

South Hadley Selectboard FY2026 Action Plan

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1. What are the three most important jobs of the Board?

- Set vision and goals for the Town Administrator and town operations (2)
- Policy Making and Executive Management (2)
- Assure sound financial practices and planning (3)
- Review and discussion of the budget in conjunction with current and future town needs
- Promote transparency, inclusion, and participation by residents in the process. Treat all residents equally. Listen to concerns of all residents and try to address appropriately (3)
- Ensuring services are provided appropriately to all residents.
- Communication with Town Administrator
- Ensuring the health and safety of the community.

2. List a few major accomplishments of the Board over the last couple of years.

- Engaged residents through public hearing on changes in trash collection and sewage treatment fees. (3)
- Was able to use ARPA money for a wide variety of needs, schools, capital projects, health, and strategic wishes to promote business and the arts.
- Supported the establishment of the Human Rights Commission and Affordable Housing Trust.
- Making Town operations and finances more transparent. Facilitating community engagement through budget forums, board meetings, and website materials. Making hard decisions about increasing fees on several things so we can afford to make much-needed improvements. (4)
- Forming a budget task force. Funding a stabilization fund to begin the replacement of the Mosier Elementary School.
- Frequent meetings and check-ins with other departments or boards, namely DPW, School Committee, and Appropriations. While this is helpful around budget time, it's most helpful year-round when there are projects or concerns.
- Hiring Lisa as our Town Administrator. She's been the juice this town needs.

3. What should the Board accomplish over the next year?

- Implementing the New Trash and Recycling Program: With carts being delivered in June 2025, we need to ensure a smooth transition and continued public communication about the program. (2)
- Advancing the Elementary School Building Project: We must move forward with the selection of an Owner's Project Manager and a designer/architect to conduct the feasibility study.
- Continue the open communication between the town administration and the schools.
- Addressing Fiscal Challenges: We anticipate a difficult budget year due to potential significant reductions in state and federal funding. We will need to continue our robust budget planning and monitoring, potentially creating a budget task force to forecast, recommend funding sources, and prioritize programs. Follow the work of the Budget Task Force and make recommendations on their final report. (2)
- Address facility challenges at the Senior Center.
- Promote business development (2)
- The Human Rights Commission and South Hadley for All Ages, human services
- Promote awareness and participation in town government by hosting a Town Government Event and updating the Board and Committee Handbook.
- I would like to see us be able to take stands on issues that face other boards. If we say we are a board that is in support of invigorating small businesses, new businesses.
- Affordable housing, we need to be able to communicate that to the boards that have more direct input over those areas, such as planning, zoning, town meeting, conservation, etc. If they do not have the same goals, we are at odds and lots sit empty and projects go incomplete. (3)
- I'd like to see continued discussion of services and programs for residents especially involving permitting.

4. What should the Board accomplish over the next 3 to 5 years?

- Seek ways to strengthen residents' connection to each other and the town, work toward the vision of making South Hadley a socially and economically vibrant community.

- Create a dedicated and plug-and-go space for hybrid meetings.
- Off-hours scheduled programming at the Senior Center for other age groups. Adult fitness programs? Lectures? A teen night?
- Support efforts to address the expense and redundancy of two fire and water districts expense to the taxpayers.
- Comprehensive Capital Planning: create a robust 5-year capital plan to ensure adequate resources for ongoing maintenance and major public works projects.
- Moving forward on Green Communities projects, working on hazard mitigation plan updates, and exploring new ways to engage with environmental issues.
- Set a plan to review golf course operations.
- Determine the direction for ledges Golf Club after the bond is paid and the contract with IGM is expired.
- Modernizing Operations and Technology: continue to invest in digitization, improve permitting systems and processes, and leverage technology to increase efficiency and transparency across Town departments.
- The Board needs to take a hard look at future budgets and try to minimize the impact on residents along with recommendations from the budget task force.
- I'd like us to have a clear plan for Falls Redevelopment. Join with the Redevelopment Authority and MPIC to have a clear goal.
- Further, we need to get a new elementary school built and ensure the fortitude of other town-owned facilities.
- Look at more possible shared services and programs with the school department (similar to what was done for Facilities) and possibly other communities.