

Ira Brezinsky, Chair  
Andrea Miles, Vice-Chair  
Jeff Cyr, Clerk  
Sarah Etelman,  
Bruce Forcier

Michael J. Sullivan  
Town Administrator

July 6, 2018

Honorable Selectboard,

Please accept this abridged accounting of projects and activities the professional staff employed by South Hadley and I have been working on recently. Hopefully, you all have weathered the heat in reasonable fashion.

**Valley Bike Share;** The kick off in Northampton on June 28<sup>th</sup> went well. Chairman Brezinsky delivered a well-founded message on behalf of the Town of South Hadley and the Selectboard. Representatives from MHC were on-hand, as well as Selectboard Members Miles and Forcier. Unfortunately E-Ink another major sponsor could not attend, but we appreciate their support.



We will be ensuring this is not another episode of "Tiger Trolley" by having continuous promotion internally and externally, and I ask for your assistance in promoting VBS. There is a number of promotional ideas being considered for Town Hall. The Wellness Committee has already secured a grant to purchase a membership to be used by employees. The Friday following the NoHo event I asked interested staff from Police and Town Hall to come out for a demo, they were very excited about the possibilities.

Unfortunately all the bikes were either out or reserved, finally about one o'clock that afternoon a bike was available. I was able to get that bike and several employees were able to test it out. I am happy to report there were no workmen comp claims resulting from the demonstration.

Kevin McCaffrey (MHC) and I are already discussing a roll out event for the return of students in September. This may finally give the viable link for students to access services and businesses in the falls as has been suggested for years.



We have already begun to work with Bewegen (the VBS contractor) to figure out a way we can use these for Town Hall employees doing "Town" business (i.e. Building, Health, Recreation) where using a vehicles may be avoided.

I was moving faster in person...."Take a bike to lunch" is my favorite program!

The wiring has been completed and the final inspections and adjustments will be made over the next several weeks, we greatly appreciate the patience of interested parties!

**"Town Hall Goes to College"**, We are working with MHC's Tiffany Espinosa for the next Professional Development Day scheduled for July 27. We will hear from MHC staff about the history and relationship of Mount Holyoke College with the Town of South Hadley and tour the campus.

There will be a presentation on MHC about course and seminar offerings directed at improving customer service, efficacy in the workplace and working well with others. I hope this inspires some staff to think about going back to school to further their education. Customer service is central to our mission to provide service to the public, opening employee's minds to new ideas is the gateway. Town Hall will close at noon Friday July 27 and we will start at MHC at about 12:15. Please let me know if you can attend.

**Bachelor Brook R2R Phase I Dedication**, What a nice event nice day, great time to celebrate a success and well attended. This day came about due to the Selectboard's commitment to this project. Long ago we were talking about an accessible route squeezed between a closed landfill and some industrial concerns.



After and investment in a PVPA study, some critical thinking from BWC and some grant opportunities the Town of South Hadley has a beautiful "accessible trail" which winds along the mighty Connecticut and gently rolls towards the foothill of Mount Holyoke.

Phase II is close behind and it will not be long before we are celebrating the first leg of the connection to the summit. I cannot enough thank Richard Harris for his assistance in making this project happen and Jim Reidy's DPW crew for the parking lot installation. To the crew at DCR, especially Amanda Lewis, thank you and to Anne Capra, we appreciate you keeping all the parts moving in seemingly the same direction, you make it look easy.

**ClearGov**, Our ClearGov financial information has been uploaded and some new features have been added or improved. We will be working with ClearGov and other communities on a feature which will project future revenues and expenses using an algorithm use data from South Hadley, our peer group and statewide trends. There is also a number of new graphic tools

As is the case with all our platforms we would like the public to visit them more often, an informed public is the key to a well-functioning community. Look for the ClearGov button on the bottom of Town website and explore.

**Opportunity Zone**, Recently we were invited by Secretary Jay Ash to participate in a "call-in" for the 79 out of 351 communities chosen as "Opportunity Zones". These zones will be allowed to offer a series of tax credits for making investments in the "zones".

Many of the details are being worked out, but getting invited in to the group will give South Hadley one more tool to attract new businesses and get existing businesses to invest and grow. While the details at the state and federal level have not been completely worked out we have already begun to make sure businesses who have expressed interest in SoHo in the past or have suggested they plan to expand are aware of the new tool for growing in South Hadley.

I will make sure we keep you informed about the parameters and policies for this grant. This "zone" only applies to generally the Falls area due to zoning and income related to the census track, but all of South Hadley will benefit if it brings growth.

**OSHA Training**, Assistant Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz and I have attended the first in a series of trainings coordinated by the Massachusetts Office of Industrial Accidents a division of the Department of Labor Standards. As municipalities will be required to comply with Occupational, Safety and Health Act (OSHA) Federal standards we will require a significant increase in training and supervision. We may be required to have a "Safety Officer" who has the sole responsibility of tracking and administering training, checking compliance and keeping data on any incidents or changes to policy.

A separate training for Police and Fire and yet another for DPWs is being scheduled by Industrial Affairs. There will be news rules promulgated, but it was hopeful to hear that

the Office of Industrial Accidents is committed to not using enforcement, before working with each community to become safer. They will be offering individual communities on-site training and have encouraged larger communities to consider hosting staff trainings and inviting smaller surrounding towns. We of course have offered to take them up on the offer.

The presenter Chief Michael Flanagan encourages citizens to visit their web site to learn more about the changes ([www.mass.gov/dols/wshp](http://www.mass.gov/dols/wshp)). The silver lining is that many of the requirements will actually lower costs overtime, concepts like keeping a detailed log of equipment use/maintenance, best practices for trenching, mowing lawns, reading manuals from manufacturers (something which does not happen enough) or scaling roofs or other high places will not only reduce injury and the related cost, but likely will bring efficiencies to task and improve maintenance of equipment.

**MassWorks Grant**, While the official announcement has not come down, we are anticipating an announcement from Governor Baker's Office about a second MassWorks grant for the Lyman/Newton project (\$385K).

While the Gaylord MassWorks grant is moving along, this will make improvements to sidewalks along Lyman (from Granby Road), rebuild Dayton Street and perform upgrades on Lyman, Newton, Dayton and Fulton. We thank the Governor and Jay Ash for their assistance in funding improvements in South Hadley...again.

Thank you to DPW Superintendent Jim Reidy for coordinating the Town Hall/PD parking lot paving project, looks great!

Hopefully you all survived the heat wave without much trouble, the Town of South Hadley through the work of Emergency Management Director Sharon Hart was well prepared with "Cooling Stations" services at the fireworks and extended hours at the stations. Thank you Sharon for getting out in front of the Wave!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan  
Town of South Hadley, Administrator