

Sarah Etelman, Chair
John Hine, Vice-Chair
Andrea Miles, Clerk
Ira Brezinsky
Bruce Forcier

Michael J. Sullivan
Town Administrator

March 15, 2018

Honorable Selectboard Member:

Please accept this report as an abridged accounting of activities I and the hardworking town employees have been addressing in South Hadley Town Hall and beyond. There is a lot happening, I hope this report will frame some of the more contemporary and demanding tasks at hand.

As always, thank you for the support, direction and leadership you provide!

Ledges Request for Proposals; I have been in close communication with Collier's Representative Allen DePuy about the progress of the RFP distribution. Twenty four different parties have solicited a packet, some seem to have a passing interest or "rubbernecking", and however all the top tier golf course management firms have signaled they will be participating for real.

I believe we will be attracting some very talented groups. There is not much feedback at this point, two potential groups wanted to make it clear they are only interested in the opportunity from a contract perspective, not a lease. They did not expand on that position from what was relayed to me. I have continued and growing confidence that this will yield a beneficial path forward for the Ledges and the Town of South Hadley.

We also have begun the process of opening for the final municipal management season, we will do everything we can to make the season a financial and recreational success. Thank you to Andy Rogers' and the Golf Commission for the collective effort to make this work.

Dog Park Meeting; Selectboard Member Bruce Forcier, Planning Chair Jeff Squire, Planning Director Richard Harris were in attendance along with over twenty interested citizens. The reception for the concepts put forth were very well received. I would like to thank Sue Kelsey, Bob Berwick, and Kathleen Harwood for their efforts to attract more interested parties to this project.

The points I tried to make at this meeting as clear as possible were as follows the municipality would feel more comfortable if this project was fully funded by private sources and this has to be dog enthusiast driven. Jeff Squire spoke of the Stanton Foundation Grants other communities are receiving for their projects. The Stanton Foundation will fund 100% of design up to \$25K and 90% of construction up to \$230K. The grant does require a community based group to be organized and active in the project.

The group assembled seem to accept the challenge of having minimal involvement of the municipality. We talked about sponsorship possibilities in the canine industry, area businesses who like the project or members contributing to the upkeep and improvements.

The rendering below was supplied by Jeff Squire free of charge, it is a 2 acre tract of land on Mulligan Drive which was used for visual learners. This project is still very much in the conceptual stage, the next meeting will be Saturday April 7 @ 10 AM in Town Hall.



Annual Town Meeting; I imagine everyone has their calendar circled for May 9th for Annual Town Meeting. As we draw closer the information compendium will expand. I have recently sent an alert out to departments to remind their respective boards and commissions to notify administration at the very least may have an article requested to place on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

I would hope to have an idea of how many articles may be considered by the first SB meeting in April. As per normal instructions, I have encouraged potential authors of a warrant to make sure there will be ample time for public debate and discussion on the proposed article. It has been my experience that Town Meeting does not like surprises.

Snow Days; Recently we have had some cancellations and delays which altered the service patterns for South Hadley Town Hall. I want to express my appreciation for how those interruptions in service have been accepted by the vast majority of the residents of South Hadley.

There have been a couple of calls from people looking for more details on cancelations. In both cases they were not signed up for CivicReady. I cannot encourage citizens enough to take the time to go on the town website to enroll in the notification system. It is fairly simple and requires very little in the way of maintenance (although I would encourage updating from time to time) scroll to the bottom of the page, find the button below



Then just follow the prompts. We also place notifications on FaceBook, Twitter and local channels when allowed. Thank you all who have taken the time to subscribe.

Collector/Treasurer; We have suspended our search for a new Treasurer/ Collector position pending acceptance of a conditional offer of employment. I made the offer after the candidate formally accepts and informs their employer I will be able to reveal more information on the incumbent.

The incumbent has all required certifications for a Massachusetts Treasurer/Collector and more than a decade of experience as a Treasurer/Collector. I appreciate your patience in this matter and assure you we continue to work on this matter as well as several others. The start date will be April 2nd.

I will be out of the office on Friday March 16, best of luck at the parade!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan
Town Administrator, South Hadley