would be to stay at it, I suspect it will become easier as the days go by, if you are elderly or have. It is interesting how far some counties in Massachusetts are ahead in the process.

Recent Windstorm

March certainly came in like a lion, lets hope it becomes the proverbial lamb. South Hadley Electric Light and DPW crews worked throughout the night to restore power and remove hazards caused by the storm.



Below you can see some of the damage caused by a tree at Mosier School. The very next day the Facilities Coordinator Viv Price was working with the school staff and administration to address the removal of the down tree.

Our Insurance company was on scene that day and approved work to begin in respect to the necessary repairs.



This roof was recently repair (4 years), the damage was not covered by the warrantee obviously, but so the warrantee is not voided by the manufacturer the local representative for Tristate Roofing (Ed Boisselle) made himself available immediately to address the damage and give the Facilities Coordinator helpful advice on getting the necessary repairs in place quickly. We hope the work will be completed in the next 30 days.

Capital Planning Update



The South Hadley Capital Planning Committee recently held a virtual meeting to discuss the FY 2022 capital needs. As with prior years it is unlikely with over \$3 million in department request every need will be funded in FY 22. However, I believe a very aggressive plan can be offered which will address the most immediate needs and continue the progress made in the road and sidewalk investments which have unfolded over the seven years.

This photo was taken of the underbelly of the Michael E. Smith Middle School in 2014 when Gale Associates did a report which stated the pool was in tough shape. This is a case where a picture certainly tells the story. The estimated repair seven years ago was around \$280K. The Facilities Coordinator Viv Price and the Interim Superintendent Diana Bonneville have reached out to Gale Associates to ask a quote for an engineering update on the condition, but more so on the estimated cost. The pool has been drained and is not presently being used. I suspect once the cost estimate there will be a discussion between the School Committee, the Selectboard, Capital Planning, Appropriations and most importantly the public about

The big-ticket item is the need to invest in a new dispatch system for public safety. The present system is outdated, with many of the component parts simply unavailable. There are no warranties on the equipment, and it is not a system which I would recommend tempting fate. The previous years estimates were considerably higher (\$1.8M), but through some research by the Police in cooperation with SHELDT the estimated cost has been winnowed down. I do not believe waiting will make this item any less expensive and definitely not less prone to failure.

Spring Leaf Pick-up



Curbside collection of yard waste begins **March 29** and will run through **April 23**. Paper bags or open top containers only; Must be curbside by 7AM on your Collection Day. Each trash route will have two collections. Brush must be tied in bundles (no metal) of not more than four-foot lengths. Leaves, grass, and brush only. Please do not use plastic bags, as the contractor will not take your leaves.

You also can use the drop off scheduler on the DPW website to drop off lawn debris, this is a great time as there are plenty of convenient times open, I suspect as the weather gets better the appointments will become less available.

I hope all lawns look this good and there is as few leaves as depicted. I am sure many would agree a handful of leaves and one bag of debris would be a Spring victory.

Budget Update

There has been a change made to the draft budget in terms of the Veteran Service budget. To add transparency to the budget the cost of the administration of veteran claims has been added in a line item.

While this is not a material change or does it affect the net general fund costs it does move the recovered cost from a Cherry Sheet entry to the net cost of government. We expect the historical reimbursement of 75% of cost related to Veteran Services from the state will still be recovered.

We are expecting a slight change to the I&P for bonding by taking the opportunity to pay down some short-term debt. Those changes have not

been finalized and we will continue to work with our bond advisor to manage those costs.

Annual Town Elections

The Annual South Hadley Town Elections are scheduled for Tuesday April 13th. All precincts vote at South Hadley High School. The elections will be from **10AM until 6PM** the day of the election.



Town Clerk Carlene Hamlin has placed information about absentee ballots on the "Election" web page (link below) <https://www.southhadley.org/620/Elections>

Voters may submit requests for absentee ballots, once the ballots are available they will be mailed to the requesting parties as quickly as possible. There is new information coming in from the state regularly and the information will be updated as it is received

As we start to mail those ballots the "dropbox" depicted on the left will be available for delivering those ballots. It is located at the rear of the Police Station under the surveillance cameras. There always is the option to mail the ballots. Unlike some of the media representations of USPS not being able to deliver these ballots on time. It has not been a problem in South Hadley.

The Town Clerk has a good and effective working relationship with the local postmaster and stays in close contact with the South Hadley Post Office to ensure delivery. If a ballot is mailed in South Hadley the local postmaster works to keep those ballots in town and avoid having them go to a regional sorting center as is the case with most mail. The efforts by the Clerk and the South Hadley Postmaster are appreciated and should give voters an added level of confidence in regards to mail-in ballots.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan
South Hadley, Town Administrator