

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

Michael J. Sullivan
Town Administrator

November 15, 2019

Honorable Selectboard;

This report is an abridged accounting of some of the activities in Town Hall over the past two weeks. Thank you for your support and guidance!

Dog Park Update; I have been working diligently with Berkshire Design (Jeff Squire and Doug Serril) and the Stanton Foundation attempting to resolve the funding abyss between what was bid and what we have available.

As you are aware, we have a \$100K-plus gap to overcome nearly 50% more than what was budgeted. We have discussed and are working on several cost centers including the stormwater plan (about \$45K), the fence (going from a six to a four-foot and bidding separately), reducing the size, using other materials for the pathways and using volunteer labor.

Stanton is not enamored with using volunteer labor, based on their historical experiences. They also did not like the idea of using mulch in place of the very expensive rice stone. We also have to work through restrictions the grant applies to completion of a project. I am confident we will be able to get everyone on the same page and within the budget. It may be some benches and other "amenities" be put on hold and subject to fundraising.

The goal is to get a modified design and narrative to the Stanton Foundation for their consideration in the next couple of weeks, and if accepted to put it out to bid in December which was suggested by Stanton.

Legion Paper; Legion is the newest business to move to South Hadley and has taken over the former Canson Paper on New Ludlow Road. Legion has an excellent reputation in the specialized art paper industry with office facilities in California and New York. They have partnerships with various manufacturers, including Mohawk Papers which also has a growing facility in town.

Initially Legion will only be adding around five jobs, but like Mohawk Paper we will do what we can to help them grow. Welcome Joshua Levine and his team to South Hadley.

Officer Kelsey Davey; On Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, the Town of South Hadley swore in Officer Davey. Town Clerk Carlene Hamlin administered the oath of office under the watchful eye of Officer Davey's father.



Officer Davey completed the training academy and was awarded a leadership position in her class voted on by her peers and received the top fitness award, as well.

She comes with previous experience and will be a great addition to an already fine department.

Probate Court ; Register of Probate Michael Carey visited recently to inform us of a new service the Register of Probate is providing the first and third Thursday of each month from 9 to 1 in the Belchertown Facility (205 State Street).

Probate staff will be in Belchertown at those times to counsel people and in some cases to allow administrative orders. People seeking or needing a trial would still have to get a date in NoHo. However, this is a nice new service which may provide more accessibility. For more information call 413 586-8500.

PVTA Monthly Meeting ; The most recent meeting provided information about a new app (see PVTA website) which will allow a customer to track a bus in real time. The app can be used for other transit systems when the customer is in those areas (MBTA, Worcester RTA etc.)

We now have the title to the new van and hopeful will take full possession in the next week. The intent is to get an estimate on getting the PVTA decal removed, getting it wrapped with a SoHa Senior Center theme, registered, insured and on the road.

The next consideration for a vehicle should be a smaller, perhaps an ev-car. There is a number of situations where a large vehicle is excessive. I also am learning more how successful a new program is in East Longmeadow, Northampton and soon Agawam where essentially the PVTA supplies the vehicles and the town covers the cost of insurance and drivers. It may be the only way to truly expand service in SoHa.

There may be room to create a transit management association for South Hadley/Granby/Belchertown....maybe Ludlow, but we have a long way to that goal. In both cases there is possible implementation grants from the state and fed.

Materials Recycling Facility (Springfield) ; There is information in your packet and the time is drawing near to make a decision. I recently, along with Selectboard member Forcier, attended a very informative round table at the PVPC on this subject.

You may recall at the ATM in May Town Meeting voted to allow the Selectboard to sign an agreement with the MRF to continue our relationship for recycling. I would recommend staying with a dual stream system. It is considerably more economically appealing and will not force the town to re-educate for a lesser, more expensive, single stream system.

The agreement must be signed by January 31, 2020, but I would encourage signing as soon as possible allowing this to be put behind us, so we can focus on some of the other trashy issues, such as the contract for household waste, organic and building materials.

Town Hall Re-pointing Update ; Facilities, Safety & Health Coordinator Matt Cowie and I recently met with Lise Keith (architect) and Kevin Riordan (Engineer) to discuss the final plans and drawings for the re-pointing project.

The plan more clearly defines the phases and demonstrates as predicted that \$285K will not be enough. As I stated at Town Meeting and Capital Planning when this was getting approved, we will get more than a skosh done with what we have been given and then come back for more if we do not have enough (we do not have enough).

I thank Capital Planning and the Selectboard for supporting and recognizing the importance of this project.

Hope to see you at the Bike-Walk Toth Trek on Sunday!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan
Town Administrator, South Hadley