



2025 Special Town Meeting Motion Book

Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Beginning at 6 p.m.

South Hadley High School
153 Newton St, South Hadley, MA 01075

**SCAN HERE WITH YOUR
MOBILE DEVICE TO VIEW
BACKGROUND MATERIALS**



Special and Town Meeting Article Scorecard

Article Number	Article Description	Vote Required	Pass/ Fail
1	Hear Reports	Majority	
2	Prior Year Bills	9/10	
3	Health Insurance	Majority	
4	Capital - Transfer	Majority	
5	Adopt MGL Chapter 44 Section 54B	Majority	
6	Establishment of Special Education Reserve Fund	Majority	
7	Cryptocurrency ATM Bylaw	Majority	
8	Home Rule Petition for Liquor Licenses	Majority	
9	Zoning Bylaw Amendment	Majority	
10	Zoning Map Amendment	Majority	
11	Ethan Circle Street Acceptance	2/3	

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

WARRANT

Hampshire, ss.

TO: Either of the Constables of the Town of South Hadley

ADA ADVISORY

Anyone in need of special arrangements for the Town Meeting, please contact the Office of the Selectboard at (413) 538-5030 ext. 6136 or Selectboard@southhadleyma.gov by 5:00pm on October 27th, 2025 in order that reasonable accommodations may be made.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of South Hadley that the SPECIAL TOWN MEETING will be held at 153 Newton Street, South Hadley, Massachusetts on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as the subject matter of this warrant can then and there be reached, and the Town Clerk is required to notify and warn the Town Meeting Members then and there to meet and act on the following articles;

REPORTS

ARTICLE 1: HEAR REPORTS

To see if the town will hear and act upon the reports of the Town Officers, Boards, and Committees; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article Information: This article allows any standing Board or Committee the opportunity to inform the Town of any important developments.

MOTION: I move that the Town hear the reports of the Town Officers, Board and Committees. **(Majority Vote)**

FINANCIAL ARTICLES

ARTICLE 2: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will transfer from Unreserved Free Cash or other Available Funds the sum of \$6,552 for FY2023, FY2024 and FY2025 bills, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Information: Expenses related to Holyoke Medical bills that were received recently.

MOTION: I move that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$6,552 to pay for prior year bills incurred in Fiscal Years 2023, 2024 and 2025. **(9/10 Vote)**

ARTICLE 3: HEALTH INSURANCE

To see if the Town will transfer from Unreserved Free Cash or other Available Funds the sum of \$800,000 to HEALTH INSURANCE; or take any other action in relation thereto.

Article Information: This article seeks Town Meeting approval to transfer \$800,000 from Free Cash to the Town's Health Insurance account to cover a mid-year premium increase of approximately 20% approved by the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust effective October 1, 2025. The Trust implemented this adjustment in response to higher-than-anticipated claims costs across participating communities. This transfer will ensure the Town can meet its employee and retiree health insurance obligations for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026.

MOTION: I move that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$800,000 to pay for Health Insurance bills incurred in Fiscal Year 2026. **(Majority Vote)**

ARTICLE 4: CAPITAL - TRANSFER

To see if the Town will transfer from FY2023 Capital the amount of \$23,144 from the Queensville Pond project and \$19,550 from the Library Accessibility Upgrades project for a total of \$42,694 to the Pearl Street Culvert project; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Information: Queensville project is complete and the remainder will be transferred to the Pearl Street culvert project, which is closing out but requires some additional expenditures for unexpected change orders. The library project is still being done, but with another funding source.

MOTION: I move that the Town transfer \$23,144 from the Queensville Pond project and \$19,550 from the Library Accessibility Upgrades project for a total of \$42,694 to the Pearl Street Culvert project. **(Majority Vote)**

GENERAL & ZONING ARTICLES

ARTICLE 5: ADOPT MGL CHAPTER 44 SECTION 54B

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 44 Section 54(B) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with MGL Chapter 203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule", or take any action relative thereto.

Article Information: This article proposes that the Town accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 54B, allowing municipal trust funds to be invested under the "Prudent Investor

Rule” (M.G.L. Chapter 203C). Adoption of this rule would permit greater investment flexibility and diversification than is currently allowed under the Massachusetts Legal List of Investments. It would enable investment managers to utilize diversified mutual funds, ETFs, stocks, bonds, and other appropriate instruments in accordance with the Town’s existing Investment Policy. This approach aims to reduce concentration risk and support more balanced, long-term portfolio performance.

MOTION: I move that the Town accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 44 Section 54B.
(Majority Vote)

ARTICLE 6: ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will accept the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 13E of the Massachusetts General Laws permitting the School District to establish a Special Education Reserve Fund, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Information: This will allow for a fund to help offset any unexpected expenses related to special education costs, such services and tuition, in order to minimize the impact on the school budget.

MOTION: I move that the Town except the provisions of MGL Chapter 40, Section 13E.
(Majority Vote)

ARTICLE 7: CRYPTOCURRENCY ATM BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws Division 1, Part II, General Legislation to add Chapter 236-Prohibition of Cryptocurrency Automatic Teller Machines:

Chapter 236 Prohibition on Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)

§ 236-1 Purpose and Intent

The Town, acting upon reports of the South Hadley Police Department, finds that unregulated cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) pose risks to consumers, including financial fraud, money laundering, and lack of recourse for users. Virtual currency ATMs are able to convert currency into virtual currency instantaneously and irreversibly, which exposes the most vulnerable of our citizens to unnecessary risk. The Town further finds that the current absence of sufficient federal and state consumer protections and regulatory oversight for such devices necessitates a municipal prohibition to safeguard residents and preserve public safety. The purpose of this article is to prohibit Cryptocurrency ATMs within the Town in an effort to protect our citizens.

§236-2 Definitions

For purposes of this Bylaw, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

(a) Cryptocurrency: A digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security and operates independently of a central bank, including but not limited to Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash, Coinhub, Dash, Litecoin, Ripple, ZCash, Ethereum, and similar blockchain-based tokens. Cryptocurrency is a digital representation of value used as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, or a store of value, but does not have legal tender status as recognized by the United States Government.

(b) Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machine (Cryptocurrency ATM): Any self-service kiosk, machine, or device installed in a publicly accessible location that enables users to buy, sell, exchange, or transfer cryptocurrency through the machine using cash, debit card, credit card, or other means of payment.

§ 236-3 Prohibition of Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines

No person, business, or entity shall install, operate, maintain, or allow the installation or operation of a Cryptocurrency ATM within the geographic boundaries of the Town of South Hadley. All Cryptocurrency ATMs existing in the Town of South Hadley as of the Effective Date of this Bylaw must be removed within sixty (60) days after the Effective Date.

§236-4 Enforcement and Penalties

This Bylaw shall be enforced by the South Hadley Police Department, the Building Department or any other authorized designated agent of the Town Administrator. Any person or entity found to be in violation of this bylaw shall be subject to a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per day, per device, enforceable under the non-criminal disposition pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 21D. Each day during which a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

§ 236-5 Severability

If any provision of this Bylaw is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

, or to act in any other manner in relation thereto.

Article Information: Cryptocurrency ATMs in South Hadley and around the state are part of significant fraud impacting our residents. They are unregulated and funds deposited in them are almost impossible to trace and to be recovered. Several communities have passed similar bans. The state is working on legislation but that may take months or years and this ban is necessary to prevent ongoing theft of funds happening now.

MOTION: I move that the Town amend the General Bylaws by adding Chapter 236 as written in the warrant. **(Majority Vote)**

ARTICLE 8: HOME RULE PETITION FOR LIQUOR LICENSES

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to petition the General Court for special legislation to grant the Town 10 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws and 5

additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on premises pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws; provided, however, that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition:

An Act authorizing the town of South Hadley to grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises and to grant additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on premises

SECTION 1.

(a) Notwithstanding Section 11 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, Section 17 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, or any general or special law to the contrary, the licensing authority in the town of South Hadley may grant 10 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises pursuant to section 12 of said chapter 138.

(b) A license granted pursuant to Section 1, Subsection (a) of this act shall only be exercised in the dining room of a common victualler licensed to conduct a restaurant and other such public rooms or areas as may be deemed reasonable and appropriate by the licensing authority as certified in writing.

SECTION 2.

(a) Notwithstanding Section 11 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, Section 17 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, or any general or special law to the contrary, the licensing authority in the town of South Hadley may grant 5 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises pursuant to section 15 of said Chapter 138.

SECTION 3.

This act shall take effect upon its passage.

; and to act on anything relating thereto.

Article Information: Due to the cap on liquor licenses in the Town of South Hadley, local businesses have difficulty obtaining particular types of liquor licenses. All 19 South Hadley Section 12 On-Premise Retail All-Alcoholic Beverage licenses are issued. These licenses are primarily issued to restaurants. The ability to sell liquor provides a significant boost in income for small businesses. Bars and restaurants promote tourism and spending throughout the town. Creating additional alcohol licenses of these types would support the growth of local businesses and potentially attract new establishments and new revenue for the town.

MOTION: I move to authorize the Selectboard to petition the General Court for special legislation to grant the Town 10 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises pursuant to Section 12 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws and 5 additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on premises pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws; provided, however, that the General Court may

reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation, as set forth in the warrant, within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition. **(Majority Vote)**

ARTICLE 9: ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw Chapter 255 in regards to the creation of two new districts, Residential Core and Residential Mixed Use, by amending: Section 255-10 Terms defined to insert various new terms and their definitions and modify existing definitions; Section 255-11 Establishment of districts by adding Residential Core and Residential Mixed Use; Section 255 Attachment 1 Use Regulations Schedule by inserting new uses related to Residential Core and Residential Mixed Use; Section 255 Attachment 2 Dimensional Regulations Schedule by adding dimensional standards with footnotes for Residential Core and Residential Mixed Use; 255-15 Overlay districts by adding the Route 202/33 Corridor Design Guidelines Overlay District; Article VII Supplemental District Regulations by adding 255-XX Route 202/33 Corridor Design Guidelines Overlay District; 255-31 Flexible Development to create standards for certain developments in the Residential Core and Residential Mixed Use Districts; 255-34 Professional business uses to create standards for certain developments in the Residential Core and Residential Mixed Use Districts; and, 255-47 Multifamily and multiple dwellings to create standards for certain developments in the Residential Core and Residential Mixed Use Districts, as further articulated in Appendix A, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Information: See Appendix A and [Planning Board Report to Town Meeting](#).

MOTION: I move that the Town amend Zoning Bylaw Chapter 255 as articulated in the warrant. **(Majority Vote)**

ARTICLE 10: ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Map, as incorporated into the Zoning Bylaw by Section 255-12, by changing parcels from the Granby town line in the north along Routes 202/Granby Road and Route 33/Willimansett Street to the Chicopee city line in the south, from Residence A-1 and Business A to the Residential Core district, and from Residence A-1, Residence A-2, Business A, Business A-1, and Business C to the Residential Mixed Use district as further articulated in Appendix B, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article Information: See Appendix B and [Planning Board Report to Town Meeting](#).

MOTION: I move that the Town amend the Zoning Map as articulated in the warrant. **(Majority Vote)**

ARTICLE 11: ETHAN CIRCLE STREET ACCEPTANCE

To see if the Town will accept, acquire by gift, purchase, take by eminent domain or otherwise acquire, Ethan Circle as a public way and any appurtenant easements thereto, as laid out by the Selectboard, as shown on a plan entitled “Ethan Circle Definitive Subdivision South Hadley, Massachusetts” prepared by Harold L. Eaton and Associates, Inc. and dated March 14, 2014 and recorded with the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 235, Page 1, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Town Clerk;

And further that the Town vote to authorize the Selectboard to acquire by gift, purchase, take by eminent domain or otherwise, easements in any land necessary for laying out and acceptance of said ways, and any appurtenant drainage, utility or other easements related to said ways, and/or to accept grants thereof; and, further, to authorize the Selectboard and other applicable Town of South Hadley boards and personnel to take all related actions necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this article, or take any other action related thereto;

Article Information: This article proposes the acceptance of Ethan Circle as a public way, including any necessary easements. Acceptance would authorize the Town to maintain the roadway, while the Homeowners Association remains responsible for stormwater management and other site elements outside the street right-of-way, consistent with subdivision requirements and state law.

MOTION: I move that the Town accept Ethan Circle as a public way, including any necessary easements, as set forth in the warrant. **(2/3 Vote)**