

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JAN. 6, 2026 – 7 P.M.
HYBRID ON ZOOM AND SOUTH HADLEY SENIOR CENTER

Present in person were Chair Jeff Cyr, Vice Chair Nicole Casolari, member Renee Sweeney, and Town Administrator Lisa Wong. Member Andrea Miles and Clerk Carol Constant were present virtually. Miles left the meeting due to illness at 7:25 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Cyr called to meeting to order at 7 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / PUBLIC COMMENT

Sweeney encouraged folks to run for public office and reminded them nomination papers are available in the town clerk's office.

Cyr thanked the DPW for their hard work during the recent snowstorms.

Linda Young, of 15 Westbrook Rd., asked for notification of any future town projects that may affect homeowners. Cyr said the Capital Planning Committee met earlier tonight in which members explained such future projects. He encouraged folks to watch the video coverage.

Joanna Brown, of 25 Charon Ter., asked for an opportunity for folks to ask questions about the wastewater system. Wong said tonight's meeting is the first of many public conversations about it and her office can take questions at any time via email or phone.

Anne Stockton, of 325 Hadley St., thanked SHCTV15 for its assistance in covering the Our Roots Our Voice event.

Linda Sachs, of 193 Woodbridge St., and Marc Desrosiers, of 310 Amherst Rd., urged members not to rush the proposed agricultural bylaw amendments to a May town meeting and said meaningful public participation should drive the timeline.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sweeney motioned to approve the draft minutes of Dec. 16, 2025. Cyr seconded.

Roll Call Vote

- Miles – Aye
- Sweeney – Aye
- Casolari – Abstain
- Constant – Aye
- Cyr – Aye

Four in favor, one abstention (Casolari). The motion carried.

FY27 BUDGET NOTICE AND CONTRACT SIGNATORY AUTHORIZATION HIGHWAY BIDS

Sweeney motioned to approve the Town Administrator as the authorized signatory. Cyr seconded.

Roll Call Vote (Miles left the meeting)

- Sweeney – Aye
- Casolari – Abstain
- Constant – Aye
- Cyr – Aye

All in favor. Unanimous.

COMPREHENSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION

Peter Natowich and Steven Richtarik of BETA gave a presentation on the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and what improvements are needed. Director of Public Works John Broderick and Wastewater Plant Supervisor Melissa Labonte answered questions by residents Mitch Malinowski of 4 Michael Dr., Joanna Brown of 25 Charon Ter, Linda Young of 15 Westbrook Rd., and Denise Presley of 19 The Knolls.

The discussion is ongoing and tonight's presentation was the first look into the future upgrades.

LEDGES RATES

Ledges General Manager Michael Fonatine and Human Services Director Andy Rogers said the golf course has experienced several strong, positive financial years after long-term losses. Profits are now reinvested into course, equipment and restaurant improvements. They noted continued success as the course approaches its 25th anniversary, despite future capital needs. They described the proposed 2026 rate increases as modest, demand-based adjustments.

Sweeney motioned to approve the 2026 Ledges Golf Rates as presented. Casolari seconded.

Roll Call Vote

- Sweeney – Aye
- Casolari – Aye
- Constant – Aye
- Cyr – Aye

All in favor. Unanimous.

AGRICULTURAL USES BYLAW AMENDMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wong explained an Agricultural Uses Bylaw Amendments Advisory Committee has been formed by the Director of Planning and Conservation, and appointed by the Town Administrator, to review the draft zoning bylaw amendments. The committee held its first meeting on Dec. 18, 2025 and anticipates meeting several more times before sending final bylaw recommendations to the Planning Board.

CITIZEN PETITION – SHELD FACILITY

Casolari motioned to add the nonbinding public opinion advisory question on the submitted certified petition to the warrant for the April 14, 2026 Annual Town Election. Constant seconded.

Roll Call Vote

- Sweeney – Aye
- Casolari – Aye
- Constant – Aye
- Cyr – Aye

All in favor. Unanimous.

27 FULTON STREET SALE

Casolari motioned to authorize the sale of the Tax Title property located at 27 Fulton Street to Nicholas Bernier, or his nominee, for the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Dollars and zero cents (\$199,000.00), pursuant to the Town’s authority under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, Section 64A. Further move to authorize the Tax Title Custodian and Town Administrator to execute any and all other documents necessary to effectuate the sale, and to take any actions required to complete the conveyance pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, Section 64A. Cyr seconded.

Roll Call Vote

- Sweeney – Aye
- Casolari – Aye
- Constant – Aye
- Cyr – Aye

All in favor. Unanimous.

BUTTERY BROOK PARK FEES

Sweeney motioned to accept the fees as presented. Casolari seconded.

Roll Call Vote

- Sweeney – Aye
- Casolari – Aye
- Constant – Aye
- Cyr – Aye

All in favor. Unanimous.

115 WOODBRIDGE STREET ZONING AMENDMENT PETITION

Sweeney motioned to refer the zoning amendment petition to the Planning Board. Constant seconded.

Roll Call Vote

- Sweeney – Aye
- Casolari – Aye
- Constant – Aye
- Cyr – Aye

All in favor. Unanimous.

BUDGET TASK FORCE COMMENT PERIOD

Denise Hammon, of 42 Hadley St., shared a recent positive experience at Gaylord Library and stressed the importance of that branch.

RESIGNATION

Sweeney motioned to accept the resignation of Alexander W. Hunter from the Historical Commission. Casolari seconded.

Roll Call Vote

- Sweeney – Aye
- Casolari – Aye
- Constant – Aye
- Cyr – Aye

All in favor. Unanimous.

ADJOURN

Casolari motioned to adjourn. Sweeney seconded.

Roll Call Vote

- Sweeney – Aye
- Casolari – Aye
- Constant – Aye
- Cyr – Aye

All in favor. Unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Maher
Executive Assistant to Administration**