

South Hadley MA Historical Commission

*Agenda for meeting of Monday, February 16, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

*South Hadley Public Library – Trustees Meeting Room

Note: The agenda items listed are those which the Chair reasonably expects will be discussed, as of the date of this notice. However, due to time or other constraints, it is possible that not all topics listed here will be discussed. This meeting may be audio and/or visually recorded.

-6:00 p.m. - Call to order

-6:05 p.m. - Public Comments, if any

-6:10 p.m., or after public comments, if any: Commissioner announcements, if any

-Old Business:

1. South Hadley Falls Village Cemetery

2. FY 2025 Survey and Planning Grant

3. Commission vacancies

-New Business:

1. January 23, 2026 email exchange with Josh Powers, Director of Government and Community Relations, Mount Holyoke College – See Agenda Page 2-3 and email to Commissioners of Jan. 23, 2006

2. January 14, 2026 email to Brona Simon, State Archaeologist, State Historic Preservation Officer, MA Historical Commission, RE Letter of June 6, 2025

3. Second South Hadley Historical District

-Adjourn

From: **Josh Powers** <jpowers@mtholyoke.edu>
Date: Fri, Jan 23, 2026 at 7:25 AM
Subject: Re: Communication from the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer
To: Robert Judge <robert.judge@gmail.com>
Cc: Melissa Taylor, Vice-Chair, South Hadley Historical Commission
<melissataylor7500@gmail.com>, Lisa Wong <lwong@southhadleyma.gov>

Dear Robert,

Thank you for reaching out regarding our campus, and the work to come to buildings on campus. At this time, we do not have our campus master plan completed, but are anticipating that will be done in the spring. That plan will outline any work to come for the next ten years or so on campus. I would like to note that when any work is done to a building on campus, meticulous measures are undertaken to ensure they remain in their historical state that makes them what they are. We bring in special masons to ensure the mortar and grout are the same recipe from the original plans, all windows are framed and worked to match the originals and all brick work is done to maintain consistency with its current look. The spires on the outside of Abbey Chapel are a perfect example, having been completed last year.

I hope this helps, and please know that Mount Holyoke College continues to ensure our campus maintains its historical value while we update so another generation of students can safely come through our doors to updated locations.

Respectfully,

Josh Powers

Joshua Powers
Director of Government & Community Relations
Mount Holyoke College

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On Jan 14, 2026, at 8:33 AM, Robert Judge <robert.judge@gmail.com> wrote:

January 14, 2026

Dear Mr. Powers,

I have attached a letter that the South Hadley Historical Commission received from Brona Simon, the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer. I note the reference from Ms. Simon to a "*potential Mount Holyoke College Campus Historic District.*"

On January 12, 2026, the South Hadley Historical Commission voted to contact Mount Holyoke to ask the college about any plan it has for work that might concern properties that might be in such a "potential" historic district. However, please note that no such "potential" historic district has ever been defined, and the South Hadley Historical Commission has no intention to propose any such district.

However, the Town of South Hadley has recently received a \$30,000 grant to create a **Town of South Hadley Historical Preservation Plan**. The work will begin in early 2026. I am sure that the plan will refer to the College in some form.

I look forward to receiving any information that you can provide about the College's plans to renovate any historical properties, such as or similar to the properties suggested in the letter from Ms. Simon. I expect to provide such information to the consultant who will soon begin work on the Town of South Hadley Historical Preservation Plan.

Thank you for your attention.

Robert Judge

Chair

South Hadley Historical Commission

<https://www.southhadley.org/402/Historical-Commission>

SouthHadleyHistoricalCommission@gmail.com