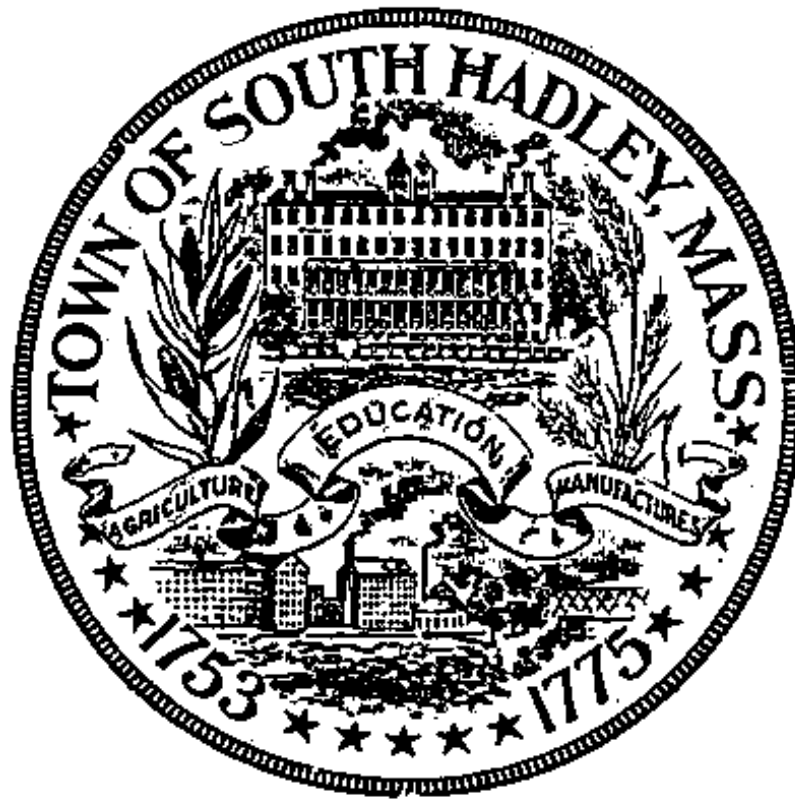


# TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY



ANNUAL TOWN REPORT  
JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016

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# IN MEMORIAM

*While we cannot include all of those who have passed during the period of this report we recognize the following for their service to the Town and their efforts on behalf of our community.*

*Chester J. Babula* Worked for the South Hadley Police Department.

*Hazel M. Bedrossian* Composed the South Hadley School March in 1934.

*Warren Maxwell Bock* Served three terms on South Hadley School Committee and was Town Meeting member for over 55 years.

*Karen J. Cyr* Worked as a teacher's aide in South Hadley School Sytem.

*Morrison G. Ferrier* Taught for four years at South Hadley High School.

*Rosemary K. Fleming* Long-time Secretary of South Hadley Building Inspector.

*Thomas F. Honan, III* Was a sergeant with the South Hadley Police Department

*Ruth A. Lutservitz* Worked as a special education teacher in the South Hadley school system.

*Robert J. Lynch Sr.* One of Founders of South Hadley Youth Hockey Program.

*Wallace K. Monroe* Worked for South Hadley School Department for 25 years, retiring as Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs in 1993.

*George Perrault* Was a home-delivered meals driver and custodian at the schools.

*Robert J. Scott* Served the Town of South Hadley as on call fireman for 25 years in South Hadley Fire District No. 2.

*Virginia P. Sligo* Served on Council on Aging Board of Directors.

*Thomas W. Wallace* Worked for South Hadley Electric Light Department.

*Kenneth L. Williamson* Chair of the South Hadley Historical Commission and long-time member of Historical Society.

*Stanley J. Wojcik* One of the founders of South Hadley Youth Hockey Program in 1972

*Jean E. Wojnarowski* Worked as a Clerk for the Town of South Hadley for many years.

## Facts of Interest about South Hadley

South Hadley area was first part of Old Hadley.

- 1675-1719 Individual grants of land were made by Hadley for settlement south of the Mt. Holyoke Range.
- 1725 Settlement (delayed by fear of Indian attacks) began.
- 1732 Settlement became “South Hadley Precinct of Hadley.”
- 1753 South Hadley Precinct was made a “district” by General Court with local self-government.
- 1755 South Hadley was incorporated as a town with its own representative in General Government.
- 1795 First navigable canal in U.S. began operation at Falls Village, whose mailing address became “South Hadley Canal.”

### Location

On east side of Connecticut River, about 11 miles North of Springfield, just across the river from Holyoke. Home of Mount Holyoke College.

### Latitude of Town Hall

42 12'50" N

### Longitude of Town Hall

72 35'40" W

### Elevation

(Above sea level)  
Town Hall top step 78.16 ft.  
Mount Holyoke 878 ft.  
Mount Hitchcock (at east end of Holyoke Range) 1,002 ft.

### Area

18.3 square miles 11,712 acres

### Requirements of Voting

A person must be 18 years old, American born or fully naturalized. May register first day move into town. Register at Town Clerk's Office by mail or by motor vehicle registration renewal.

### Population

Federal Census 2010-17,514  
Federal Census 2000-17,196  
2016 Local Census – 18,552

### Form of Government

Representative Town Meeting (1933 Charter)  
Selectboard/Town Administrator (2012 Special Legislation)

### Tax Rate

\$17.56 - FY 2016

**Total Valuation of Taxable Property** \$1,452,428,625 -  
FY 2016

**Miles of State Highway** 10.00

**Miles of Town Highway** 95.00

## National, State and County Officials

### Governor:

Charles Baker, Jr.

### Secretary of the Commonwealth:

William Francis Galvin

### Attorney General:

Maura Healey

### United States Senators:

Edward J. Markey  
Elizabeth Warren

### Representative in Congress:

(1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District)  
Richard E. Neal

### State Senator:

(Franklin/Hampshire District)  
Stanley C. Rosenberg

### Representative in General Court:

(2<sup>nd</sup> Hampshire)  
John W. Scibak

### Member of Governor's Council:

(8<sup>th</sup> Councilor District)  
Michael J. Albano  
Mary Hurley – elected November 8, 2016

### District Attorney:

David E. Sullivan

**Directory and Calendar - Board Meetings, Officials, Services**  
**Town of South Hadley, 116 Main Street**  
**www.southhadleyma.gov**

**Police Department** 538-8231

**Fire Department (District #1)** 533-7111

**Fire Department (District #2)** 534-5803

**Department of Public Works** 538-5033

**Ambulance** 911

**Selectboard/Town Administrator** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 135**

**Asst. Town Administrator** – Town Hall Office Hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 129**

**Human Resources/Procurement** –Town Hall Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 129**

**School Committee** – High School Library, Newton Street, Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 6 p.m. **Tel. 538-5060**

**School Department** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Tel. 538-5060**

**Board of Health** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 204**

**Town Clerk** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 201**

**Collector/Treasurer** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 200**

**Voter Registration** – At Town Clerk’s Office, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration deadline is 20 days before election. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 201**

**Town Accountant** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 207**

**Board of Assessors** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 10 a.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 202**

**Director of Veterans’ Services** – John A. O’Connor, Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to noon. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 137**

**Building Commissioner** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 205**

**Trustees of the Old Firehouse Museum** – As posted

**Conservation Commission** –Office Hours, M, W, Th and F, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tu 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7 p.m. unless otherwise posted. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 208**

**IT Department/Coordinator** - Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 124**

**Recreation Department** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 203**

**Payroll/Benefits Coordinator** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 117**

**Planning Board/Planning Director** – Town Hall Office Hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 6:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 206**

**Wiring Inspector** – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. **Tel. 538-5017, ext. 111**

**Plumbing/Gas Inspector** – Town Hall Office Hours, M, Tu, Th and F, 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. **Tel.: 538-5017, ext. 108**

**Council on Aging** - 45 Dayton Street, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 4 p.m. at Senior Center. **Tel. 538-5042**

**Housing Authority** – 69 Lathrop Street. Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month at 4 p.m. (see posting for location). **Tel. 532-3194**

**Sealer of Weights & Measures**-Thomas Kelleher **Tel. 532-7157**

**Parks Division** – Town Barn, Lincoln Street. **Tel. 538-5037**

**Co-Forest Wardens** – District #1 Fire Chief Robert Authier and District #2 Chief David Keefe. **Tel.: (413) 532-5343 and (413) 534-5803**

**Dog Officer – Shawn O’Brien. Tel. (413) 538-8231**

**Cable Studio Manager – Robert Smith, South Hadley High School. Tel. (413) 315-3515**

**Date of Annual Town Election April 12, 2016**

**Date of Annual Town Meeting May 11, 2016**

**Town Government  
Elected Officials  
April 12, 2016**

**Moderator (1 year)**

Edward J. Ryan, Jr. (2017)

**Selectboard/Police and Sewer Commissioners (3 years)**

John R. Hine, Chair (2018)

Sarah Etelman, Vice Chair (2017)

Francis J. DeToma (2017)

Ira J. Brezinsky (2019)

Bruce C. Forcier, Clerk (2018)

**School Committee (3 years)**

John A. Kelly, Chair (2019)

Christine Ann Phillips (2018)

Barry C.D. Waite (2017)

Kevin M. McAllister, Vice Chair (2018)

Eric Sarrazin (2017)

Olivia Cyr, Student Representative (2017)

**Board of Health (3 years)**

Walter Wolf, DPM, Chair (2019)

Michael A. Rosner, MD, Vice Chair (2017)

Susanne M. Cordes (2018)

**Municipal Light Board (3 years)**

Anne S. Awad, Chair (2018)

Vernon Blodgett, Jr., Vice Chair (2019)

Gregory Dubrueil, Clerk (2018)

John Hine (2017)

Kurt C. Schenker (2019)

**Trustee for Free Public Library (3 years)**

Mitchell B. Resnick, Chair (2018)

Susan Obremski-Crowther, Vice Chair (2017)

Robert S. Berwick (2019)

Maxine Cechvala (2019)

Constance A. Clancy (2018)

Barbara Merchant (2019)

David C. Morell (2017)

Timna Tarr (2018)

Gillian M. Woldorf (2017)

**Board of Assessors (3 years)**

Kevin E. Taugher, Chair (2017)

Francis Conti (2019)

Hazel Snopek (2018)

**Planning Board (5 years)**

Jeffrey D. Squire, Chair (2019)

Mark Cavanaugh, Vice Chair (2020)

Joan Rosner, Secretary (2017)

Bradford S. Hutchinson (2021)

Melissa O’Brien (2018)

**Housing Authority (5 years)**

Robert P. Nolin, Treasurer (2018)

John E. Duda (2021)

Mary A. Dufault (2019)

Mary C. Laplante (2020)

**Councilor Hampshire Council of Government (2 years)**

Julie A. Gentile (2018)

Thomas E. Knightly (2018)

**TOWN MEETING MEMBERS**

**PRECINCT A**

**PRECINCT B**

**PRECINCT C**

Bergeron	Deborah L.	2017	Awad	Anne	2017	Beaudry	Andrew	2017
Clancy	Constance A.	2017	Chesky	Evelyn	2017	Clancy	Marguerite	2017
Duguay	Barbara A.	2017	DeToma	Francis J.	2017	Cyr	Jeffery A.	2017
Germain	Richard	2017	Holmes	Stefani	2017	Francis	George	2017
Malinowski	Mitchel J.	2017	Klepacki	Eleanor C.	2017	Hine	John R.	2017
Merchant	Barbara	2017	Schenker	Kurt	2017	Judd	William	2017
Taughner	K. Michael	2017	Ternbach	Rudolf	2017	Taughner	Kevin E.	2017
Walsh	Kent	2017	Terry	Thomas R.	2017	Wozniak	Michael	2017
Casey	Pauline	2018	Blasko	Lucille J.	2018	Camp	Jon	2018
D'Amato	Donald J.	2018	Blasko, Sr.	Robert F.	2018	Eaton	Ann	2018
D'Amato	Mary H.	2018	Keane	Kathleen	2018	King	David J.	2018
Feeney	Julie Ann	2018	Keane	Michael	2018	Kostek	Ken	2018
Finkowski	Leonard M.	2018	LaRoche	Diane	2018	Lehtomaki	Gail C.	2018
Foley	William	2018	Longpre	Steve	2018	MacCullagh	Aiden C.	2018
Lafreniere	Michael	2018	Miller	Jodi	2018	Pluto	Anthony J.	2018
Pafford	Clifford	2018	Viens	Charles	2018	Ziomek	Robert	2018
Pafford	Gail Bielizna	2019	Boisselle	Edward	2019	Austin	Elizabeth	2019
Bright	Carol Anne	2019	Chevalier	Thomas	2019	Canning	James	2019
Dowd	Beth	2019	D'Amours	Elaine	2019	Etelman	Sarah	2019
Foley	Lucia	2019	Dupre	Jacqueline	2019	Faille	Danielle	2019
Paulin	Elaine	2019	Lavallee	Winston	2019	Gentile	Julie	2019
Rondeau	Raymond	2019	Millard	Jeffery	2019	Mulvaney	Diane	2019
Urekew	John	2019	Sorbel	Anne	2019	Sweeney	Renee	2019
			Terry	Martha R.	2019	Wessig	John	2019

**PRECINCT D**

**PRECINCT E**

**Town Meeting Ex-Officio**

Blanchard	Veronique	2017	Abrams	Frances R.	2017			
Bristol	Barbara E.	2017	Abrams	Robert M.	2017	Ryan, Jr.	Edward J.	Moderator
Constant	Richard	2017	Baldwin	Robert D.	2017	Town Clerk	Office	Reference
Gagne	Beverly A.	2017	Berwick	Robert	2017			
Gagne	Peter A.	2017	Cahillane	Brian	2017			
Hamlin	Stephen B.	2017						
Rosner	Michael A.	2017	Knadler	Nancy	2017			
Symington	Anna	2017	Swartwout	Dennis	2017			
Cavanaugh	Mark	2018	Young	Linda L.	2017			
Fisher	Michael	2018	Dubois	Lawrence H.	2018			
Finkel	Harriet C.	2018	Fortier	Judith	2018			
Jodoin	Margaret E.	2018	Ishler	Marilyn G.	2018			
Kraske	Patricia C.	2018	Kelleher	Daniel	2018			
Presley	Denise L.	2018	Merrill	Steve	2018			
Pyle	Cynthia F.	2018	Robertson	Robert L.	2018			
Waite	Barry C.	2018	Rogers	Kenneth	2018			
Blodgett Jr.	Vernon	2019	VACANT		2018			
Boulais	Theodore J.	2019	Abrams	Joshua	2019			
Brezinsky	Ira J.	2019	Brown	Joanna	2019			
Constant	Carol P.	2019	Dubois	Doris	2019			
Duda	John	2019	Fantini	Helen	2019			
Gass	Marilyn T.	2019	Gallivan	Kathryn	2019			
Johnston	Dale	2019	Kelsey	Susan M.	2019			
Rosner	Joan B.	2019	Resnick	Mitchell	2019			
			Sanford	Philip	2019			



# Appointed Officials For Fiscal Year 2016

## Individuals

### **Town Administrator**

Michael J. Sullivan

### **Assistant Town Administrator**

Jennifer L. Wolowicz

### **Town Accountant (5 years)**

William Sutton (2017)

### **Affirmative Action Officer (1 year)**

Jennifer L. Wolowicz

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator (1 year)**

James Reidy

### **Animal Control Officer (1 year)**

Shawn O'Brien

### **Building Commissioner**

Charlene Baiardi

### **Chief of Police**

David LaBrie

Steve Parentela – *as of July 1, 2016*

### **Collector/Treasurer**

Deborah Baldini

### **Conservation Administrator (1 year)**

Janice Stone

### **Constables (1 year)**

Michael Dubuc

Robert Lynes

### **Council on Aging Director (1 year)**

Joanne Trybus

Leslie Hennessey – *as of July 1, 2016*

### **Deputy Forest Wardens (1 year)**

David Keefe

Robert R. Authier

### **Director of Golf Operations (1 year)**

Doug Juhasz

Andrew Rogers – *as of March 2016*

### **Emergency Management Director (1 year)**

Sharon Hart

### **Assistant Emergency Management Director (1 year)**

David LaBrie

Steve Parentela – *as of July 1, 2016*

### **Holyoke Range Advisory Committee Representative (1 year)**

Bernard Nestor

Dennis Rochon

### **IT Coordinator (1 year)**

James Doolittle

### **Joint Transportation Committee Delegate (1 year)**

#### **Pioneer Valley Planning Commission**

Jim Reidy

### **Parking Clerk (1 year)**

Deborah Baldini

### **Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Representative (1 year)**

Mark Cavanaugh

### **Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Alternate Rep. (1 year)**

Richard Harris

### **PVPC Bicycle & Pedestrian Way Subcommittee Rep. (1 year)**

Jim Reidy

### **Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board (1 year)**

Marilyn G. Ishler

### **Plumbing Inspector**

David Tourville

### **Recreation Director (1 year)**

Andrew Rogers

### **Registrars of Voters (3 years)**

Carlene Hamlin (Ex Officio) Joy Piquette (2017)

Clarice L. Bielanski (2016) Shelley A. Gingras (2018)

### **Sealer of Weights and Measures (3 years)**

Thomas Kelleher (2018)

### **Special Police (1 year)**

Joseph Cartabona, Jr.

Timothy Cauley

Sean Clark

Thomas Douglas

Kurtis Eckman

Matthew Garvulenski

Paul Garvulenski

Roger Gauthier

Michael Goff

Spencer Hart

Kevin Hennessey

Quintin Jeffers

Ronald Labarre

Richard LaPierre

Michael Lynch

Steven Mailhott

Peter Michaels

Philip Nadeau

Michael O'Neil

Kevin Quesnel

Raymond Warren

Corey Whelihan

Samuel Wiater

### **Superintendent of Public Works (3 years)**

Jim Reidy (2017)

### **Town Clerk**

Carlene C. Hamlin

### **Town Counsel (1 year)**

Edward J. Ryan, Jr.

**Tree Warden/Insect Pest Control Officer (1 year)**

Christopher Ryan

**Veterans' Burial Agent (1 year)**

John A. O'Connor

**Veterans' Grave Officer (1 year)**

George Francis

**Veterans' Services Director (2 year)**

John A. O'Connor (2016)

**Wiring Inspector (3 years)**

Roy Rivers

**Boards and Committees**

**Agricultural Commission (3 years)**

Dawn Archambault (2016)

Jon E. Camp (2018) – *as of March 2016*

Todd Sugrue (2018)

Gerald A. Judge (2018)

**Appropriations Committee (3 years)**

Thomas Terry, Chair (2019)

Andrew Beaudry (2018)

Richard A. Constant (2017)

Jeffrey A. Cyr (2017)

Stephen B. Hamlin (2018)

R. Kirk Mackey (2018)

Nancy Knadler (2019)

Gregory Sheehan (2017)

Heather Wartel (2019)

**Bike/Walk Committee (1 year)**

Nancy Bozek

Keith H. Davis

Larry Dubois

Lucia Foley

Marilyn T. Gass

Margaret Jodoin

Mariann Millard

Melissa O'Brien

Linda L. Young

**Board of Appeals (3 years)**

Martha Terry, Chair (2019)

James Bright (2017)

Vacancy (2018)

Barbara Erwin, Associate Member (2017)

Christine Quigley, Associate Member (2017)

**Bylaw Review Committee (3 years)**

Mary Hirschel (2019)

David LaBrie – *retired July 1, 2016*

Edward Ryan, Ex Officio

Charles W. Sabourin (2018)

Michael J. Wozniak (2018)

**Cable Advisory Committee (1 year)**

Eric Zahm, Chair

Stephen Fox

Dale Johnston

**Canal Park Committee (3 years)**

William R. Bacis, Co-chair (2018)

Mitchell Resnick, Co-chair (2017)

Richard Constant (2018)

Eleanor Klepacki (2018)

John Fleming (2017)

**Capital Planning Committee (3 years)**

Theodore Boulais, Chair (2018)

Ira Brezinsky (2018)

Pat Dardenne (2017)

John Kelly (2017)

Nancy Knadler (2017)

John Pietras (2017)

Forrest Price, Jr. (2019)

Joan Rosner (2017)

Schley Warren (2019)

**Commissioner of Whiting Street Fund (1 year)**

Hazel Snopek, Chair

Ryan S. Bagley

Pauline L. Casey

Margaret St. Martin

**Community and Economic Development Committee (3 years)**

Jeffrey Labrecque, Chair (2016)

Carol Anne Bright (2017)

Jacqueline B. Charron (2017)

Wayne K. Cordes (2016)

Francis J. DeToma (2017)

Michael Fisher (2018)

Kevin McCaffrey (2018)

**Connecticut River Channel Marking Committee (3 years)**

Lucien Brunelle, Jr. (2019)

**Conservation Commission (3 years)**

John Fleming, Chair (2018)

Brad Allen (2017)

James Canning (2018)

Dennis Swartwout (2017)

William Bacis (2019)

Kate Ballantine, Associate (2016)

**Council on Aging Board of Directors (3 years)**

Gail Beliezna-Pafford, Chair Sarah Gmeiner (2019)

Sheila Adams (2018) Carlene Hamlin (2018)

Doris Bibeau (2016) Grace Kelly (2017)

Mary Billion (2017) Donald Lever (2018)

Eileen Burke (2019) William Schenker (2018)

Judith Fortier (2018)

**Cultural Council (3 years)**

Renee M. Sweeney, Chair (2018)

Emily Dean, Vice Chair (2018)

Liz Austin (2017) – *as of April 2016*

Marion Canning (2018)  
Lucia Foley (2016)  
Richard Matteson (2016)  
Halley Ofner (2018)  
Roberta Salthouse (2016)  
Bonnie Stretch (2017)

**Forestry Committee (3 years)**

Lyndon Bagg (2018)  
Michael Lamontagne (2018)  
Steven P. Roberts (2018)

**Historical Commission (3 years)**

Kenneth L. Williams, Chair (2018) – *deceased August 2015*  
Susan Canedy (2017)  
Gail LePine (2019)  
Scott Sargent (2018)  
Desiree Smelcer (2018)  
Adam R. Sweet (2018)

**Master Plan Implementation Committee (3 years):**

Ann Eaton (2019)  
Judith Mirick Gooch (2017)  
Margaret Jodoin (2017)  
Michelle Wolfe (2019)

**Municipal Golf Course Commission (3 years)**

William E. Foley, Chair (2017)  
James Brough (2017)  
Mark DuBois (2017)  
George Francis (2018)  
Leonard Finkowski (2018)  
Jeffrey Millard (2019)  
Kyle Steinbock (2019)

**Open Space Committee (5 years)**

Nicole Sanford, Chair – (2018)  
Dawn Archambault (2016)  
Roger Beer (2018)  
Richard Harris (2021)  
Ron Michaliski (2018)

**Recreation Commission (3 years)**

Mark Du Bois, Chair (2018)  
Brian D. Couture (2017)  
Patrick Dawson (2018)  
Amy Foley (2019)  
Jane E. Gawron (2017)  
Byron Joy (2018)  
Allan T. Tracy (2016)

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee (1 year)**

Veronique Blanchard-Smith  
Theodore Boulais  
Michael Fischer  
Sharon Hart  
John Higgins  
Yem Lip  
Ron Michalski

**Sustainability and Energy Commission (3 years)**

Daniel Whitford, Chair (2016)

Josh Abrams (2016)  
Nancy Apple, MHC Representative  
Anne Awad (2016)  
Robert Berwick (2017)  
Veronique Blanchard (2018)  
Russell Fleury (2018)  
Thomas Gebhardt (2017)  
John A. Kelly (2016)  
Melissa O'Brien (2018)

**Town Meeting Electronic Communication Advisory Committee (3 years)**

Larry Dubois (2018)  
Dale Johnston (2018)

**Traffic Sign Committee (1 year) – all members ex-officio**

Chief of Police David LaBrie, Chair – *retired July 2016*  
Public Works Supt. Jim Reidy  
Town Engineer

**Tree Committee**

Theodore Boulais, Chair (2018)  
James R. Backus (2019)  
Karen D. Doherty (2016)  
Michael Lamontagne (2017)  
Bobbie Salthouse (2019)  
Dennis J. Swartwout (2017)  
Kelly Woods, Associate (2017)  
Linda Young (2018)

**Trustees of the Old Firehouse Museum (3 years)**

Robert J. Blaney (2017)  
Todd A. Calkins (2017)  
Wayne D. Gass (2019)  
Diane LaRoche (2018)  
Philip L. LaRoche (2018)  
Barbara Merchant (2019)  
Kenneth Merchant (2018)  
Desiree Smelcer (2019)

**Wetlands Bylaw Administrative Appeals Committee (1 yr.)**

Mark Cavanaugh  
Sharon Hart  
John Hine  
Jim Reidy

**Youth Commission – Adult Members (3 years)**

Tracy Stefanowicz, Chair (2017)  
Amy Foley (2017)  
Steve Longpre (2016)

**Youth Commission – Youth Task Force Members (1 yr.)**

Jess Allen  
Andrei Danilchenko  
Angela LeBel  
Julia LeBlanc  
Jon Niemiec  
Jailene Rodriguez  
Maritza Roman  
Dylan Sparks  
Dominique Stevenson-Pope  
Christian Vadella



## Selectboard

<http://www.southhadley.ma.gov>

While there may not have been big, newsworthy developments, crises or headlines in South Hadley during the 2016 fiscal year, many steps were taken and a lot of progress made to improve both the performance of municipal government and the quality of life in town.

Maintaining and repairing buildings and infrastructure throughout town continues to be a challenge. There were water leaks and elevator issues in the aging Town Hall; on the positive side new boilers were installed and renovations continued in several offices. Water infiltration causing erosion around footings in the basement at the Senior Center at the old Woodlawn School needed to be addressed. And the town issued an RFP for the cleanup of the former Toth property. Again on the positive side, road projects on Ferry Street, Cedar Ridge and Pheasant Run were completed and a section of Alvord was next on the list. Likewise, \$500,000 from the rolling debt program was allocated for sidewalk repairs.

Another continuing and growing challenge is the financial constraints facing the Town. The primary example would be the rising cost of health insurance premiums (which rose 6.8%) and retirement contributions. These costs are increasing by several hundred thousand dollars a year. With new revenue (approximately \$800,000) increasing at a much lower rate, it is easy to see how it will be more and more difficult to meet our other obligations and needs.

South Hadley did maintain an excellent bond rating of Aa2 from Moody's, and because of that rating the Town was able to sell \$2,984,933 in General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2015 Bonds (including \$230,271 for the library and \$2,765,000 for the new Plains School) at a favorable coupon rate.



*The South Hadley Food Pantry accepts delivery of a new van purchased with CDBG funds.*

In this financial environment it is even more important to supplement revenue with other sources of funds. Partnering with the town of Granby, the two towns received a Community Development Block grant in the amount of \$853,734 to be used for rehab projects for 20

homes, Food Pantry expansion into Granby and improvements at Newton Manor. Also, the Town received a Solar RFP Technical Assistance Grant to create an RFP to partner on solar opportunities at the Ledges Golf Course and the Landfill. Finally, a project was initiated by IPG to recapture methane gas at the landfill. The Town can expect to receive \$5,000 per month once it becomes operational.

Another strategy for increasing revenue is to promote economic development within town. The arrival of Mohawk Fine Paper at 28 Gaylord St. will significantly boost commercial tax revenue in the years to come. At the Special Town Meeting in November, Town Meeting members approved the adoption of a new overlay district - South Hadley Falls Smart Growth District. This zoning district is designed to encourage development and comes with a \$350,000 grant from the State. From that grant, \$90,000 was allocated for the Redevelopment Authority, which for the first time was split out as a separate department in the budget. Other notable events included the participation of our Town Administrator in the Western Mass Development Conference and the purchase of the Woodlawn Plaza by a private development group.

Policy development is an important but often overlooked tool in ensuring efficient and effective municipal operations. Led by the efforts of our Town Administrator, policies were developed and implemented for our new Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust fund and for investment strategies for that fund, as well as complying with the requirements of Federal Patient Protection and the Affordable Care Act. A Streetlight Policy was approved, and the Complete Streets policy was adopted.

Significant operational changes were made at the Ledges Golf Course. In an effort to reduce expenses and bring the golf course operations within the sphere of the Recreation Department, General Manager responsibilities for the golf course were assumed by the Recreation Director. Other projects and initiatives included:

- ❖ Gaylord Memorial/South Hadley Public Library exploration project, with a presentation by South Hadley Public Library Joint Integration Committee
- ❖ Community Compact with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, promoting common goals to increase job opportunities, fully utilize available transit systems and be open to creating affordable workforce housing
- ❖ Phase 1 of King Information Systems/Record Retention project
- ❖ Assessment of the Town's phone system, which included a building-by-building review of infrastructure and existing phone systems, and created a business case for a new phone system
- ❖ Route 47 Scenic By-way initiative
- ❖ By-law review by General Code
- ❖ Hazard Mitigation exercise, public hearing, plan presentation

- ❖ Supervisory Leadership Development Program for department heads
- ❖ Synthetic turf field at the High School
- ❖ Dementia Friendly Community proclamation and a professional development day on understanding dementia and age related challenges
- ❖ Automated time & attendance system
- ❖ Abandoned Housing By-law, at the behest of Assistant Attorney General, with associated Abandoned Housing task force including both Fire Districts, the Building Commissioner, Health Director and Town Administrator
- ❖ Valley Bike-Share, a joint venture with Holyoke, Northampton, Amherst and Springfield; Memorandum of Agreement accepted

Many of the challenges we faced will demand continued efforts and resources over the years to come. An environment of rising costs and limited revenues requires the focus of municipal government to be one of prioritizing needs and limiting expenses. Fortunately, we have dedicated and talented staff, beginning with Town Administrator Michael Sullivan, to help us meet those challenges, and the Selectboard thanks them for the efforts they make every day.

We are also fortunate to have dedicated and talented citizens. The number of residents who volunteer time and effort to contribute to, and make a difference in, our community is indeed heartwarming. Municipal government can work to provide essential services effectively and efficiently. Committed and involved citizens can make South Hadley “a great place to live.”

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Hine, Chair

## **Bike/Walk Committee**

In the Fall of 2015, the Bike-Walk Committee officially became a town-appointed advisory committee to the Selectboard. Members were officially sworn in at the October 21, 2015 meeting by the Town Clerk. Officers were elected unanimously: Keith Davis, Chair; Mariann Millard, Vice-Chair; Linda Young, Clerk. Other members included Melissa O’Brien, Marilyn Gass, Margaret Jodoin, Larry Dubois, Nancy Bozek and Lucia Foley. In April 2016, Keith Davis requested to be relieved of his Chair duties due to personal commitments; Mariann Millard took over as Acting Chair until the end of the June 2016.

The theme for Bike-Walk Committee’s activities from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 was focused on providing bike-walk advocacy, networking with other town groups and being a leader and facilitator in carrying out bike/walk-related activities in South Hadley.

### **Accomplishments:**

**Goal: Provide advocacy and support for Town bike-walk initiatives.**

- ❖ *South Hadley Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.* Active participant via a BWC member, Melissa O’Brien, who was assigned by the town to serve on the PVPC Master Bike-Ped Report Task Force to develop a master plan for biking and walking in South Hadley. As members of the public, other BWC members also provided ongoing and comprehensive review and comment of the draft plan at Task Force meetings. A significant amount of time by all BWC members was spent on this activity for this fiscal year.
- ❖ At no cost to the town, BWC obtained a professional review of PVPC’s River-To-Range Trail Grant draft to provide an evaluation of the grant as written to enhance its overall success of acceptance/award.
- ❖ Provided Letter of Support for the River-To-Range Trail Grant (DCR Recreational Grant) as well as agreeing to act as Trail Steward.
- ❖ Supported the town’s initiative and efforts to adopt a Complete Streets Policy.
- ❖ Requested to become an active member in supporting the town’s initiative to create a town-wide Recreation Plan (now known as Community Life Plan).
- ❖ Four BWC members, Mariann Millard, Lucia Foley, Marilyn Gass and Margaret Jodoin, attended MassDOT’s Public Information Meeting/Oral Presentation on May 26, 2016 to provide public comments on its proposed Signal and Intersection Improvement Plan at the Route 202/Route 33 intersection. BWC support for a “protected intersection design” was given to Mike Sullivan, Town Administrator, re: his comments made at this public hearing.
- ❖ Provided a Letter of Support to the Selectboard for the town to adopt wherever possible, a “Protected Intersection Design” to maintain safety for pedestrians and bicyclists for any intersection in town slated for improvements.

### **Goal: Public engagement in bike-walk activities.**

- ❖ BWC members participated in the September 2015 PVPC-initiated Public Visioning Sessions for the development of PVPC’s Master Bike-Ped Plan.
- ❖ Offered to the public a total of six monthly treks between October 2015 and April 2016 in the following conservation areas as well as other town-owned lands: Bachelor Brook, Bagg-Pierce, Black Stevens, Bynan, Lithia Springs, and the Ledges Golf Course and Newton-Jones-Carver Conservation Areas. Public participation on treks began to increase in attendance during 2016 due to including commentary on history of conservation areas, flora/fauna and other information. In May 2016, BWC participated in Bay State Bike Week Events by providing the public with a six-mile roundtrip bike ride from McCray’s Farm and Bicentennial Canal Park.
- ❖ Participated in the February 2016 Know-Your-Town (KYT) Spotlight on Town Committees/Commissions to update participants on Bike-Walk Committee activities as well as manned a table to answer

individual questions from the public during the forum segment of the program.

**Goal: Network with other town committees, boards and other groups to foster/develop bike-walk trails and other bike-walk opportunities.**

- ❖ Created a Communication Liaison position within the BWC for a designated BWC member (Chair) to communicate directly with the Town Administrator to keep BWC and the town apprised of bike-walk-related activities.
- ❖ Initiated a meeting with the Golf Commission to share ideas about possible safe trail development for bikers and pedestrians to use during the golf season. BWC recommendations were included in PVPC's Master Bike-Ped Plan.
- ❖ Initiated a meeting with Conservation Commission members in February 2016 to discuss mutual concerns and ideas for improvement for trails and information in town-owned conservation areas. This resulted in a public trek in the Bynan Conservation Area in April 2016 to increase the public's awareness of damage being done to trails, ponds and other areas of town-owned land by unauthorized motor vehicles such as ATVs.
- ❖ CPA-Initiative Support: BWC was an active advocate of the Community Preservation Act initiative by the CPA-For-South Hadley Group, lending outreach support and providing a Letter of Support during the attempts by the CPA Group to have town residents vote for its acceptance.
- ❖ Initiated and held a town-wide networking meeting in May 2016 at the Main Library, which resulted in an increase in BWC providing support to the following specific entities in town:
  - **Conservation Commission:** Initiated and participated in a joint meeting in May 2016 between the Conservation Administrator and Mount Holyoke College (Miller-Worley Environmental Center) to explore the possibility of MHC providing a student intern, at no charge to the Town, in Summer 2017 to research, create and/or improve, under Conservation Commission direction, the descriptions and trail maps of all the conservation areas in South Hadley. The overall goal is to have the student make all information post-ready on the Conservation Commission's town web page for ongoing public access. Current information on conservation area trails is not complete, and, therefore, it is problematic for the public to understand what areas/trails are readily available for them to explore and enjoy. This project is currently a work in progress.
  - **Bicentennial Canal Park Committee:** The CPC and BWC began discussions together on how BWC could support CPC trail improvement initiatives and how CPC members could enhance BWC treks with historical information such as for the Ledges Golf Course/Newton-Jones-Carver trek that was held in February 2016.

**Goal: Involvement with other groups.**

- ❖ BWC member Melissa O'Brien attended meetings as an active member of the CT River Byway Committee and other BWC members attended sessions to provide public comment on proposals.
- ❖ BWC, as an outcome of its May 2016 Networking Meeting, agreed to sponsor a joint production of an "Open Streets" Festival with the Holyoke Bike-Ped Committee, with the full support of both municipalities. The festival is slated for May 7, 2017, 11 am to 3 pm on the Rt. 116 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge.

**Goal: Increasing BWC Members' education on bike-walk-related matters.**

- ❖ Two members, Nancy Bozek and Margaret Jodoin, attended the 2015 Mass Trail Conference, becoming more aware of trail making processes and the need for cooperation with schools and to involve more families in outside, healthy activities, particularly to combat sedentary lifestyles and diseases arising from a lack of physical activity, e.g. obesity, diabetes.
- ❖ Three members, Mariann Millard, Keith Davis and Lucia Foley, attended the MassDOT Capital Conversation-5-Year Plan sessions in Amherst and Springfield to provide comments on MassDOT's plans to improve state highways and secondary roads, such as Rt. 116 that runs through South Hadley and the Falls, and to network with others with expertise with wetlands and bikeway paths.

The Bike-Walk Committee remains supportive, committed and enthusiastic in its mission of advocacy and facilitation of bike-walk initiatives in town, and greatly appreciates the support shown toward its goals and members by all departments of town government.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariann Millard, Chair

## Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors works to deliver fair and equitable assessments on all real and personal property within the town of South Hadley. The Assessors adhere to Massachusetts General Laws and comply with standards set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR). For Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 (which runs from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016), property values were updated as an "interim adjustment year" in accordance with DOR standards. The overall result of these interim adjustments was to increase property valuations for the entire community by 3%.

As of January 1, 2015, which is the assessment date for FY 2016 property valuation, the total taxable value for all property of the Town of South Hadley was \$1,452,428,625. The *town* tax rate for FY 2016 was \$17.56 per thousand, up from \$17.08 per thousand, an increase of 2.81%. The total town budget for fiscal 2016 was \$ 48,240,492 million with \$ 25,504,647 million

being raised through taxation. The maximum allowable tax levy limit was \$25,513,866 including additional tax revenue of \$199,811 resulting from new growth in property values.

Completion of the Library and Plains School projects triggered increases in debt service for principal and interest payments for those projects. A portion of the increase was offset by lower payments for the high & middle school projects from several years ago.

The following table illustrates the impact of all debt exclusions on the average single family tax bill:

Project	Debt Service FY 14 amount	Debt Service FY 15 amount	Debt Service FY 16 amount	FY 14 tax rate impact	FY 15 tax rate impact	FY 16 tax rate impact	FY16 Impact on average single family tax bill
Library	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 210,897.00	\$ 254,666.00	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.18	\$ 41.71
Plains	\$ 44,847.00	\$ 81,230.00	\$ 756,139.00	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.52	\$ 120.62
High & Middle School	\$ 468,495.00	\$ 396,695.00	\$ 325,795.00	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.22	\$ 51.97
	\$ 578,342.00	\$ 688,822.00	\$ 1,336,600.00	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.92	\$ 214.30

Fiscal 2014 average single family home value = \$224,400  
 Fiscal 2015 average single family home value = \$224,800  
 Fiscal 2016 average single family home value = \$231,700

The following chart shows the top ten taxpayers for fiscal 2016.

Name	Nature of Business	Total FY 2015 Taxable Value	FY 15 Town Tax	% of Tax Levy
Maraline Development Corp	Commercial Properties	\$ 10,338,100	\$ 181,537.04	0.71%
Loomis Village Inc	Assisted Living	\$ 10,261,600	\$ 180,193.70	0.71%
US Industrial Gaylord LP	Manufacturing	\$ 9,333,900	\$ 163,903.28	0.64%
Columbia Gas of Massachusetts	Utility	\$ 8,955,720	\$ 157,262.44	0.62%
Mount Holyoke College	Education	\$ 8,676,800	\$ 152,364.61	0.60%
Center Redevelopment Corp	Retail/Residential	\$ 6,349,282	\$ 111,493.39	0.44%
Riverboat Village Assoc	Apartments	\$ 6,108,300	\$ 107,261.75	0.42%
South Hadley Limited Partnership	Retail Plaza	\$ 5,965,100	\$ 104,747.16	0.41%
Western MA Electric Co	Utility	\$ 4,800,711	\$ 84,300.49	0.33%
NHP Properties	Nursing Home	\$ 4,639,300	\$ 81,466.11	0.32%

Once Town Meeting approves the budget for the new fiscal year, the Assessor's office is responsible for setting the tax rate and creating and generating tax bills for both real estate (7,162 taxable parcels) and personal property (197 billable accounts) to be committed to the Tax Collector for issuance.

In addition to property tax bills, the assessors committed to the Collector 18,733 automobile excise tax bills and 384 boat excise tax bills.

Along with tax bills come abatements and exemptions. This fiscal year the office processed 1,083 abatements and/or exemptions across all categories of tax bills. A breakdown of the transactions for fiscal 2016 are as follows, 24 real estate abatements, 244 personal exemptions on real estate, 4 personal property abatements, 76 boat excise abatements, and 735 motor vehicle excise abatements covering calendar years 2012-2016.

Real estate deed transactions have increased this fiscal year from last by 8.32%. This fiscal year the office staff retrieved from the Registry of Deeds 495 transfers which were then entered into the valuation software on 481 properties.

For FY 2016, 470 building permits were retrieved, entered and reviewed for 394 properties.

The board has implemented a data collection program through annual appropriation and competitive bids. From

FY 2014 through FY 2016, over 1,000 properties have been inspected.

The Board of Assessors promotes public awareness of the duties performed by the Assessors office as well as how the department serves the general public. The board strives for public outreach through seminars, press releases and maintaining up-to-date web pages. If residents have questions that aren't resolved by visiting our website, we may be able to help via phone call, email, or a visit to our office.

There is a wealth of information within the Assessor's web page

(<http://www.southhadley.ma.gov/154/Assessors>) categorized by Applications & Forms, Real Estate and Personal Property, Mapping, Property Record Cards, Important Dates, Motor Vehicle and Boat Excise, Fee Schedule and other links to outside sources such as Department of Revenue for further information. The town's digital mapping program, which also houses copies of each parcel's associated property record card can be found at ([http://www.axisgis.com/South\\_HadleyMA/](http://www.axisgis.com/South_HadleyMA/)).

The Board would like to remind the general public that most of the information in our office is public. It is the Board's hope that if people find that accessing answers to any questions and reviewing properties on the Town's website is too challenging, that they should feel free to come into our office to seek the support they may need.

The work involved in the Assessor's office is of a complex nature and could not be accomplished without the staff within the department. To them we say thank you. In addition, the cooperation and assistance of all the department heads, supervisors and their staff are sincerely appreciated.

In closing, the Board of Assessors is once again pleased to represent the Town of South Hadley as an independent elected board and self-governing body, and we will do our best to treat all taxpayers fairly and equitably during our tenure.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin E. Taugher, Chair                      Francis M. Conti, Member  
 Hazel R. Snopek, Clerk

OFFICE STAFF:

Melissa L. Couture, Associate Assessor  
 Maureen Cronin, Assistant to the Associate Assessor

## Board of Health

The primary responsibility of the local Board of Health is to respond and act on any situation that may affect the health and safety of the general public. Most of our duties are contained within many statutes, including mandatory licensing and inspection programs.

The Board of Health continues to respond to and educate the public on health issues such as Hepatitis, Rabies, Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus through local press releases, the media, Connect CTY, Cable TV and Twitter. The Board of Health instituted a ban on Styrofoam and Flavored Tobacco this year and raised the age of tobacco sales to 21. The Director of Public Health and the Public Health Assistant received their certification this year from Boston University for completion of the “Foundations for Local Public Health Practice” class, an intensive 60 hour course encompassing all facets of public health in the community. They also completed training for Animal Control professionals.

The Director of Public Health serves on the following committees:

- ❖ Chair, Mt. Tom Tobacco Coalition (\$152,000 grant, \$8,000 host fee)
- ❖ Hampshire Emergency Preparedness Coalition
- ❖ President, Western Massachusetts Public Health Association
- ❖ Medical Reserve Corp Director for South Hadley/Granby/ Northampton (\$15,000 grant)
- ❖ South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition
- ❖ Solid Waste Advisory Committee
- ❖ Wetland Bylaw Administrative Appeals Committee

During the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 the department issued the following permits:

Food Permits	\$25,380.00
Camps & Pools	\$4,600.00
Spas	\$450.00
Burial Permits	\$1,060.00
Funeral Directors	\$375.00
Septic Hauler	\$525.00
Septic Installer	\$600.00
Septic Systems/ Perc Tests	\$450.00
Portable Toilets	\$480.00
Tobacco Permits	\$5,750.00
Refuse Haulers	\$6,825.00
Lodging/Dorms/B&B's	\$3,000.00
Copies	\$21.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49,516.25</b>

Our staff is successful in their efforts because of our strong and supportive three-member Board of Health, who prioritize protecting public health above everything.

We acknowledge and appreciate the assistance and cooperation of all town boards, departments and commissions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Walter R. Wolf, DPM, Chair  
 Michael A. Rosner, MD, Vice Chair  
 Suzanne M. Cordes, Clerk  
 Sharon D. Hart, Director of Public Health  
 Margaret E. Bernard, RN, Community Health Nurse  
 Shawn O'Brien, Animal Control Officer

Jennifer Jernigan, Public Health Assistant

## Animal Control Department

The Animal Inspectors' report for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 is as follows:

**Owners signed rabies form required by the State Agriculture Department: 25**

**Animal Investigations were as follows:**

Dogs	135
Dog Attacks	10
Skunks	15
Woodchuck	3
Opposum	2
Raccoons	22
Bats	5
Cats	22
Fox	15
Squirrels	1
Birds	5
Chickens	3
Bear	10
Coyote	15
Snake	0
Geese	3
Duck	5
Deer	10
Owl	1
Bobcat	2
Horse	2
Cow	0
Pig	0
Neighbor Complaints	35
Dead Animal	6
Barking Dog	40
Alpaca	2
Turtles	3
<b>Total Calls Answered</b>	<b>372</b>
<b>Livestock Permits Issued</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Barn/Stable Inspections</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Kennel Inspections</b>	<b>5</b>

We are available 24/7 for emergencies and any animal problem that might need immediate attention, including Rabies or West Nile Virus. Animal Control Officer Shawn O'Brien is equipped and trained to handle various situations involving the health of our community. Director Sharon Hart is always kept informed of all problems involving health issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn O'Brien, Animal Control Officer

## Gas and Plumbing Inspector

During the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 the following permits were issued:

<b>PERMITS</b>	<b>FEES</b>
245 Plumbing	\$10,665.00
318 Gas	\$19,780
<b>563 Total Permits</b>	<b>\$30,445</b>

Over the past year I have successfully completed state required continuing education. I have attended several seminars and meetings pertaining to installation and safety as they relate to the plumbing and gas industry. I have worked closely with South Hadley Fire Districts #1 and #2 on propane, natural gas and carbon monoxide issues. I have attended workshops and received certification in the newest allowable materials.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Tourville, Gas and Plumbing Inspector

### Public Health Nurse

#### 2014-2015 DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

95 Reported Cases	STATUS
Babesiosis	1 revoked
Calicivirus/Norovirus	2 confirmed
Campylobacteriosis	1 confirmed
Cryptococcus neoformans	1 suspect
Giardiasis	1 confirmed
Group A streptococcus	1 revoked
Group B streptococcus	2 confirmed
Hepatitis B	1 contact
Hepatitis C	5 confirmed
Hepatitis C	17 contact
Hepatitis C	7 probable
Hepatitis C	1 suspect
Influenza	22 confirmed
Lyme Disease	3 confirmed
Lyme Disease	1 probable
Lyme Disease	20 suspect
Polio	1 revoked
Streptococcus pneumoniae	1 confirmed
TB-LTBI	2 confirmed
Varicella	1 confirmed
Varicella	1 probable
Varicella	1 revoked
Varicella	1 suspect
Zika virus infection	1 revoked

Seasonal flu vaccinations were provided by Rite Aid at the town hall and the senior center for residents and employees 18 years and older. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health no longer provides vaccines to insured residents. They do provide the Board of Health with flu vaccine for children and uninsured residents. Rite Aid also provided pneumococcal, tetanus and pertussis immunizations at these clinics. The clinics provided community service hour requirements for Elms College Nursing students.

Monthly blood pressure screenings are conducted throughout the year. Visits are made to homebound, uninsured and neglected in need of assessments, screenings and referrals. Monthly visits were made to LTBI patients seen at the Springfield TB clinic for assessment and medication delivery. Local follow-up contact is made to residents with diseases reportable by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Medical inspections are performed on summer sports camps. The nurse is a source for health information and education.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Bernard, R.N., Community Health Nurse

### Building Commissioner

During the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, the Building Department processed 539 building permits and 83 Certificates of Inspection and issued 56 Certificates of Occupancy. A total of \$162,357.88 was turned over to the Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office for building permits and \$4,537.50 for Certificates of Inspection. The estimated value of improvements listed on the building permit applications was \$19,956,328.97. Numerous zoning requests, complaints and determinations were addressed along with zoning reviews of animal permits.

<b>PERMITS</b>		<b>FEES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>
Accessory Building	12	\$1,045.80	\$235,747.00
Accessory Building (pre-constructed)	2	\$60.00	\$17,362.01
Additions	11	6,475.00	485,050.00
Alarm System	4	285.00	14,300.00
Cell Tower Installation	4	1,190.00	78,000.00
Change of Use	1	75.00	
Chimney/Fireplace	3	120.00	12,093.75
Deck or Porch	27	1,952.40	274,490.00
Demo Accessory Structure	1	30.00	2,200.00
Demo (in ground pool)	1	75.00	5,000.00
Demolition	2	300.00	44,000.00
Fence (6 ft. or higher)	3	90.00	11,040.00
Foundation only	8	805.00	791,400.00
Insulation/Weatherization	69	2,485.00	203,775.00
New Construction 1-2family	23	56,961.00	6,021,917.00
New Construction 3+Family	1	4,816.00	498,000.00
New Construction (Commercial)	1	8,016.00	989,500.00
Pool above ground w/deck	2	150.00	15,161.00
Pool above ground	5	250.00	24,311.00
In-Ground Pool	3	225.00	62,479.00
Renovation/Alteration	81	45,006.33	5,871,665.00
Replacement Windows/Doors	76	5,750.00	442,007.80
Re-roofing	102	17,029.00	2,929,946.00

Re-roofing/Siding	1	75.00	6,000.00
Re-roofing/Siding/Windows & Doors	2	375.00	69,100.00
Sheet Metal	14	1,125.00	93,500.00
Siding	13	1,050.00	134,182.00
Siding/Replacement Windows/Doors	11	1,400.00	199,625.00
Signs	12	999.50	41,119.36
Solar/Wind Installation	6	1,268.85	178,764.00
Solid Wood Burning Appliance	22	705.00	46,488.05
Sprinkler System	6	1,283.00	114,081.00
Tent-Temporary	10	885.00	44,025.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>162,357.88</b>	<b>19,956,328.97</b>
<i>Certificates of Inspection</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>4,537.50</i>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>166,895.38</b>	

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Baiardi, Building Commissioner

## Bylaw Review Committee

This year, the By Law Review Committee continued in its role to advise the Selectboard of its recommendations regarding existing or proposed bylaws. Toward that end, the committee discussed the following topics referred to it by the Selectboard:

- ❖ Proposal to Revise **SECTION 1011 “DOGS”**
- ❖ General Code Project to Update General Bylaw
- ❖ Proposal for an “Abandoned Housing” Bylaw

Respectfully submitted,

Charles W. Sabourin, Chair

## Cable Television Advisory Committee

The Cable Studio provides South Hadley municipal departments, residents, and educational community with video production equipment, training and technical assistance, free of charge. Equipment can be used for the production and presentation of non-commercial programs on South Hadley Community Television (Comcast Channel 15) or the web. The Studio provides media support services for the Town, including audio reinforcement and video documentation of various meetings. Assistance and facilitation of resources are also coordinated with the faculty and staff of South Hadley High School for the benefit of the school population. In addition, Comcast Channel 12 is maintained for the rebroadcasting of the satellite service, “Classic Arts Showcase.” The cable studio is funded, in large part, by monies received from Comcast, per negotiated contract.

The Cable Television Advisory Committee (CTAC) has been discussing the future development of the studio facility and cable television operation; within the context of advancing technology. Following the change in FY 2014 to reduce the size of the committee to three to seven members, the board welcomed new members Stephen Fox

and Denise Presley in FY 2016, bringing the board to a total of four members.

In FY 2016, SHCTV provided 89 hours of municipal meeting coverage. This included 40 hours of Selectboard, 17 hours of School Committee, 17 Hours of SHELD and 15 hours of Town Meeting and related hearings. With a number of Selectboard meetings held outside the normal meeting room or “on the road” this equates to over 65 hours of related pre- and post-production time.

Ongoing discussions continued with faculty and staff of South Hadley High School in an effort to increase student utilization of the facility. The constraint of the school schedule and student obligations has made it difficult to integrate the studio directly with curriculum, but there are a number of possibilities to explore in the coming school year.

A Capital Appropriation was approved at Special Town Meeting to purchase equipment to originate special event programming from remote locations not served by a direct connection to the Comcast infrastructure. This project also includes plans to “live stream” Channel 15 24/7 as well as make modest AV enhancements to Town Meeting and the Selectboard meeting room.

There was a modest increase in community user participation, spurred on by a local referendum question and a presentation by the CTAC Chair at a special “Know Your Town” meeting. One new producer provided many hours of AKC dog show coverage. New program opportunities presented themselves with a series of talks given at the Public Library on the Connecticut River, lectures sponsored by the Drug and Alcohol Task Force and the Gaylord Library “Seeds & Stories” initiative.

The [www.shctv15.com](http://www.shctv15.com) website was given a design make-over in preparation for the inclusion of a live web-cam feed from a scenic location in town. A new “Production Request” form was also developed to help staff better process and track requests for studio services.

The results of all these efforts can be viewed on both Channel 15 and at [www.shctv15.com](http://www.shctv15.com).

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Smith, Studio Manager  
Eric Zahm, Chair  
Stephen Fox

Dale Johnston  
Denise Presley

## Canal Park Committee

During FY16 the committee continued to maintain Bicentennial Park despite ongoing challenges presented by Mother Nature and limited appropriation. As in the

past, we have enjoyed the benefits of having many wonderful volunteers to clear trails, clean litter, plant flowers, remove invasive species, maintain boardwalks and do the countless tasks needed to maintain the park.

We are grateful for the cooperation and support provided by our Selectboard, Town Administrator, the Department of Public Works and the Tree Warden.

The Committee recognizes the efforts of Boy Scouts Carter Schoenborn, Robert Lak and Griffin Schoenborn for their assistance with the completion of a Canal Park Committee landscaping project at Bicentennial Park in August 2015. In addition, the Committee recognizes with gratitude the efforts of Cub Scout Pack 303 for the cleanup they performed on Saturday October 10, 2015 at Canal Park. Eagle Scout candidate Ethan McKeever began a project to upgrade the staining at the Overlook, a project anticipated to be completed in early FY17. The Committee applauds the efforts of our local scout troops that enhance the condition of the park, benefit the experience of residents and visitors, and advance the quality of life in South Hadley.

In addition to numerous resident volunteers, Committee member Bill Bacis has been instrumental in keeping the paths and boardwalk leading down to and along the riverbed in excellent safe condition.

The Committee participated in the Know Your Town open house at South Hadley High School that featured and described the work of committees and boards for resident's information.

Through the generosity of Chip Belsky and committee member Ellie Klepacki, the Committee was able to obtain multiple boxes of South Hadley Canal documents that had been gathered and produced by Ted Belsky and other Canal advocates and historians. These documents will be collated and eventually cataloged prior to future digitization. The Committee received a notice from Library Director Joe Rodio about the "Town Wide Preservation Assessment & Collection Identification" grant that SHPL successfully applied for to the MBLC. The grant will provide resources to engage the services of a professional consultant to organize a program focused on the preservation assessment of collections, a first step toward preserving, arranging, describing and digitizing historically significant local Massachusetts collections. The Public Library in partnership with the Canal Park Committee and other local repositories will facilitate the work of a consultant to conduct a preservation assessment of the community's historic paper assets.

The Committee recognizes the involvement of non-residents Leo Labonte and Paul Lusignan for their passionate commitment to advancing the historical significance of the South Hadley Canal by attending

meetings and volunteering to participate in public programming.

On May 14, 2016, the Committee participated in Infrastructure Day, a joint Holyoke-South Hadley event to celebrate the historic and innovative engineering achievements that connect our communities to each other and to the Connecticut River. The Committee, Historical Society, and Public Library joined forces to share pertinent documents, maps, photos, artwork, and historic records during an informational Open House in the Local History Room at the Public Library. In addition, thanks to a loan from the Historical Society, a model of the South Hadley Canal Inclined Plane, a flat boat model and historic images were displayed. Paul Lusignan, a man who is well versed in Canal and Connecticut River history, served as docent in the Local History Room for the day, displaying and explaining the significance of his collection of archival photographs.

The Committee and Bike/Walk Committee have discussed ways that each can provide mission support with joint programming that includes plans for a joint trek along the Bicentennial Park trails in the autumn of 2016. On May 18, 2016 the Committee attended the Bike/Walk Committee networking session.

After approval by the Selectboard as owners of the property containing Bicentennial Park, the Committee applied to the Conservation Commission to modify the existing Order of Conditions that regulates Canal Park maintenance to relocate a pruning vista to a different location. The Commission viewed this request positively. As of June 2016, the Committee was completing applications to state and federal agencies for final approval. When that pruning vista modification has final approval and funds can be obtained to actually accomplish the pruning, the Committee would like to erect a bench in memory of Ted Belsky.

After receiving notices from residents about misuse of the South Hadley Canal bed, the Committee met with the Town Administrator about the best way that the Committee can be certain that the Canal integrity is respected by residents and how best to deal with violations. The Committee has no regulatory authority. By letter, the Committee endorsed the actions of the Conservation Commission to enforce by-laws and identify violations.

Discussions have begun with Town Administration to address deferred maintenance at the Park and to identify structural issues that require immediate attention. In FY17, we anticipate adoption of a Bicentennial Park comprehensive plan for capital improvement and ongoing maintenance.

We believe that the lookout at Bicentennial Canal Park provides public access to one of the finest vistas along the Connecticut River Valley. The numbers of visitors who regularly walk the area are a testament to the serene beauty of the riverbank. If you have not visited the park

recently, please find the time to enjoy this South Hadley jewel. The Canal Park Committee welcomes volunteers and interested parties to participate in park maintenance and committee proceedings. We hope to have our roster of seven members fully subscribed in early FY17.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bacis, Co-Chair                      Mitch Resnick, Co-Chair  
 Rick Constant, Member                 Jack Fleming, Member  
 Ellie Klepacki, Member

### Channel Marker Committee

During the 2015 boating season, the regional Channel Marker Committee oversaw the installation and removal of channel markers along with their maintenance.

The South Hadley representative to the committee, Luke Brunelle, attended the two meetings held in Northampton, the host community - one in the spring and one in the fall. The shortened time frame of the markers being on station in the main river has resulted in less damage and less loss. There was typical damage and some repainting and chain and hardware replacement that the committee funded in the fall of 2014 to make markers ready for 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Luke Brunelle, Chair

### Conservation Commission

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, the Commission met 19 times to hold public hearings and public meetings on proposed projects. We received, reviewed and approved Notices of Intent plans for projects ranging from work on individual houses to a large wetland restoration project and a new centralized dining facility on the Mount Holyoke College campus, a methane gas pipeline going through the old landfill and Bynan property, general maintenance work at the Ledges golf course and Hillcrest Park, dam repairs at Hillcrest Park, pond treatments at Loomis Village, vegetation trimming on Cove Island, underground fuel tank replacement at Brunelle’s and a new commercial building at 548 New Ludlow Road. The Commission approved amendments to two Orders of Conditions, for slope stabilization on Dove Hill Road and the methane pipeline. 15 determinations were issued for projects, mostly for new or improvements to single-family houses, but also for new or additions to commercial buildings. There were also a few environmental improvement projects, including the cleanup of a wetland area and water chestnut removal from local waterbodies. Commissioners issued 13 Certificates of Compliance on completed projects, including a final one for the landfill, three extensions, four Emergency Certifications and several Enforcement Orders or violation letters.

The Conservation Commission worked on conservation land projects, mostly dealing with trails and trail

maintenance. The commission worked with the town on plans for a universal-access trail on the Bachelor Brook-Stony Brook Conservation Area property off Ferry Street and on a cleanup of the Toth property off Newton Street. Two Eagle Scout candidates, Joshua McKeever and Luke Hoefler, and their volunteer crews, donated their time to make considerable improvements to two trails at the Black Stevens Conservation Area. Both teams did a great job, and Joshua and Luke achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. The South Hadley Bike-Walk committee has done a wonderful job of introducing the public to a number of our conservation areas through their Fall-Spring monthly walks. We are grateful to them and their promotion of our conservation lands and trails.

The Conservation Commission celebrated Arbor Day at the Warner-Hahn Arboretum with a tree planting on April 29<sup>th</sup>. This year the honoree was seventh grade science teacher Maria Drobiak. Ms. Drobiak started working with Mr. Hahn and the middle school science students on Arbor Day events 12 years ago and has continued the tradition with her students each year since. She and her students are an important part of our celebration each year. An American Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) was planted for the event. Allison Smith and Mercedes A. Lingle, students of Ms. Drobiak’s class, read their winning Arbor Day essays, and then the students helped plant the tree. We were pleased to have Tree Warden Chris Ryan and members of the town tree committee, school department, town government and the general public present to celebrate with the Commission and Friends of the Arboretum.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fleming, Chair	W. Bradford Allen
Dennis Swartwout, Vice-chair	William Bacis
James Canning, Secretary	Kate Ballantine, Assoc.

Janice Stone, Conservation Administrator  
 Doris LeClair, Conservation Clerk

### Council on Aging

This year the Council on Aging bid farewell to retirees Joanne Trybus, the Council on Aging’s Director, and Richard Carrigan, the center’s Mini-bus driver.

For over 30 years, 15 years as the assistant director and 15 years as director, Joanne ensured that the aging community in South Hadley were provided a place where seniors could come together to fulfill many of their social, physical, emotional, and intellectual needs.

Joanne was a leader in the development of opportunities for the South Hadley elder population, including access to evidence-based health programs, senior learning opportunities, community outreach, community assistance programs and volunteer opportunities.



*Long-time Director Joanne Trybus with Vernell Bloom - 102 – oldest in attendance at 90+ Birthday Celebration*

The programs Joanne initiated continue to provide a plethora of enjoyment. Joanne's desire for an inviting and comfortable center ensured needed upgrades, expansions and improvements were made to the building. The COA grew from a two-room shared space at the end of "the wing" to the busy, bustling building of today. During Joanne's tenure, the programs and services offered to members increased in growth and demand. She oversaw the very successful Title III-C Nutrition grant which increased the Home Meals on Wheels Program for homebound elders and the Congregate Meal Program at the center. Many homebound elders were able to remain independent and able to count on a daily hot meal. Joanne's efforts on their behalf became the foundation for the future she envisioned for the center.

Joanne was honored with a retirement party graciously funded by The Friends of South Hadley Elderly, Inc. Many community members, business professionals, area COA Directors, state representatives and local members of elder service provider agencies came to share in the celebration and share a few words about working with Joanne throughout her tenure. Joanne was bestowed a commendation from Senator Stan Rosenberg for her faithful service to the Senior Community in South Hadley. In addition to the great food and speeches, there was a photographic slide show featuring Joanne throughout the years. Joanne was joined by members of her family and was clearly touched by the celebrations.

In addition to Joanne's retirement, we also bid a fond goodbye to retiree Richard Carrignan. Richard Carrignan delighted and engaged mini-bus riders for over 19 years. His easy smile and welcoming nature was a daily treat for riders. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Richard officially retired from his post as the COA mini-bus driver. A retirement party was held for Richard and many happy memories were shared by all. Richard was thanked for his many years of dedication and service and was given a commendation for his faithful services to the Town of South Hadley. With both Richard and Joanne in attendance, Representative John Scibak called both retirees up to the stage and

delivered a lighthearted and fond "COA Roast", which drew ample laughter from the celebrants.

The Council on Aging had a busy year. The following are the year-end totals for our core services and programs for the period of July 2015 to June 2016:

- ❖ The Council on Aging welcomed **1,028** individuals.
- ❖ **9,144** congregate meals were served in our dining room.
- ❖ Our Hot Meals on Wheels drivers delivered **25,111** HMOW meals to **171** homebound clients in South Hadley. We worked collaboratively with WestMass ElderCare to provide these meals.
- ❖ Our mini-bus provided **5,831** rides for our seniors. The number includes rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, rides to/from the center and special events such as the Big E and Bright Nights in Springfield.
- ❖ AARP Tax Assistance - **90** individuals benefited from this free volunteer service with income tax preparation.
- ❖ The Diabetic Support Group educated **22** individuals with information about healthy eating, healthy food options, reading and recognizing store labels and exercise.
- ❖ The Brown Bag Program provided **792** bags of groceries to individuals in need.
- ❖ Recreation provided **3,463** units of service.
- ❖ Fitness and exercise provided **2,162** units of service
- ❖ **13** events were held for community education.
- ❖ **470** adventurers enjoyed Senior Travel Club Trips.
- ❖ The center received **7,951** information seeking phone calls.
- ❖ SHINE (Health Insurance Assistance) assisted **93** individuals with insurance plan options.
- ❖ **139** individuals were seen at the Flu clinic.

A steady increase in attendance was seen in our Caregivers Support Group, Bereavement Support Group, Veterans group and Lo-Vision Support Group.

Our Outreach Coordinator, Ann Andras provided information and referral support for Fuel Assistance, Food Stamp (SNAP) applications, monthly Brown Bag assistance, companion and escort services, chores and snow removal assistance, financial assistance with donated holiday gift cards and electric light credits, as well as medical and health services information and individual case management.

Our 144 Council on Aging Volunteers are the true driving force behind the ability of the COA to efficiently and dependably provide daily programs to our members. It is their faithful service and dedication that make our endeavors possible. Our volunteer pool kept active and busy and, with the coordination of our Volunteer and Program Coordinator, ensured the delivery of our Home Meals on Wheels Program and our Congregate Lunch Program. Our volunteers embrace many roles; they welcome members and visitors to the center at the reception desk and pack the daily meals for the Home Meal on Wheels Program. Our volunteers pack the brown bags for the Brown Bag Program and collate, fold

and label the COA newsletter. This year **11,837** hours were recorded for our volunteers. Based on \$10.00 per hour, \$118,370 worth of time was donated to the COA by our wonderful volunteers. Simply extraordinary!!



*A few Dining Room and Meals on Wheels Volunteers*

The Friends of South Hadley Elderly, Inc. officially opened The Friends Boutique this year. The Boutique enables the Friends to fundraise for the New Senior Center by selling gently used clothing and jewelry. The “Friends” give a yearly donation to the Council on Aging to subsidize the events and activities at the COA. The financial support and fundraising ventures of the Friends of the South Hadley Elderly on behalf of the Council on Aging are greatly appreciated.

The Janet “Penny” Koske annual motorcycle ride and fundraiser raised \$8,000. The Koske family presented a check to the Council on Aging’s Caregivers Gift Account which assists caregivers with both support and respite. This important fund has been a lifeline for families and friends struggling with the effects of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. We greatly appreciate the Koske family’s efforts and support.

South Hadley TRIAD continued to supply House Numbers and Lock Boxes. Thank you to District Attorney David Sullivan, Sheriff Robert Garvey, Christy Geffin, David Fenton, Chief of Police David Labrie, Sergeant Michael Pollender, Office Steve Fleming, Lt. Jay Houle, Fire District #1, Chief Robert Authier, and Fire District #2 Chief David Keefe for the support and assistance provided to the community through TRIAD.

In January of 2016, the center started using the MySeniorCenter statistical program. This system is widely used in senior centers and is a comprehensive statistical program to capture activity, events and programs at the center. The system will make reporting to state and local funding sources more accurate and efficient.

The kitchen stove renovation was completed and replacements to the AC units in the lower wing ensured a more comfortable setting for our activities and programs.

A committee for a new South Hadley senior center was established and began meeting on a regular basis. The committee members have been touring recently built

senior centers to gain understanding of key building features to consider for the design of our senior center.

Financial support for the Council on Aging was provided by the Town of South Hadley, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, WestMass ElderCare, Springfield Department of Elder Services, Friends of the South Hadley Elderly, South Hadley Senior Travel Club, the South Hadley Women’s Club, St. Patrick’s Ladies Guild, as well as local churches, businesses and the community of South Hadley.

The South Hadley Council on Aging extends sincere thanks for the faithful advocacy of Senator Stan Rosenberg and Representative John Scibak.

**COA STAFF:**

Director: Joanne K. Trybus / Leslie Hennessey effective 6/7/16

Assistant Director: Lisa Napiorkowski

Social Service Coordinator: Ann Andras

Activity/Volunteer Coordinator: Doreen McDonald

Senior Clerk: Kathryn Gallivan

Senior Clerk: Ola Herbert

Food Service Coordinator: Billy Poe

Assistant Cook: James Tomlinson

Hot Meals on Wheels Coordinator: Richard Dufault

Hot Meals on Wheels Drivers: Herbert Baker

Nancy Blodgett

Linda Callahan

Maryanne Fredette

Linda Tenkate

Substitute Home Meals on Wheel Drivers: Sal Canata and Grace Tang

Minibus Driver: Richard Carrigan/ Ken Dawley effective 6/21/16

Substitute Mini-bus Drivers: Richard Dufault, Roger Duval & Paul Grennon

Substitute Cooks: Herbert Baker and Paul Grennon

Gail Bielizna-Pafford, Chair	Judith Fortier
Sarah Gmeiner, Secretary	Carlene Hamlin
Sheila Adams	Grace Kelly
Doris Bibeau	Donald Lever
Mary Billion	William Schenker
Eileen Burke	

**Cultural Council**

*Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program Grants*

The South Hadley Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates

funds to each community. The local councils review applications each fall that are submitted to them by the state's annual October 15 application deadline. Details about LCC grants and the application process can be found at [mass-culture.org](http://mass-culture.org).

This year, twenty-nine (29) grants totaling \$8660 were awarded for cultural programs in South Hadley. This represents an increase over the previous year, thanks to action by the state legislature to restore funding for arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences that had been lost to recession-driven budget cuts.

Historian Leo Labonte returned to South Hadley Public Library with a free presentation on 19<sup>th</sup> Century Aqueducts of South Hadley, a follow-up to his popular 2015 program. Valley Zero Waste is planning "Food—Too Good to Waste," a yearlong interpretive sciences program in five Valley towns that will include presentations and discussions in South Hadley. Support was also provided for the "Learn Local, Play Local" column of the Hilltown Families online platforms, which provides information about local activities for area families. The South Hadley Tiger Committee received a grant toward the "Tigers Around Town" project.

Act Too Studio Opera Workshop received funding to support the Monteverdi Summer Opera Project for teens, directed by South Hadley resident Melinda Beasi, as did a spring performance of Amherst Ballet Theater Company's Robin Hood ballet by South Hadley choreography Heather Reichgott. A grant to Black Cat Theater will support the group's annual fall musical at South Hadley High School. LCC funds will also support the Arcadia Players early music series, which includes a December performance of Handel's Messiah at Mount Holyoke College's Abbey Chapel. Ensemble Music Humana will perform October 1 at the South Hadley Public Library as part of Pioneer Valley Early Music Day.

The Gaylord Library received a grant for "Preserving the Past to Grow the Future," an interactive workshop for adults and families held in connection with the launch of the new Gaylord Grows Seed Library project. The Gaylord's 2016 summer reading program launched with a participatory performance by minstrel and storyteller Mary Jo Maichack.

The Friends of the South Hadley Public Library sponsored a series of weekly ballet sessions for children in basic ballet with faculty of the Massachusetts Academy of Ballet, with each of the four free sessions including a related craft. Mime Robert Rivest performed for families in connection with the Public Library's summer reading program. The Youth Library hosted a free program during February vacation, called "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!"

The work of the 75-voice South Hadley Chorale culminated in their annual spring concert on March 13 at Abbey Chapel. The South Hadley Children's Chorus performed with the Chorus on March 13, and is also planning free performances at the Library and during the

Holiday Stroll. Grant funds supported the Children's Summer Concert Series at BATTERY Brook Park on Wednesday mornings in July, as well as the South Hadley Recreation Department's annual summer concert series on Thursday nights at the Town Common.

A performance at Plains School by the Berkshire Hills Music Academy Troupe demonstrated that people with disabilities may also have exceptional abilities. Shakespeare and Company gave an in-school performance connected to curriculum for Grade 10-12 students at South Hadley High School and conducted a workshop for Drama Club students. Craig Harris conducted a rhythmic movement workshop and performance at Rise and Shine Academy. Folksinger Roger Tincknell presented two school assemblies reaching all students at Mosier School. Grade 10-12 journalism and creative writing students at South Hadley High School will take a fall field trip to the Boston Globe.

A free performance by Laurie Festa at the South Hadley Senior Center focused on legendary female artists in a variety of genres. The Magical Potter's Wheel at South Hadley Public Library blended a demonstration with a discussion of history. The Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival returned to South Hadley with a screening and discussion at Mount Holyoke College on April 6. Friends of the Holyoke Range presented the Summit House Concert Series, featuring live music with a transcendent mountaintop setting. Artists Mark Mandeville and Raienne Richards will give an original folk music concert with their studio band at South Hadley Public Library in October.

Information about the South Hadley Cultural Council is available at:  
[mass-culture.org/South-Hadley](http://mass-culture.org/South-Hadley)  
[southhadleyma.gov/385/Cultural-Council](http://southhadleyma.gov/385/Cultural-Council)  
[www.facebook.com/southhadleyculture](http://www.facebook.com/southhadleyculture)

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Sweeney, Chair	Lucia Foley
Emily Dean, Vice-Chair	Richard Matteson
Halley Gmeiner, Treasurer	Roberta Salthouse
Marion Canning, Secretary	Bonnie Stretch
Liz Austin	

## Emergency Management

The past year the Town of South Hadley's *Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* (CEMP) was reviewed and updated along with the town's Hazardous Mitigation Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), all of which are annual requirements.

Last year's Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) grant of \$4,460 was received and used for updating the town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located at the Police Department. Monies were

also expended for scene lighting for the Police Department to improve the security of crime/accident scenes and increase the safety of the public in emergencies.

The Emergency Management Director (EMD) completed a MIIA course from the ALICE Training Institute on Active Shooters. The Medical Reserve Corp. participated in a call-down communication drill - an annual event - and also received a 2016 Challenge Award of \$15,000.

Among other activities, the director

- ❖ attended EMD quarterly Meetings at MEMA headquarters
- ❖ facilitated updates on regional assets and national weather trends
- ❖ participated in American Red Cross, Columbia Gas, Eversource, Mass Alert and Homeland Security initiatives
- ❖ completed trainings in Emergency Risk Communication, Effective Leadership During Crisis, Emergency Preparedness in Massachusetts, and Emergency Operation Center Management and Operations Training
- ❖ Worked on strengthening partnerships with Mount Holyoke College, participated in Five-College Emergency Preparedness workshops with an all hazards approach and worked with public health in emergency dispensing. Participated in an Emergency Preparedness Table Top Drill with Five-Colleges to exercise the emergency dispensing plans.
- ❖ Reviewed emergency plans for local industrial businesses for catastrophic dam failures for all of the towns' dams. Also, participated in a drill with MEMA and Holyoke Gas & Electric for the Holyoke Dam.

The Emergency Management Team has responded to several emergency events this year in both commercial and residential settings.

Emergency managers provided an opportunity for a Massachusetts Maritime Academy student to design and develop a Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program Hazardous Materials Spill Tabletop Exercise for South Hadley.

Efforts over the past year have concentrated on improving the EOC, upgrading emergency plans, recruiting volunteers and participating in drills. Future planning will seek to continue the effort to improve the town's emergency response capabilities, extending existing partnerships and building new partnerships that better prepare the town to plan for, respond to, and recover from any emergency situation we may face.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon D. Hart, Emergency Management Director

**Gaylord Memorial Library**

[www.GaylordLibrary.org](http://www.GaylordLibrary.org)

Libraries help build communities, and Gaylord Library endeavors to provide something of value for everyone—the latest bestsellers, knitting for kids and adults, help with your iphone, author talks and story hours, free seeds and gardening advice, live music, friends, a place to volunteer, and more. Connections are made and the community benefits.

The Town of South Hadley has a long history of supporting its public libraries and recognizing their contributions to the community. Since the early 1900s, South Hadley Public Library in the Falls and Gaylord Library in the Center, each with its own unique character, have provided free access to knowledge, materials, and programs that educate, entertain and inform.

In 2012, the town's Selectboard suggested the two libraries explore a unified library system consisting of a main library and a branch, governed by one publicly elected trustee board and funded by the town. Since then, a joint Integration Committee, made up of directors and trustees from both libraries, has worked cooperatively with town officials and residents with the goal of creating a sustainable plan for an improved library system in South Hadley.

Last year, with grant funding from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, consultant Cheryl Bryan began the process of discussing the future of South Hadley's libraries with stakeholders and the public. As part of this discussion, the final meeting to gather public feedback on library integration, "One Library, Two Locations," hosted by Know Your Town, was held at South Hadley High School Library in March. In October, the study was completed, including a proposed budget and administrative structure. The committee's findings? To borrow from popular musician Jack Johnson, "We're better together." Services, collections and staff would be integrated, while retaining the character and strengths of each institution. Identified benefits to residents include one library card for all of South Hadley; C/W Mars network membership for Gaylord Library; unified programs for youth, teens and adults; centralized services and social media; improved access to local history materials; joint planning and more. As of summer 2016, final decisions on the project have not yet been made; in FY 2017, a direction forward will be decided.

While planning and visioning are taking place, so is the daily business of the library. This year:

- ❖ 173 new library cards
- ❖ 1933 attendees at 239 programs
- ❖ 11,341 books and other library materials borrowed
- ❖ 1040 volunteer hours worked
- ❖ 48 delivery visits to homebound patrons
- ❖ 116 participants in the summer reading program
- ❖ 527 interlibrary loans provided

Ongoing favorite programs for adults include Tea and Conversation, Knitting, and the Adult Book Discussion Group. The library was pleased to host “The Travel Stories of Laura Bellusci” and “Heart Conscious Communication of Karen Fogliatti,” as well as local authors Cathy Rigali, Craig Harris, Tom Bernard and Glenn Swanson.

Trustee John Anz’s second Music Mondays series brought classical, jazz, pop, folk and bluegrass performers from all over the Northeast to enthusiastic audiences at Gaylord Library, with thanks to business sponsors Tandem Bagels, PIP Printing of East Longmeadow, Falcetti Music and JAZZ Productions.

Community-building programs continue to be an important focus of Gaylord’s active and enthusiastic Friends group. Their monthly Wine Down First Friday socials are attended by an average of 35-40 guests to mix and mingle; the season’s grand finale, the annual Wine, Cheese and Chocolate soiree, drew 103 guests and raised \$3,755. The Friends thank generous local businesses and individuals as well as the Craig Harris band for their support. In case you missed the event, there are photos aplenty on the Gaylord web page taken by local photographer Dale Johnston. Gaylord Friends also funded museum passes, co-sponsored the children’s Summer Reading Program kick-off performer, Mary Jo Maichak, and supported Gaylord’s brand new Seed Library project with matching funds from the South Hadley Cultural Council.

What is a Seed Library? In the same way that a traditional library lends books, a seed library lends seeds! Members choose from 91 varieties of vegetable and flower seeds to take home and plant in their garden. After harvest, they return some seeds from the yield so that others may plant them next season. With thanks to volunteer Marie Rohan and others, Gaylord’s seed library provides people with a chance to save and grow open-pollinated, non-gmo plants, to learn about gardening and seed-saving, to attend a variety of educational programs at the library and to meet and network with other gardening enthusiasts. The Seed Library group offered informational meetings, open seed library hours, and programs such as What to Start Indoors, Soil Testing, Yoga for Gardeners, Preserving Agriculture, History of WWII POWs on Local Farms, Seed Swaps, and making Seed “Bombs” at the South Hadley Farmers’ Market. A raffle for a shiny, new wheelbarrow donated by Gaylord Friends raised funds for next year’s program.

Another new program this year is The Bagshare Project, which is taking place throughout the Pioneer Valley. Volunteers from Gaylord’s Knitting Group and Mount Holyoke College students sewed bags made from recycled materials for patrons to borrow and return either at our library, or at one of the 14 other stores, farmers’ markets, libraries and other participating venues, thereby helping to keep plastic bags out of the waste stream.

With interest in ebooks and audios increasing and traditional formats retaining popularity, libraries provide a variety of materials —paper books, audio cds and

downloadable ebooks and audiobooks, as well as loaning the devices needed to access them. Volunteers Jason Fuller and Dennis Tortola offered six tutorial sessions for patrons new to downloading ebooks and audiobooks through the Commonwealth Ebook Collection, sponsored by the Millmont Foundation and the Massachusetts Library System in partnership with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Can’t afford to use the Apple Genius Bar? Free tech advice is available from Gaylord’s Mission Possible: Tech Help program. This year, 43 one-on-one tutorials from Mount Holyoke College students were provided to people needing help with their computers, tablets, e-readers and smartphones.

“Mission Possible solved all of my iphone problems in 30 minutes. Awesome!” ~CV

Mount Holyoke College Federal Work/Study students are a valuable part of Gaylord’s staff, providing not only tech assistance, but also cataloging library materials, processing interlibrary loans, maintaining the web page, posting on social media, assisting patrons and volunteers, and troubleshooting computer hardware and software. We are grateful for their talent and energy.

Partnerships build strong communities, and Gaylord Library was fortunate to work with local businesses, town organizations, and other libraries. This year, more than 25 libraries throughout the region along with medical professionals from Cooley Dickinson Health Care teamed up to sponsor community conversations about end-of-life care and planning centered around the bestselling book *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*. Gaylord Library hosted an end-of-life planning workshop with Attorney Marjorie Dunn; a discussion led by Carol Rinehart, Volunteer Coordinator of Cooley Dickinson Hospice and VNA; and a children’s program, Hooray for Grandparents, on appreciating the elders in our lives. Other community partners included the Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley Farmers’ Market, South Hadley Lions’ Club, Mount Holyoke College, and Ting’ang’a Library Project: books for schools in Kenya.

Gaylord’s Youth Department continues to be an active, educational and fun place for the young people of South Hadley. The weekly story and craft time, “Family Frolic,” held every Friday at 10:30, features books, music play, flannel story boards and an open-ended craft. Two themes of this year’s program were school readiness and helping homeschoolers. Every week the basic essentials such as the alphabet, counting, colors and numbers are part of this well attended community program.

Last year, Gaylord Library was awarded a “Float Your Boat” STEAM (Science, Technology, Education, Arts, Math) grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and programming continued this year as well. Children aged four and up explored topics such as

Mother Earth, Building, Bats, Force and Motion in the Young Scientists Club monthly meetings.

Thursday evenings are Family Game Nights, with LEGOS®, many donated from the South Hadley Swap Shop, board games, puzzles and a craft table for independent play and exploration. There’s also the “Take A Peek” science center for children to touch, examine and learn about the natural world. Changing exhibits of insects, seeds, seashells, rocks and minerals are displayed for hands-on learning and fun.

Teens enjoy the Young Adult section with materials just for them, and gave back to the community by logging 102 hours this year assisting with shelving materials, cleaning, decorating the department and helping with story time.

The Massachusetts Summer Reading Program for this year was “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read.” This vital program keeps reading levels high for children during the long vacation. Mary Jo Maichak, storyteller and musician, kicked off the program, which was partially funded by the South Hadley Cultural Council and the Gaylord Friends. Each child who participated in the program received a free book and passes to the USS Constitution in Boston Harbor. All three summer reading programs—for children, adults, and teens—included raffles with prizes donated by the community. The more you read; the more chances to win!

After 23 years of dedicated service, Bernice Strong, lifelong patron of Gaylord Library, retired from the Board of Trustees and was named Trustee Emeritus. Board President Barbara Erwin thanks Bernice for her significant contributions to the library and enthusiastically welcomes new members Barbara Bys and Denise Presley.

One of the important duties of the Board is stewardship of the beautiful building, built in 1904. This year, a new high efficiency heating system and emergency lighting were added to keep the building comfortable and patrons safe. Trustee John Anz, who leads the annual appeal, wishes to thank all who donated to the 2015 drive, which made possible these improvements.

Gaylord Library thanks the Town of South Hadley, South Hadley Public Library, Mount Holyoke College, area businesses, generous donors, talented volunteers, and supportive patrons for helping to make our library a vibrant community hub.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Quigley, Director  
Mary Anne Lak Senecal, Youth Services Librarian

Board of Trustees:  
Barbara Erwin, President  
John Anz  
Jeffrey Bama  
Barbara Bys  
Nancy Kundl  
Winston Lavallee  
Joseph Marois  
Denise Presley  
Joyce Roberts  
Bernice Strong

## Golf Commission

The Ledges Golf Course had many changes in FY2016, most notably in staffing. Recreation Director Andrew Rogers was appointed General Manager in February. James Falco was hired as the Head Professional in March and Lee Bourdon was hired in April to run the Valley View Grille. Customer service was the priority for the 2016 season and was emphasized to all employees. Meeting all golfers with a friendly smile, cleaning the golf carts, being responsive to questions and concerns, keeping drinking water on the golf course ice cold and consistent beverage cart service were all points of emphasis.

The Ledges has a great reputation due to its conditions, layout and views and therefore people travel great distances to come play! Groups from the Boston area, Hartford and Albany are common place at the Ledges. IGM does great work maintaining the golf course; our tee boxes, fairways and greens are some of the best in the area, even compared to many of the private courses in the region.

There were a few notable improvements to the golf facility. Drainage was added in front of the green on hole #8 to improve an area that was constantly wet and unplayable. The security at the club was improved with four additional security cameras installed and the entire system upgraded.

We continue to try to expand play and add additional events and leagues. We added a beginner’s league run by Jim Falco and a “Nine and Dine” event on Friday nights for couples. We were able to add a dozen new annual pass-holders and three new leagues this year. Additionally, a number of new groups brought their charity scrambles to the course.

The Connecticut Section PGA Stoke Play Championship was held in June and South Hadley native Adam Rainaud won and was rewarded an invitation to the 2016 Travelers Championship, a PGA event held in Hartford. Chris Tallman, a South Hadley High School graduate finished in third place. The Ledges will host this tournament again in 2017, which features the best club professionals from Western Mass and Connecticut competing to play in a PGA Tour event. Additionally, we were able to host the MGA Senior Amateur qualifier in August.

The Valley View Grille underwent some major changes in menu and restaurant set up for the 2016 opening to try to get golfers to stay at the Ledges after their round. The menu was changed to provide quick service and delicious food concentrating on burgers, wings, good appetizers and many drink choices. The Grille especially excelled in the quality of its banquet menu for special functions such as tournaments and other events. The setup of the restaurant was also changed with the

addition of high top tables to promote social gathering following the rounds.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Foley, Chair  
Municipal Golf Commission

Andy Rogers  
General Manager, Ledges

## **GROSouth Hadley**

GROSouth Hadley started FY 2015 with \$3,521.50 in its account, including a Norcross grant of \$500.13, and ended the year with \$3,230.65, including \$100.33 from the Norcross grant.

In 2016, 44 of 46 garden spaces in the community garden's two garden areas were planted, as well as three elevated garden beds created for gardeners with limited mobility. This year we opened up 2<sup>nd</sup> plot availability requests to first year Community Garden gardeners if they had prior extensive gardening experience. Four of our seasoned long term gardeners also took on the responsibility of working an unused garden plot to prevent weed problems. Insect attracting "sticky" cards created by Garden Manager Brian Schrauf were available for all gardeners for minor pest control of pests such as flea beetles. The cards were very effective at controlling flea beetles which were attacking leafy crops. Wildlife visitors continue to be a nuisance to the garden. After black bear sightings two years in a row, this year we have had no reported bear sightings. However, deer and numerous rabbits have been seen and have resulted in significant crop losses to many garden plots including the Full Circle Garden (formerly called the food pantry garden). Rabbit fencing to reinforce the lower part of the exterior fencing has previously been purchased and is still awaiting volunteer installation. Voles have been rampant at the garden this year and early testing of mole and gopher sonic spikes indicates a reduction to the problem of the tunneling. GRO staffed a table at the E-INK Employee Safety and Health Fair to promote gardening and volunteerism as part of a healthy lifestyle. Sue Kelsey of Western MA Master Gardener's Association provided a brief workshop to their employees on the process and benefit of soil testing. E Ink has been a partner with the Community Garden by providing their used coffee grounds weekly for enriching the garden's compost pile.

The South Hadley DPW was very helpful in establishing a three-pile, three-year natural composting process to handle garden waste. Also the South Hadley Tree Committee with assistance from Linda Young presented the Community Garden with six fruit trees purchased through a grant. The trees have been planted at the Community Garden.

Master Gardeners continued to tend the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener demonstration plot at the community garden, providing information on soil preparation and harvesting a variety of vegetables and herbs. They staffed soil testing clinics for South Hadley residents in the spring of 2016.

The Full Circle Garden under the direction of Sue Brouillette grew in scope, donating vegetables and herbs once a week to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry at the Methodist Church in South Hadley. Any leftover produce was brought to the South Hadley Farmer's Market on Thursday afternoons where donations to the Food Pantry could be made for the produce. The Full Circle garden was staffed by a core group of loyal weekly volunteers.

The 2016 growing season has been hot and dry. Every year is an education for all the gardeners as to the effects each year can have on our successes and less bountiful crops. The GRO Board and all of our gardeners each play their part of a commitment to providing South Hadley with educational and gardening resources, creating new friendships, and stronger community ties.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Brouillette  
Wayne Desroches  
Doris Dubois  
Suzanne Paris  
Marie Rohan

Brian D. Schrauf  
Barry C. Waite  
Kent Walsh  
Margaret Sullivan

## **Human Resources Department**

The Human Resources department is an essential part of the town and provides support and guidance to department heads/appointing authorities and employees. The department deals with a wide variety of issues related to the quality of life in the workplace and seeks to improve the effectiveness of town services by recruiting the best employees.

The Department handled several personnel transactions relating to a myriad of positions. This includes retirements, resignations, promotions, reclassifications, transfers, vacancy postings and advertisements, interviewing, selection, and orientation of new employees. We had two significant retirements this year with Joanne Trybus, COA Director, and Police Chief David LaBrie both retiring in June.

During FY16 our quarterly professional development days included topics such as Behavioral Change & Nutrition, Maintaining Functional Movement, Dementia Awareness, Customer Service, Interpersonal Communication & Civic Plus Website. These sessions are very well received by our staff.

We hosted our 3rd annual benefits fair in late April and had approximately 45 employees attend to meet with various vendors. Representatives from AFLAC, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Boston Mutual, Cafeteria Plan Advisors, Delta Dental, Commonwealth SMART Plan, Guardian Dental, Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust & Hampshire County Retirement participated. Employees enjoyed the additional features of the Sun Screen Analyzer and seated massage as free services offered by BCBS. I want to thank Jackie Iskander and

Gloria Congram from Millennium Insurance for coordinating the fair.

We have continued to work with South Hadley High School to find interns to work in Town Hall. This has been very successful for both the town and the students. All of the interns we have hired have worked multiple years for us and some even continue during breaks from college.

We were the recipient of a Hampshire Council of Governments Wellness Grant in the amount of \$800.00. This was used to provide healthy snacks, discounted yoga classes, adult coloring books & pencils for employees. The Wellness Team plans hikes on the weekends and also has contests with the employees who are looking to stay fit.

We transitioned to a completely online employment application process. This is a feature of Civic Plus that we are utilizing as many employers now only accept online applications. We are also able to utilize this function as a reporting method to download and export applicant information to share with department managers.

We completed the installation of the Time & Attendance units at all locations. We hosted two Time & Attendance training sessions for the employees who work in town hall in preparation for a “go live” date of July to use the card swipe system for recording worked time. This was our first step in moving towards all departments being on the system by the end of FY17. The time is automatically uploaded into the system for supervisory approval. We also are utilizing the online time off request feature which loads to an online calendar that Administration views. We have reduced the amount of paper for tracking of hours and for time off requests by implementing this system.

We are now processing employee reimbursements for mileage, tolls and miscellaneous purchases through payroll via direct deposit instead of processing a vendor check. This change has resulted in a financial savings to the town due to the fact that we are no longer printing checks and also saving in administrative costs. Previously a reimbursement request would be handled by 5 employees as compared to only 2 now.

In October the town received two public record requests, one for a copy of our annual salaries and another one for our Use of Force Policy. I am happy to report that both of these requests were responded to in a timely fashion by myself and Chief LaBrie. I bring this to your attention because this was not a regular public records request. This was a project of journalism students at Northeastern University. Professor Mike Beaudet’s investigative reporting class conducted this experiment to highlight how cities and towns in the state respond to requests for government records from average citizens. The requests we received came from “Ben Thompson” and included a PO Box and a Gmail e-mail address. I didn’t think anything of the request when we received it until December when I saw a friend of mine post the link of the

story on Facebook. Come to find out my friend is the Professor who conducted the test and so I e-mailed him to inquire how South Hadley did and his response was “Congrats to South Hadley for passing the test with flying colors. Both the payroll and the Use of Force Policy.”

According to the article in the Boston Globe “A solid majority — 58% — of the Commonwealth’s 351 municipalities did not respond within the 10-day limit set by state law when they received a written request for two records that are almost universally considered to be public.”

Professional development continues to be one of our focuses. We have looked for trainings specific to our staffs needs as well as recertification courses for specific disciplines. Our Town Accountant, Building Commissioner, Treasurer/Collector, Clerk, Library Director and Recreation Director attended a program through the Massachusetts Municipal Personnel Association (MMPA) titled Supervisory Leadership Development Program for local government managers and employees. This is a six-day, 18-hour training program designed to enhance knowledge, skills and abilities needed for effective supervision. The interactive learning opportunity is for municipal employees interested in developing or strengthening their supervisory and management skills. The course focused on managing self, managing others, managing the work, and managing the system. It covered communication, team building, organization, delegation, coaching and performance management, labor relations, and supervising in a unionized environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L. Wolowicz  
Assistant Town Administrator

## **Information Technology (IT) Department**

After launching a new website and introducing a computerized permit-tracking system in FY 2015, the Information Technology (IT) Department let the dust settle on these projects in FY 2016 as it turned its attention to a more conventional communication tool - the town’s phone system.

In June of 2015, the town contracted with Michael Ebner of Concept Telecom for \$4,200 for Phase I of a project to upgrade the town’s phone system - an initial inventory of existing phone systems - including how they are integrated and their defects and capabilities. The report cited a number of deficiencies, including the fact that each location has a separate phone system, meaning it is not possible to forward calls or place a four digit call between facilities. In addition, existing phone systems are behind in upgrades, software and equipment and lack a back-up system, which puts the town at risk for system failure and inability to obtain parts. Mr. Ebner presented

the company's assessment to the Selectboard in November of 2015 along with available options for upgrade/replacement, including: 1) maintaining the status quo, 2) putting in an 'on-premise' system (equipment installed on site), 3) putting in an IP system with phone service delivered through the internet (such systems are said to be 'hosted in the cloud' and the provider maintains equipment offsite) and 4) expanding the existing NEC phone system at Town Hall.

As the next step in the project, at the recommendation of the Town Administrator, the Selectboard included an article on the November 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting to appropriate \$15,000 for Phase II of the project - consulting services to design a request for proposals, oversee the replacement of the telephone system and otherwise act as an expert consultant for the Town of South Hadley.

As the fiscal year drew to a close, collaboration between the consultant and town officials continued to explore all possible options and arrive at the best and most cost-effective solution. IT Coordinator Jamie Doolittle and Mr. Ebner met with SHELD officials to discuss the use of the fiber optic network and with School Department representatives to discuss the option of tying in to the new school phone system.

Aside from capital projects, on a daily basis, the IT Coordinator provides technical support and training to town employees on all electronic equipment and software and trouble shoots and maintains the town's computer network.

In an administrative adjustment, in the FY 2017 budget process, the Town Administrator transferred all telecom costs and contracts (facsimile, cellular and landline) into the IT budget/department. The move is expected to produce savings through closer oversight and consolidation.

The IT Department is extremely grateful for the support it receives from the Selectboard, Town Administrator, Town Meeting and various departments and for the patience and cooperation of fellow town employees. Without their support and cooperation, achievement of its goals would not be possible.

Respectfully submitted,

James Doolittle, Information Technology Coordinator

## **Master Plan Implementation Committee**

We continue to see solid progress towards the goals of the Master Plan and we are, as always, grateful for all the hard work of volunteers and staff. Their efforts help enhance the quality of life for all of us in South Hadley and we appreciate them.

## **General Observations**

Some progress is very visible: the new bike lanes on Rte. 116, the mounds of dirt by the high school playing fields where artificial turf is being installed, new and/or repaired sidewalks, increased community use of walking trails and of course the new Plains School and the Tiger Trolley.

Other progress is experienced rather than viewed. Communications between and among boards and commissions appear to have improved over the last year. This is especially heartening as some of the largest tasks yet to be tackled will require multiple entities to work together. The Open Space Committee set a good example in its handling of the development of a Community Preservation Act (CPA), working with several other entities and reaching out to meet with many more. Communications from the Town to residents have improved as well, in part because of the new Town website. Although not all boards and committees are currently posting their minutes, agendas and other documents on the site, the potential is there, and it's now much easier to find desired forms and applications.

Many tasks are often not very visible to the general population, but accomplishing them is crucial to progress. Staff cross-training, better use of space and consolidated functions are leading to increased efficiency and better service for the public in the Town offices. The Town Administrator and the Selectboard are to be commended for their efforts in regard to these tasks.

Planning is another often-underappreciated task. Rather than leaving us to react at the last minute to crises or opportunities, plans give us a means of shaping the future. The planning process allows us to engage with diverse points of view and helps to ensure that many voices, not just a few, are heard. This year several important plans have been produced. The Community Preservation Act, despite its defeat, enabled residents to have many conversations about how to finance future improvements. The Redevelopment Authority's plan for South Hadley Falls and the Planning Board's Smart Growth District Design Guidelines/Standards will help steer continuing development in the Falls and elsewhere in Town. The Capital Improvement Program used by the Capital Planning Committee enables better long-term financial planning. Some other entities are tasked with developing plans but have yet to do so, including Recreation and Sustainability and Energy. Both will need to engage multiple entities in the planning process.

## **Challenges**

The primary barrier to greater progress continues to be a lack of people to do the work, especially in regard to tasks requiring special skills. For example, developing a "5-year plan for environmental improvement and long-term sustainability using established standards", which is one of the tasks assigned to the Sustainability and Energy Commission, requires a significant amount of expertise. Few entities have paid staff, and those that do indicate that these employees are already extremely busy. Time is also an issue. The Planning Board has an immense list of

tasks, as does the Conservation Commission, and staff and volunteers are already stretched by the many necessary hearings. Finding people to fill vacant slots on boards and committees continues to be a problem, and while interns can be very helpful, they require training and supervision and are usually available only for projects that don't last longer than a semester.

A secondary issue, in some cases, is a sense that a particular task shouldn't be assigned to the entity in whose matrix it appears. The Cultural Council is tasked with increasing use of the Town Common, and their members don't see that as their responsibility. Recreation tasks include oversight of waterfront access and developing pocket parks, and members think that these should not be part of their matrix.

A third concern is those tasks that require the participation of multiple entities, such as expanding the trail network along the Connecticut River. Conservation, Open Space, Recreation, Bike/Walk, Ledges, DPW and the Historical Commission, at a minimum, could all have a role to play, while the Redevelopment Authority (in its role as inheritor of CEDC tasks) is responsible for the section of trail that connects the Beach Grounds and the Riverfront Park and the future Gate House Park. When a task is assigned to multiple entities it can be difficult to figure out which one should take the lead. The Planning Board has agreed to name a lead group in such cases.

Following is a summary of the Master Plan-related work of each entity we are assigned to monitor. Please bear in mind that this reflects ONLY tasks assigned in the Master Plan. The Town's various boards, committees, commissions and individuals have accomplished many good things in the past 12 months that are not reflected in this document, and many entities are also working on other significant efforts. For each entity we have listed the total number of tasks, the numbers completed, ongoing or in process, and those where no action has been taken. Please note that in some instances of "no action," this reflects a task that is seen as belonging to another entity, or a task that requires other work to be completed before it can be undertaken, for example tasks having to do with a Municipal Housing Trust, and numerous Planning Board tasks.

The complete set of matrices with our comments will be posted on MPIC's web page by the end of May.

Agricultural Commission: seven tasks, none active. The Commission hasn't met in several years, but the new Chair has been meeting with other Agricultural Commissions in the region and talking with members of the Kestrel Trust. He hopes to have the Commission functioning by September.

Bike/Walk Committee: Not part of the Master Plan. It was established to implement recommendations assigned in the plan to the Sustainability and Energy Commission and several other entities. It continues to push for bike lanes and walking trails. Bike lanes are now marked on Rte. 116. Members participated in the development of the

Pioneer Valley Planning Council/South Hadley Comprehensive Bike and Pedestrian Plan.

Board of Health: nine tasks, all completed or ongoing.

Capital Planning Committee: two tasks, one completed with yearly updates and one task ongoing (only partially addressed) as large projects come up. No formal use of Life Cycle costing, though Capital Planning tries to get the most life out of major municipal purchases including such larger purchases as DPW trucks and police cruisers.

Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC): tasks have been reassigned to the Redevelopment Authority.

Conservation Commission: 29 assigned tasks, seven totally or mostly completed, three in process and six ongoing. Of the remaining 13, five are yet to be addressed, three require a heavy time investment and specific expertise; and five need to be reviewed with the Open Space Committee for joint action.

This year saw a large project – researching ownership and mapping of much of the Mt Holyoke Range, working in conjunction with the Kestrel Trust – nearly completed. For parcels identified as owned by South Hadley, filing and recording deeds has been accomplished, and mapping done. While a small amount of the Range needs to be done when/if more funding is available, MPIC believes that this goal has been substantially reached.

Cultural Council: five tasks. Three are ongoing, two are inactive. The Council uses social media to promote interest in arts and cultural events, and supports artistic efforts through its grants program. Mt Holyoke College provides lots of information on its website, so the Council has not felt the need to duplicate it. Members feel that use of the Town Common is not the responsibility of the Council.

Department of Public Works (DPW): 16 tasks. Four have been entirely completed, and 11 are partially completed or on-going programs. Just one goal has yet to be addressed. Of particular note this past year is the improvement of sidewalk conditions or availability, accomplishment of or design of plans to relieve intersection congestion and adding crosswalk ramps for ADA compliance. Among on-going programs, those concerned with bike paths are being worked on primarily by the Bike/Walk Committee. An educational video about composting was made; it and others are accessible via the DPW Facebook page.

Fair Housing/Housing Trust: no action. Now the responsibility of the Redevelopment Authority.

Golf Commission: two tasks, now considered ongoing.

Historical Commission: 10 tasks. Two completed, six ongoing or in process, and two no action. Since last fall

the Commission has been meeting regularly; working with the Planning Board to review applications that might affect historic structures and areas; and supporting the Community Preservation Act effort and the Historic District Study Committee. A consultant archivist will be in town soon to identify public and private sources of information about the town's history, which will in turn enable the Commission to develop projects to collect and digitize the information, which will become part of a searchable database. No action on content for the Town website and cable. A demolition delay bylaw appears to be a Planning Board responsibility.

Open Space Committee: 24 tasks. Eight completed, six in process, nine no action. The Open Space Committee's focus for most of this year has been preparation and completion of the Community Preservation Act report for the Selectboard. Now the Committee will begin focusing on the Master Plan Recommended Action items recently reviewed by the Planning Board and declared top priorities for the Open Space Committee.

Planning Board: 112 tasks, 26 completed, 28 in process, 30 ongoing, and 28 no action. Top accomplishments this past year include the Smart Growth District, starting the Housing Studies and adopting the Smart Growth District Design Guidelines/Standards. Priorities for the next 12 months include completing the Housing Studies, revising the Subdivision Regulations and work on the Design Guidelines for a broader area of town.

Recreation Commission: 10 tasks, four ongoing, six no action. The biggest accomplishment this year is getting the artificial turf field at the high school designed and bid under budget. The field should be ready to play in July. This effectively creates "additional athletic fields" as they will be increasing the hours of use of the field dramatically and allowing the other fields to rest. Recreation continues to use Mount Holyoke College for a variety of programs including team sports, fitness and summer offerings. No progress on other Master Plan objectives including public waterfront access, signage and lighting, pocket parks, or a trail linking Ledges to other areas. Now that the Recreation Director is also responsible for Ledges there is a greater possibility for action. No action on developing a coordinated vision for meeting town-wide recreation needs.

The Redevelopment Authority has been focused on the redevelopment plan for South Hadley Falls, which will require a number of approvals, including a vote at a Town Meeting. If/when it is approved, implementation will begin. There is no agreement yet about what to start with.

Selectboard: 50 listed tasks, 36 ongoing, seven completed, seven no action. Highlights include preparing new or amended policies on personnel, email and Town Hall use; centralizing facilities evaluation, maintenance and repair; and increased partnerships with neighboring communities and other government entities around issues such as transportation and planning for growth. Ties with SHELDD have been greatly strengthened. The Selectboard has also

requested a report on the Senior Center building and other town facilities.

The School Department: five listed tasks, three completed, two in progress. Accomplishments specific to the Master Plan include the building of Plains Elementary School, comprehensive review of the social studies (including history) curriculum, and providing signage to teach about natural resources and the environment. Other accomplishments include collaborations with other town entities in order to accomplish tasks or obtain funding. The schools work with many groups including the Hitchcock Center to develop educational programs based on natural resources and local animals offered both in the classroom and field trips. The School Department continues to partner with DPW regarding snow removal on sidewalks and suggests improvements for walkways in order to encourage students to walk to school.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee: this ad hoc committee has had little to do since the landfill was closed. The committee is currently inactive.

South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELDD): one task, ongoing. The Fiber Optic Study Committee unanimously recommended that SHELDD pursue establishing a partnership with Axia, which would consist of SHELDD owning and maintaining the fiber optic cables, with Axia arranging for and managing content. Axia would pay SHELDD for the use and maintenance of the lines. At present, SHELDD is waiting for a business plan from Axia, which will be considered by the SHELDD commissioners.

South Hadley Public Library: tasks completed.

The Sustainability and Energy Commission (SEC): 27 listed tasks. Many are not being addressed, as the Commission has not met in more than a year. None are completed, though several are in process or ongoing. Bike/Walk, a spin-off committee of the SEC, has made substantial progress, as noted elsewhere in this report. A few other tasks are being addressed through work being done by SHELDD and the Planning Board. Per the Chair, priorities for the next 12 months include regular meetings, investigating the costs and implications of the Renewable Energy Trust, continuing to push for a "sustainability champion" and figuring out what it would take to develop a 5 year plan for environmental improvement and long-term sustainability.

Town Administrator: Eleven tasks, all ongoing. Significant progress has been made in regard to communications, centralized planning and cross-training, website consolidation of applications and forms, and use of space in Town Hall. Priorities in the near future include continued attention to records retention and storage and a new phone service.

Tree Warden/Tree Committee: three tasks, all ongoing. The committee worked with the Planning Board to revise

the list of trees acceptable for planting in new subdivisions. A tree inventory is in process and a tree restoration program is underway.

Zoning Board of Appeals: no action (none required).

### **Looking Forward**

Many master plans contain a provision for review of the plan about five years after its adoption. The South Hadley Master Plan has no such provision. Anticipating this significant anniversary – our Master Plan was adopted in 2010, based on information collected over the previous two years - in December 2014 MPIC initiated a conversation with the Planning Board about how they wished us to proceed. We noted that many Master Plan-assigned tasks were ongoing, and were being pursued by the entities responsible for them. Others were one-time efforts, some of which had been completed. Some entities had completed all their assigned tasks, some had completed some tasks, and some were pursuing some assigned tasks and ignoring others. We wanted to know if the Planning Board wished us to 1) monitor only Master Plan tasks; 2) monitor tasks that appeared to be the result of Master Plan assignments, even when a new group had been formed to handle them (e.g. Bike/Walk, Solid Waste, Redevelopment Authority); 3) monitor tasks that entities were addressing, regardless of whether they appeared in the Master Plan; and/or 4) conduct a type of rolling update of the Master Plan by working with each entity to determine what they see as priority tasks and incorporating them into that entity’s task matrix.

The Planning Board members reviewed the matrices with our five years’ worth of progress assessments and decided on tasks that should be the top priority for each entity over the next 5 years. These were formally adopted at the Planning Board’s March 28, 2016 meeting, and will be distributed to the various entities by the Planning Board within the next month. The Board instructed us to focus only on tasks described in the Master Plan. We will continue to monitor progress, indicate projects that have been completed and flag tasks not yet begun. As in the past, we will report our findings to the Planning Board, the Selectboard and the Town Administrator.

Addendum: September 2016

In late June MPIC attended a joint meeting of the Selectboard and the Planning Board to raise the question of how, or if, the Town should proceed with two plans called for in the Master Plan: a vision for meeting town-wide recreation needs, assigned to the Recreation Commission, and a 5-year plan for environmental improvement and long-term sustainability using established standards, assigned to the Sustainability and Energy Commission (SEC). As SEC is not currently active, the Boards felt that was a moot question, although several members noted that various activities related to such a plan are currently taking place. In regard to the town-wide recreation plan, the Boards deferred action until fall, at which time a group may be convened to discuss recreation issues. Invited guests would include representatives from a wide range of public and private

entities that have a direct or tangential interest in recreational activities.

Beginning in September, MPIC members will meet with each of the entities in regard to their priorities as identified in each entity’s task matrix. The Planning Board has revised twelve matrices and once they are distributed we anticipate discussing the new priorities with the respective entities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Gooch Dobosh, Chair  
Ann E. Eaton, Secretary

Margaret Jodoin  
Michelle Wolfe

## **Old Firehouse Museum**

The Trustees of the Old Firehouse Museum are pleased to report that some important steps have been taken to protect this important historic structure. A row of planters has been installed to prevent cars from being parked directly in front of the museum doors, an improvement that has resulted in greater fire safety and a cleaner driveway area. The planters are also an attractive addition to the neighborhood. A nuisance tree was removed from the side of the building as well, eliminating concerns that it could cause structural damage to the museum.

The Old Firehouse Museum was built in 1889 and is a unique, attractive, and historic asset to the town of South Hadley. The wooden clapboard exterior has not been painted in over 20 years, and is in serious need of attention. The Trustees will continue to advocate for funding to maintain and improve the exterior of the building so that it can remain an attractive focal point of our community. The continued support of our Selectboard and Town Meeting will be essential to our mission to preserve one of South Hadley’s most important landmarks.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. LaRoche, Chair  
Trustees of the Old Firehouse Museum

## **Planning Board**

The Planning Board is pleased to submit its 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Report to the citizens of South Hadley.

The Planning Board consists of five unpaid, elected members who serve staggered five (5) year terms and one unpaid, appointed Associate Member who serves a three (3) year term. The Board’s Mission is to assist the community in efforts to achieve balanced growth, quality development and preservation of community assets through effective development regulation, assistance in obtaining funding resources for community projects and long-term planning. Direct staff support in carrying out this mission is provided by Town Planner Richard Harris

with additional assistance provided by Senior Clerk Doris LeClair and support and advice provided by DPW Superintendent Jim Reidy, Conservation Administrator Janice Stone, Building Commissioner Charlene Baiardi, other town departments, boards and commissions, and the Fire Districts and their Water Departments.

Following the Annual Election, Board members voted to retain the current officers with Jeff Squire being re-elected to serve as Chair, Mark Cavanaugh as Vice-Chair and Joan Rosner as Clerk. Mark Cavanaugh was reappointed as the Town's representative to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The Board thanked Helen Fantini for her service and welcomed Brad Hutchison who was elected to fill the post vacated by Ms. Fantini.

Maintaining and administering the Town's Zoning By-Laws and Subdivision Regulations is a major responsibility of the Board. The Board makes recommendations to Town Meeting on proposed amendments to the Zoning By-Law and Zoning Map.

Public hearings are conducted by the Board on applications for Special Permits, Site Plan Reviews, subdivision proposals and Zoning By-Law and Subdivision Regulation amendments. In carrying out its responsibilities the Board coordinates and works closely with other town boards and departments in review of applications for land use and development. This process ensures that a proposed development is consistent with town regulations and that each developer's performance fulfills the terms agreed upon.

During the past year, the Planning Board reviewed a number of new developments as well as continued its focus on efforts to implement initiatives recommended in the Master Plan. In regard to major initiatives arising from the Master Plan, the Board and Town Planner worked on the designation of the Town's first Priority Development District and Smart Growth Development District. Both efforts were in keeping with the Board's continued support for revitalization of the South Hadley Falls area, the broader effort to bring about economic development in the community, and related efforts. The Board also continued to work on Zoning Bylaw revisions and completed, in consultation with the Master Plan Implementation Committee, an extensive review of the status of the Master Plan's implementation to date.

**Bylaw Revisions.** The Board presented to Town Meeting an article to create the South Hadley Falls Smart Growth District and revise the provisions for Conversion of One-Family to Two-Family dwellings at the Fall 2015 Special Town Meeting. The SHFSMGD was the culmination of extensive work with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and was overwhelmingly approved by Town Meeting and subsequently approved by the State. Town Meeting did not approve the other article regarding the Conversion of One-Family to Two-Family Dwellings.

The Board also identified and worked on some items for future Zoning and General Bylaw amendments. Chief

among these future bylaw items was revisions to the Flexible Development, sign regulations, domestic pets provisions and Design Review.

**Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Assistance.** Utilizing District Local Technical Assistance funding from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) itself, a PATH grant from the State and \$21,000 appropriated by Town Meeting at the Special Town Meeting held in May 2015, the Board and Town Planner worked with the PVPC on completing an update of the Housing Production Plan and a Multifamily Development Study. Both of these efforts are to implement recommendations in the 2010 Master Plan.

Results of this work will also be used in FY 2016 and FY 2017 as the Planning Board fine tunes proposals for Town Meeting consideration. Once the Housing Production Plan is approved by the Selectboard, it can be submitted to the State for approval and can aid in managing Comprehensive Permit applications in a more community-appropriate manner.

**Master Plan Review.** The Planning Board completed its review of the Recommended Actions outlined in the 2010 Master Plan. As a result of its review, the Board identified the "Top Priorities" for the next five years for the various boards and departments which have responsibility for implementing various recommendations. These priorities will serve as the basis for defining the issues for the 2020 update.

**Collaborative Planning.** Reflecting the Town's inclusive nature and limited staff resources, much of the planning undertaken has involved considerable collaboration with other departments, boards, and entities. This is particularly reflected in the past year's activities regarding hazard mitigation, smart growth and bike/pedestrian issues. At the request of the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee, the Planning Board conducted a public hearing on the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Working with PVPC, the Town Planner and Planning Board developed and then conducted a hearing on and adopted Design Guidelines for the South Hadley Falls Smart Growth District. Similarly, working with the Town Administrator and PVPC, the Town Planner worked with various local and regional committees on the Bike/Pedestrian Comprehensive Plan and planning a Valley Bike Share program.

**Development Management Activities.** While work focused on implementation and management of the Master Plan, the Planning Board continued its development management activities as this past year saw several new commercial and institutional developments begin work. Hearings were held and Site Plan Review and Stormwater Management conditional approvals were granted for construction of the Quality Fleet Services building (commercial vehicle maintenance – 14,580 square feet) and a 7,030 square foot expansion of the GG's Custom Metals facility on New Ludlow Road, and a 2,450 square foot office building for financial services

on Newton Street in front of Stonybrook Village condominiums. Several institutional developments were conditionally approved by Minor Site Plan Reviews and stormwater management permits including a 7,400 square foot expansion at Berkshire Hills Music Academy (for use as a multiuse building - classrooms, offices, and a performance hall) and a 35,607 square foot expansion of Blanchard Hall for a centralized dining and community center at Mount Holyoke College. Conditional approval was also granted to convert a residential structure into a nonprofit educational facility as provided by state law. Following public hearings and peer review of the stormwater management plans, approval was granted for the stormwater management changes associated with the changes to the High School athletic fields.

Hearings on several special permits resulted in conditional approval of the requests. The former public library on Bardwell Street was given approval to be converted into six condominium units and the Chamber of Commerce was given approval to convert a portion of Laplante Realty’s office on Lyman Street into an office for the Chamber of Commerce.

Waiver of a Site Plan Review was granted for a minor addition to the Presstek building on New Ludlow Road. Extension of the Site Plan Review approval for a 6,000 square foot retail building to be constructed in front of the Big Y on Willimansett Street was also approved.

Easthampton Savings Bank was twice approved for illumination of new signs at its Granby Road offices. St. Jacques Construction was authorized to deposit 15,000 cubic yards of clean fill into the gravel pit which they had created off Amherst Road – this will make the site more conducive to reuse.

Informational meetings (informal discussions held as part of a Planning Board meeting) were held with several prospective commercial developments. One of these was followed up by the developer submitting and receiving approval of a Site Plan for a financial services office on Newton Street in front of the Stonybrook Village condominiums.

Residential development also continued. The Board and Town Planner continued to monitor developments under way to ensure compliance with the approved plans – chief among these were Jacob’s Edge Condominiums (off Granby Road), Ethan Circle subdivision (off Hadley Street), Rivercrest Condominiums (off Ferry Street), Adam & Eve Estates (end of Lyman Terrace), and Annafield Estates (end of Stewart Street). During the year, the Board determined that all requirements of the Subdivision Regulations had been met in regards to the construction of Apple Road (Adam & Eve Estates) and the extension of Stewart Street (Annafield Estates) and conditionally authorized the release of the associated performance guarantees.

Five (5) “Approval Not Required” plans were reviewed and endorsed by the Planning Board. Four (4) of these

were residential properties which resulted in five new residential building lots. The fifth plan was for the financial services office to be built in front of Stonybrook Village Condominiums.

During the past year, fees totaling \$5,049.48 were collected by the Planning Department for applications, inspections, reviews, and copies. Overall, this total amounted to a 45% decrease from the amount collected during the previous year but this was due to the fact that two relatively significant developments were reviewed and approved during the previous year and those developments are currently being constructed. Stormwater Management application fees accounted for the largest share of the revenues followed closely by Site Plan Reviews/Illuminated Signs – accounting for 35% and 22% of the revenue. Fees charged for ANR Plan Reviews was the third largest amount accounting for 20%. A breakdown of the fees for FY 2016 is provided below:

Fee Category	FY 2016 Amount
Approval Not Required (ANR) Plans	\$1,000.00
Preliminary/Definitive/Form Subdivisions H	\$0.00
Special Permits/Waivers	\$825.00
Sign/Exempt/Site Plan Reviews/Waivers	1,126.00
Stormwater Management Permits	1,720.28
Earth Removal	0.00
Notification of Abutters	378.20
Inspector Fees	0.00
Miscellaneous Fees	0.00
TOTAL	\$5,049.48

The Town Planner and Senior Clerk worked with the Zoning Board of Appeals in processing a variance request and scheduling of the associated hearing.

The Town Planner continued to play an active role in coordinating development reviews on an informal as well as formal basis. He continued working on a Permit Guide which will be useful in conveying to the public and developers the processes for obtaining permits. Among the tasks completed during the year was the creation of the South Hadley Falls Smart Growth District, designation of the US Gaylord Industrial properties on Gaylord Street as a Priority Development Site and working with a number of prospective developers.

Working with other boards is also a major function of the Planning Board. The Town Planner has continued working with the Assessor and Technology personnel to improve the web-based Mapping Program and to have the maintenance of the Assessor’s Maps and the digital base map carried out by one vendor. As part of this effort, the Town Planner and Assessor’s Office worked to deploy current zoning data on a parcel by parcel basis using the web-based Mapping Program. As with the other permitting departments, the Planning Board through the Town Planner has continued to be supportive of and assist the Associate Assessor where possible in the development of the On-Line Permitting system.

In closing, the Planning Board would like to express its gratitude to the other boards and committees in town for their cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Squire, Chair  
 Mark Cavanaugh, Vice Chair  
 Joan Rosner, Clerk  
 Melissa O'Brien, Member  
 Brad Hutchison, Member  
 Dan Dodge, Assoc. Member  
 Richard Harris, Planner

## Police Department

During the past year the Police Department took numerous steps to improve itself and the safety of the community. One such improvement was in the area of information technology and computer crimes. The Department took steps to better secure and improve its information technology infrastructure. Computer servers at the Department are in use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and had been in constant service for over seven years. The servers perform a critical function managing large volumes of critical data used for public safety operations on the Department's multiple computer networks. With the aging servers becoming more vulnerable to failure, the Department purchased two Dell servers along with updated software to provide safe and secure management of the Department's vital information on our computer networks. This was critical to protect our data from threats by computer hackers and to protect us from a potential system failure during the middle of an emergency public safety function.

During the year, we saw an increase in the number of computer crimes and telephone scams reported by citizens throughout the community. Telephone scams became a larger threat to our citizens this past year. Professional criminal enterprises, some from outside of the United States, began using technology to contact potential victims through the use of automated telephone calls. These criminals used computers to call large numbers of potential victims who were informed they owed money to the IRS and had to pay fines. Victims were told they faced arrest and prosecution if they did not immediately take steps to pay their debt and fines. To combat this, the Department took a proactive approach by regularly notifying residents through various news outlets, social media, and community meetings to be aware of these potential computer and telephone scams. With this approach, a majority of the residents calling police to report a scam were also happy to report they did not fall victim to the scam and just wanted to make us aware of the incident. However, this threat remains and we continue to educate the community on ways to avoid becoming a victim of computer and telephone scams.

Throughout the year, police departments across the country were experiencing an increase in violent attacks on their police officers. In March, Officer Christopher Roberts was a victim of one such attack when a suspect he was questioning pulled a knife and stabbed Roberts in the

neck. With the knife stuck in his neck, Roberts was able to stop the attack with his service pistol and the suspect was subsequently arrested. Roberts later recovered from his injury and returned to full duty. The incident was a reminder of the potential dangers faced by our Police Officers each and every day. Once again, the community showed its support toward this Department with countless cards and well wishes for all of our police officers. We want to thank the community for continuing to support us as we serve and protect our citizens each and every day.

The Department continued to bring many needed services to the community with support from Federal, State, and Local Funding Grants. The Department was awarded over \$78,000 in grant funding to bring programs such as Enhanced 911 Training, Highway Safety Programs, Underage Drug and Alcohol Enforcement Initiatives, and Law Enforcement Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. The programs provided through these grants enhanced the Department with training and crime prevention initiatives to help better serve the community. The Department will continue to apply for these types of grants to enhance our capabilities.

The department also saw the retirement of Chief David J. LaBrie. In April, LaBrie announced he was going to retire at the end of June 2016. LaBrie had served the citizens of South Hadley as a Police Officer for over 39 years. LaBrie was originally appointed to the department as a reserve officer in 1977 and became a full-time patrol officer on November 6, 1978. LaBrie was promoted to Sergeant in 1985, Lieutenant in 1993 and Chief of Police in 2005. He stated he was looking forward to travelling in his retirement and we thank him for his many years of service.

Once again the South Hadley Special Police unit led by Chief Kevin Hennessey provided countless hours of voluntary police services for the community throughout the year. The Special Police helped patrol the town while checking and securing public buildings and providing enhanced security at functions such as the Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration. The Department is thankful for their assistance.

Activity Report	2016	2015	2014	2013
Calls Received	17,223	17,217	21,461	22,040
Incident Reports Filed	1,248	1,217	1,373	1,356
Arrests	141	144	165	307
Arrests (OUI)	36	32	29	38
MV Violations	889	848	895	1,555
MV Collisions	298	310	297	290
Motor Vehicle Thefts	15	16	13	13
Breaking & Entering	137	74	64	83
General Disturbances	516	591	520	507
Assaults (Aggravated & Simple)	154	158	122	198
Domestic Violence	47	51	62	73
Fraud	187	203	52	34
Impersonation	21	35	34	20

Larceny	172	181	125	188
Drugs/Narcotics	36	39	35	64
Malicious Damage	123	144	180	153

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Parentela, Chief of Police

## DPW Administration

The South Hadley Department of Public Works is responsible for the following infrastructure:

- ❖ Approximately 97 Miles of Road (Plowing, Sanding, Sweeping, Line Painting, Patching, Signage)
- ❖ About 21 Miles of Drainage Pipe (Cleaning Catch Basins, Clearing Blockages, Repairing Structures)
- ❖ About 80 Miles of Sewer Main (Responding to Back-Ups, Root Control, Flushing, Main Repairs)
- ❖ A 4.2 Million Gallon per Day Wastewater Treatment Plant and 5 Pump Stations
- ❖ A Closed 26 Acre Landfill, Compost Area, and Recycling Center
- ❖ Eleven Parks and Various Other Town-Owned Properties (Mowing, Snow Removal, etc.)
- ❖ Thirty DPW Vehicles, Seven Trailers, and Various Equipment (Repairs, Maintenance)
- ❖ Town Tree Maintenance

Here is an update on some of the major projects we have worked on during the past year.

**2015 Sidewalk Project.** Sidewalks have been reconstructed at Ferry Street, Wright Place, Burnett Avenue, Pittroff Avenue (from Lyman Street to Woodlawn Street), Hillside Avenue, Prospect Street, Elm Street, and Walnut Street. The project included the installation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant concrete ramps, driveway apron repairs, and loaming/seedling.

**FY 2016 Road Improvement Project.** Road resurfacing occurred on Ferry Street, Hollywood Street, Hillside Avenue, Paul Street, Tampa Street, and Willimansett Street (from the Chicopee town line to the cul-de-sac). Michael Drive will be done after a section of drainage pipe is replaced. In the spring of 2016, Cedar Ridge, Cedar Ridge Road and Pheasant Run were resurfaced

This coming year, we are planning to do the following:

**Alvord Street Road Improvement Project.** The scope of this project includes new drainage pipe and structures, berm, guardrail, and the resurfacing of Alvord Street from Pine Street to Ferry Street. Most of the road will be reclaimed, a process where the existing road is ground up, regraded, and compacted to form a base for new asphalt.

**2016 Sidewalk Project.** Sidewalks will be reconstructed on Columbia Street, Dartmouth Street, Yale Street, Harvard Street, and Cornell Street. The new sidewalks will be asphalt. The project scope also includes the

installation of new ADA concrete ramps and the addition of drain pipe and leaching catch basins.

**2017 Sidewalk Project.** Sidewalks will be reconstructed on Dayton Street, Lexington Street, Midway Street, Enterprise Street, Fairview Street and Bunker Hill Street. As with the previous sidewalk projects, the newly installed sidewalks will be made of asphalt.

**FY 2017 Road Improvement Project.** Road resurfacing will occur on Pearl Street, Margaret Street, Mountainview Street, Oakwood Circle, Michael Drive, Judd Avenue, and Brainerd Street (from Lathrop Street to North Main Street).

**Main Street.** Over the next year, we will be working on the design of improvements at Main Street from the Chicopee City Line to Canal Street. The tentative project scope will include drainage improvements, bicycle improvements (road widening and/or bike lanes), flashing crosswalk signals, sidewalk improvements, bus stop improvements, and intersection improvements at Main Street and Bridge Street.

We want to thank the employees of the DPW for their efforts this past year. We would also like to thank the Selectboard, Town Administrator, South Hadley Electric Light Department, Town departments, District #1, and District #2, and especially the residents of South Hadley for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Reidy  
DPW Superintendent

Viv Price  
DPW Operations Manager

## Highway Division

The Highway Division oversees, maintains, and repairs the town's road, easement, and bridge network in the interest of providing safe travel conditions for residents. In addition, any infrastructure excavation, site grading, earth moving, hauling, tree work, snow and ice maintenance and removal, sign and road markings maintenance, and vehicle maintenance is performed by this division.

The Highway Division working staff includes nine employees: (1) Highway Superintendent, (1) Chief Mechanic, (2) Sewer/Drainage Maintenance employees, (5) Equipment Operators who perform sweeper, sign, construction, repair, and truck driving duties.

The Highway Division staff completed numerous in-house projects and tasks. These projects include structure rebuilds and paving on numerous streets, as well as numerous catch basin rebuilds around town. Limited localized sidewalk and curbing improvements were completed, including sectional patches and driveway aprons using nearly 200 tons of asphalt.

Asphalt curbing was installed on West Parkview Drive and Laurie Avenue to reduce roadway washouts during storm events. The Sign Department continued upgrades/maintenance to all traffic and directional signs. The traffic marking crew continued line painting of all school parking lot markings, playgrounds, crosswalks, stop lines, and handicapped/parking spaces, as well as main road parking markings. The DPW completed the annual town-wide sweeping program of all town roads and parking lots in late August. Tree butt logs and stump grindings were picked up by the crews as needed and loam and seed was put in place. Roadside mowing and brush cutting was performed throughout the year.

All DPW vehicle maintenance and repairs are performed at the Highway Division garage. This task involves many pieces of different equipment, from lawn mowers to heavy duty bucket loaders and plow trucks. As the fleet becomes older, repairs and maintenance become more involved, especially on the vehicles used during the winter season. The crew takes pride in repairs and upgrades to the vehicles throughout the year.

The Highway division is also involved with the following projects: firework set-up and clean-up, voting booth set-up/take down, Town Meeting set-up/take-down, special event assistance with traffic control, gravel road maintenance, building repairs, and furniture/equipment moving. Material hauling from the Town Recycling Center to the M.R.F. in Springfield, and the Holyoke Transfer Station was performed each week by department personnel.

The recent winter season was the mildest winter on record and the department responded to only seven snow/ice events. The winter produced only 20 inches of snow and was, for all intents and purposes, non-existent.

The Highway Division would like to thank the South Hadley Electric Light Department, Water Districts #1 & #2, Fire Districts #1 & #2, and the South Hadley Police Department for their cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

John Broderick, Highway Superintendent

## **Parks/Playground Division**

The DPW Parks Division, based primarily in the big white barn next to the High School Football field on 28 Lincoln Street, provides mowing, grooming, athletic field marking, landscape management, and snow removal on most town properties.

The parks, athletic fields, and properties maintained by the division include Town Hall, the Police Station, Beachgrounds Park, the Town Commons, the Old Fire House Museum, Canal Park, Plains School, High School, Mosier School, Michael E. Smith Middle School, Center School Field, Emerson Park, Lecca Park, Woodlawn Park, the Senior Center, and Buttery Brook Park.

The Parks Division continues to provide turf management, maintenance, and outside trash removal at all town fields, parks and properties. The fertilization program, timely aerating, over seeding, and watering practices when possible, have proven to be very productive in providing better playing areas for the town's sports programs. The drought that began in the Fall of 2015 greatly affected the quality and results of recent improvement efforts made to some of the fields. However, fields that have irrigation held up nicely. The division continued to incorporate high quality infield mix into some baseball and softball fields as needed. This provides better playing surfaces on the skin portions of the fields.

A new artificial turf field is being completed at the High School. The Parks Division will be responsible for its maintenance.

The Parks Division utilizes an Integrated Pest Management Plan to comply with legislation affecting the application of pesticides on school athletic facilities and grounds. We have worked with town officials and school administrators on the IPM plan. The IPM plan is a mandate by the Commonwealth. The purpose of the plan is to minimize environmental impacts and risk to adults and children at play on the fields and in schools.

The Beachgrounds spray park continued to be a very popular destination for many area children and adults. Buttery Brook Park also had great attendance at its new spray park and there was an increase in the number of pavilion rentals. Buttery Brook Park continued to have great activities and events this past year. The Friends of Buttery Brook Park have done an outstanding job working with groups organizing their fund raising efforts. The Friends primarily raise funds at the Friday night cruise nights. The Celebrity Chefs, recruited from different organizations, have helped make Cruise Nights a greater success. The annual Santa Land event was again enjoyed by many children and parents. Donations by patrons helped fund this very popular annual event. The Parks Division continues to maintain and staff Buttery Brook Park and other activities on weekends during the summer season.

I wish to thank the staff, the many athletic groups, town officials, and residents for their efforts and support over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Simard, Parks Supervisor

## **Sewer Division**

The Sewer Division's maintenance program consists of annually cleaning over 100 miles of sewers and drain lines, periodic inspection of existing sewer lines, easements, and new sewers under construction, and annually cleaning hundreds of catch basins. The Water

Pollution Control—Sewer Division’s primary concern is public health and safety. The Division provides 24-hour emergency service to residents to respond to many calls received during and after hours.

The preventive maintenance that the Sewer Division practices provides effective operation of the sewer system. Known trouble areas are given special attention by providing chemical or machine maintenance to help alleviate issues. Private contractors are hired periodically to perform root control and television services to help locate, assess, and alleviate problems within the infrastructure. The equipment used for maintenance includes a flusher truck that is capable of performing catch basin cleaning, high-pressure water cleaning, and cutting of underground sewer and drainage lines. The truck also has chemical and degreasing capability, as well as hydro-excavating capability.

During the last year, the crew accomplished the following: cleaned all catch basins located at the bottom of hills and high traffic areas and known trouble spots; quarterly maintenance flushing/cutting of historic trouble spots; degreasing sewer lines downstream of restaurants; chemical treatment for tree root intrusion, vapor rooting, and off-road easement inspections and maintenance. Storm-water management programs this past year included the set-up of regularly scheduled cleaning of catch basin structures and flushing of the drainage system piping throughout Town. In addition to the street sweeping program and catch basin cleaning, improved public education, system mapping, and development of specific policies and procedures occurred and is on-going. These efforts should be finalized in the next year, to meet goals and objectives outlined in the notice of intent filed by the Town to EPA.

EPA policy on storm water management is intended to maximize the capacity of the storm water system and to provide improved water quality discharge. Good storm water management, through maintenance of drainage systems, ultimately provides for improved water quality in our brooks and streams.

The Sewer Division would like to thank the many staff, officials, and residents for continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

John Broderick, Highway Superintendent

## **Solid Waste Division**

The Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works (DPW) oversees curbside collection of trash and recyclables and management of the compost area and recycling center. Republic Services is contracted by the Town to provide curbside pickup; DPW staff manage the Compost Area and Transfer Station.

The Transfer Station/Recycling Center continues to collect and either recycle or properly dispose of the following

materials: batteries, bulky items, construction debris, electronics, Green Bags, products containing mercury, mattresses, propane tanks, rigid plastics, Styrofoam (expanded polystyrene), tires, white goods, used motor oil and antifreeze, used vegetable oil and grease, appliances, and of course paper, cardboard and mixed containers. The Friends of Buttery Brook also accept returnable bottle donations in their shed at the Center. Volunteers and staff at the Recycling Center not only manage incoming swap shop donations, but are also integral to supporting other worthy causes in our area. Non-profit organizations make requests to the Swap Shop for specific materials for their programs, and staff and volunteers do their best to set aside needed items. The following organizations have benefited from the generous donations made by South Hadley residents: *Birthday Wishes for Homeless Children, Cancer Connection, Carey’s Flowers, Gaylord Library, Lion’s Club, Local Cub & Boy Scouts, South Hadley’s Operation Backpack, South Hadley Public Library, South Hadley Senior Center and South Hadley United Methodist Church.*

In addition to the above listed charities, private individuals also come in to find materials for their favorite charities.

Income to the landfill enterprise fund includes monies received for materials from the curbside collection and recycling center drop-off; in FY16 the Town recycled 1,419.27 tons of paper, cardboard, bottles and cans and rigid plastics. The scrap metal pile at the recycling center took in 145.64 tons and brought in an income of \$9,428.89.

In FY16, the Solid Waste Division was awarded a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The Small Scale portion of the SMRP grant was \$1,250, which was used for the purchase of more public space recycling bins. The Recycling Dividends portion of the SMRP grant awarded the town \$9,600 in recognition of South Hadley’s recycling and waste reduction efforts.

### **Special events held this year at the DPW include:**

**Community Paper Shredding:** South Hadley hosted two regional paper shredding events in FY16. Valley Green Shredding, owned and operated by South Hadley residents Eric and Heather Wartel, generously donated their vehicle and time to provide this free service to the Town. The events, entitled ‘Bring Three, Shred for Free’ sought donations of three items for the South Hadley Food Pantry in return for shredding services. Both events were a great success.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collections:** A hazardous waste collection event was held on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015. This year, Granby joined South Hadley for the first time to hold a joint municipal collection at the DPW yard. A total of 180 vehicles came through during this event. These events are an important community service as they provide a means of proper disposal of

hazardous chemicals from the garage, garden, and household, helping to preserve our environment.

**Rain Barrels & Composter Bins:** The DPW continues to provide at cost rain barrels and compost bins for residents wishing to compost food wastes at home and collect rainwater for home gardens.

Respectfully submitted,

Véronique Blanchard, Solid Waste Coordinator

## Water Pollution Control Division

The Water Pollution Control Facility, located on James Street in Chicopee, is an activated sludge secondary wastewater treatment plant designed to treat 4.2 million gallons of wastewater per day. The original plant, built in 1959/1960, was a primary treatment facility only. The plant was upgraded to secondary treatment in 1979/1980. The most recent facility upgrade was completed in 2008. The wastewater treatment system also consists of five pumping stations strategically located around Town, which assist in transferring the sewage to the treatment plant. The plant also serves small portions of the City of Chicopee and the Town of Granby. Over the fiscal year, the plant treated an average of 2.6 million gallons of wastewater per day, and processed 2,398 wet tons of sludge. Plant staff was diligent in performing routine and preventative maintenance at the plant and five pump stations as time and available staffing allowed. The plant continues to operate in compliance with its State and Federal discharge permit.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Cijka, WPC Operations Manager

## Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission gratefully acknowledges the hundreds of volunteers who assisted us in implementing all of our programs and activities. These people include coaches, team managers, officials, board members and those who assisted in various fundraisers. Their time and effort allows the Recreation Department to provide a wide array of activities to meet the community's recreation needs.

The Joseph W. Taylor award was presented to Jessica Jackson at the annual Town Meeting due to her efforts with the youth cheerleading program. Mrs. Jackson was instrumental in running fundraisers and coordinating uniform and pom-pom orders for the three squads. Additionally, she organized the Western Mass Youth Cheerleading Exhibition in 2014 which had over 500 cheerleaders from over 20 different communities. All of these events and activities went perfectly and the hundreds of cheerleaders that benefited from her time thank her!

The Recreation Commission welcomed Byron Joy as our newest member. Mr. Joy has coached numerous youth soccer and baseball teams and also runs our youth wrestling program. He received the Joseph W. Taylor award in 2015.

After many years of planning, construction began for the new artificial turf field at South Hadley High School. This field is expected to open in July of 2016 and will have many benefits to the town, specifically to football, field hockey, lacrosse, and soccer. Gale Associates provided the design work and Mountain View Landscapes did the construction work. Greenfields was selected as the turf company and the project was slated to cost \$900,000.

Programs and activities: *Youth sports offerings* included: baseball, basketball, softball, tee-ball, field hockey, football, soccer, cheerleading, lacrosse and wrestling. *Summer sports camps* included: baseball, basketball, soccer, golf, tennis, Let's Gogh Art and Summer Creations. *Adult offerings* included: Aquacise, Total Body Blast, Pilates, Cardio Kick-boxing, Zumba, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Co-ed Volleyball, Co-ed Soccer, Spring/Fall Coed Softball and Men's Softball. *Bus trips* took us to Fenway Park, New York City for two holiday shopping trips, and to Tangle-wood for a James Taylor concert. *Special Classes:* Baby-sitting training classes, Tang Soo Doo, and Let's Gogh Art.

*Special Events:* The Annual Independence Day Fireworks Celebration was held on July 3, 2015 at the Michael E. Smith Middle School. The Major Corporate Sponsor of the event was once again PeoplesBank. *Summer Concert Series:* Concerts were held on nine Thursdays in July and August as part of the 2015 Summer Concert series. This event was funded by the Village Commons, multiple businesses and a grant from the South Hadley Arts Council. We also started passing a bucket at the event and the concert goers were happy to contribute. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt & Hat Parade was held at Buttery Brook Park with well over 300 kids in attendance.

In closing, the Recreation Commission extends its fondest appreciation to all the Town departments who had a hand in our successes: Department of Public Works and Parks Department, Police, Fire Districts 1 & 2, SHELD, Water Departments, School Department and the Selectboard.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Du Bois, Chair  
Byron Joy  
Brian Couture  
Patrick Dawson

Amy Foley  
Jane Gawron  
Allan Tracy

### Recreation Staff

Andrew Rogers, Recreation Director  
Danielle Stelma, Assistant Director  
Joe Bach, Recreation Assistant

# Report of the Public Schools

The School Committee, Dr. Nicholas Young, administrators, staff and faculty continue to focus on providing the best education possible to students in South Hadley. The ongoing review and implementation of new curriculum, advanced courses at the middle and high schools, establishment of a differentiated diploma, and the new culinary and carpentry vocational programs at the high school are some of the initiatives in place to serve the needs of all students and promote greater student achievement. The School Committee commends Dr. Young for his continued commitment to hosting informational events for families, school and town employees, community and Town Meeting members in an effort to promote and sustain strong communications with families, staff, and the community.

## Personnel:

The district welcomed new members to the Administrative Team:

- ❖ Robert Mahler, Interim Principal, Plains Elementary School (November 2015 – May 2016)
- ❖ Hank Skala, Principal, Plains Elementary School
- ❖ Roxanne Dorrie, Director of Instructional Support Services

## Other Personnel Actions:

- ❖ Jill Pasquini-Torchia, Plains Elementary School Principal, resigned in November 2015 to assume a position in the Easthampton Public Schools
- ❖ Erica Faginski-Stark, Director of Curriculum and Grants, resigned in June 2016 to assume a position in the Ludlow Public Schools.

## Recognition:

Matt Foley, Head Varsity Baseball Coach reached a milestone during the 2016 baseball season by achieving his 200<sup>th</sup> career win in an extra inning game vs. Turners Falls on May 11.

The following students were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments.

- ❖ Thomas Shea (Gr. 12) - Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents
- ❖ Savannah Richard (Gr. 8) - Student Ambassador, Project 351's Spring Service - a children's clothing drive
- ❖ Sophie Gatzounas (Gr. 11) - Captain, Girls Varsity Basketball Team, attainment of 1,000 career points

## Budget:

- ❖ Town Meeting approved a school budget for FY2017 of \$20,777,329. This was a \$256,511, or 1.25% increase from FY2016.

## Facilities:

- ❖ The new Plains Elementary School opened on September 10, 2015. Parents and members of the community had an opportunity to tour the new school at Open House events that were held on two Saturdays in

October 2015. State officials attended a formal opening ceremony on November 13, 2015.

- ❖ Replacement of the Mosier School roof project was completed in March 2016.
- ❖ A Mosier School Feasibility Study was presented by Flansburgh Architects to identify the school's current needs in preparation for the district's submission of a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the fall.
- ❖ The middle school security lobby project got underway in July 2016 and is expected to be completed in mid-September. Security measures at Plains Elementary School were addressed with the school building project and projects to secure the entries at the remaining schools will follow.

## Other Actions:

- ❖ A proposal to establish vocational programs in culinary and carpentry was approved.
- ❖ The South Hadley Education Association Unit C Contract (Administrators) was ratified.
- ❖ A proposal that would allow middle school students to earn high school credit upon the successful completion of Algebra 1 or Geometry, or foreign language offered at the high school level was approved.
- ❖ An accelerated middle school social studies course was approved.
- ❖ The biennial School Health Unit Application for limited delegation of prescription medications was approved for submission to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
- ❖ A Career Connection Articulation Agreement between the New England Carpenters Training Fund and South Hadley High School was established. The agreement would allow graduates of the high school vocational carpentry program who meet NECTF requirements to advance a year in the apprentice training program.
- ❖ The school lunch price was increased by twenty-five cents in all schools for FY17 in order to remain in compliance with federal and state regulations.
- ❖ A new high school scholarship from the Class of 2015 was established in memory of their classmate, Lynn Sperry.
- ❖ A six-year Capital Plan was approved.
- ❖ The South Hadley Electric Light Department's request for the School Department to assume responsibility for electrical costs related to use of a new high school scoreboard was approved.
- ❖ Up to 200 School Choice slots were approved for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

The School Committee is excited about the direction that the district is moving in and looks forward to working with the various constituent groups in town to advance the South Hadley Public Schools on behalf of all the students of this community. We commend Dr. Young for his enthusiasm, vision and strong leadership in helping the South Hadley Public Schools to move steadily forward and closer to the goal of high achievement for all children in our schools. We also wish to thank the school administrators, faculty and staff for their dedication and commitment to excellence and

we extend our appreciation to the other town departments that provide services and collaborate with the schools each year. Lastly, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the citizens and taxpayers for their involvement and ongoing support of the South Hadley Public Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kelly, Chair

Christine Phillips, Vice-Chair

Kevin McAllister

Eric Sarrazin

Barry C.D. Waite

Cailey Newton, Student Rep.

## Superintendent of Schools

It is a pleasure to offer this, my fourth annual report, as the Superintendent of Schools for the South Hadley Public Schools. The 2015-2016 academic year was a highly successful and productive year in your school district and it is a privilege to have this opportunity to inform the citizens of our many accomplishments. Recognizing that running a public school system is a complicated endeavor that requires an active team effort, I would like to begin by thanking some of the key people and groups who have worked hard this past year on behalf of the community's schools. If I fail to acknowledge someone or some group, please accept my apology upfront and know that any and all contributions are appreciated. With this caveat in mind, I would like to begin by first thanking the members of the South Hadley School Committee, under the leadership of its Chairperson, John Kelly; the Town Administrator, Michael Sullivan; the members of the Selectboard, the members of the Appropriations Committee, the members of the Capital Planning Committee, the town employees from countless departments who go out of their way daily to support us, the Parent Teacher Organization, the Parent Teacher Association, the Parent Advisory Councils, the Booster Association of South Hadley (commonly known as BASH), the South Hadley Music Association (commonly known as SHMPA), Mount Holyoke College, as well as the many other groups who make contributions in one form or another to our school system. I also wish to publicly thank those who do the most for our students—the teachers, support staff, and administrators—who work day in and day out to offer high quality educational programs to our deserving students. Our school employees work hard to make the South Hadley Public Schools the place to learn—I want them to know that their services and efforts are both recognized and appreciated.

I wish to also take this opportunity to thank the community for the wonderful new Plains Elementary School that officially opened in September 2015. This building is a tremendous asset to the school community and will serve our youngest students well for many years. The members of the Plains School Building Committee, under the leadership of Diane Mulvaney and Thomas Gebhardt, deserve to be publicly recognized for working tirelessly on this critical project for more than a decade. All who have served on a public building committee of this magnitude can personally appreciate the long hours spent researching and discussing project details with a

multitude of experts followed by countless extended meetings to discuss them. To those Building Committee members, please know that your contributions were significant and served to advance the status of the public schools immeasurably.

While the South Hadley Public Schools has much to be proud of, we also recognize that we have more work to do to make the district even more responsive to the needs of our students, their families, and to the larger community. To this end, in the 2015-2016 academic year alone the schools pursued numerous goals and program enhancements. Due to space considerations, I will highlight some examples of what was accomplished over the past twelve months in the next section.

### District Accomplishments (non-prioritized order)

1. All fine, performing, and practical arts curriculum and the physical education, health and wellness curriculum were reviewed and new curricula, materials, and equipment were purchased to replace or enhance current instructional units.
2. Curriculum maps have been completed for the social studies curriculum (preschool-grade 12) and foreign language curriculum (Grade 7-12).
3. All grade 3 and 4 teachers at Mosier School completed training in the Literacy Collaborative model for reading and instruction; the remaining grade 2 teachers will receive training during the 2016-2017 school year.
4. Final preparations have been made for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges reaccreditation site visit at South Hadley High School in October 2016.
5. Tier 1 of Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support, a program to improve practice and reinforce pro-social behavior, was successfully implemented at Mosier School and Michael E. Smith Middle School; implementation of Tier 2 will begin during the 2016-2017 school year.
6. Twenty-five educators and administrators received training in Research for Better Teaching's Studying Skillful Teaching, a research-based program that supports the development of common instructional language, best instructional practices, data analysis, and differentiation of instruction. Fifty educators will receive training during 2016 – 2017.
7. In collaboration with the Massachusetts State Police, and South Hadley Police and Fire, the district continued staff training on current practices of school safety with a focus on off-site evacuations.
8. The administration, faculty and South Hadley Education Association leadership collaborated on the implementation and use of District Determined

Measures, measurements of student growth, in the new educator evaluation system.

9. The district successfully completed the deployment of all network systems, hardware, and software at the new Plains Elementary School.
10. Administrators and administrative assistants received intensive professional development to support the district-wide implementation of PowerSchool as the student information management system.
11. A district-wide technology plan was created based on the National Education Technology's Plan's five standards: learning, teaching, leadership, assessment, and infrastructure. The three-year plan connects the standards to the district's current status and next steps.
12. In an effort to enhance access to critical information for students, parents, and staff, all student registration documents were revised, updated and posted on the district web site.
13. All four schools and the central office are in the final stages of virtualization so that they function as one universal system and point of access for all employees.
14. As means to enhance school culture, the middle school added morning break time for students and the high school expanded student privileges.
15. The School Committee, in collaboration with the SHEA Executive Board, negotiations committee, and administration, ratified the Unit C (Administrators) contract.
16. The district conducted an analysis of the Advanced Placement (AP) courses, curricula, and performance outcomes.
17. The district purchased the Feifer Assessment of Reading and special education staff received professional development focusing on improving reading evaluations, interpreting assessment data and using the data to plan targeted instruction.
18. The district implemented a therapeutic program at Plains Elementary School. The successful program has made it possible for students who were previously unable to experience success in the general education classroom to remain in district.
19. The district implemented a transitional special needs program to help students develop necessary independent living skills. In addition, students were placed at two new vocational sites at the Town Hall and Public Library.
20. The district continues to evaluate the effectiveness of the differentiated diploma option; 14 students (10.3%)

of the 2016 graduating class received a differentiated diploma.

21. The district developed a plan to award high school credit to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who meet all criteria in Geometry, Algebra I and Foreign Language.
22. The School Committee revised and approved the district's Physical Restraint Policy and school staff received training on the new regulations.

### **Grant Funding**

Grants continue to support the educational system in South Hadley, providing financial support for special education out-of-district tuitions, teachers' salaries, instructional and assessment materials, professional development, and academic support for various student populations. The following is a review of our FY16 grants and how they were utilized to support the educational program for the South Hadley Public School District:

IDEA – Federal Special Education Entitlement Grant – Fund Code 240

Grant Allocation: \$556,010

Fund Use: Supports tuition expenditures for special education students who attend out-of-district placements.

Title I – Fund Code 305

Grant Allocation: \$204,760

Fund Use: Supports the payment of partial salaries for Title I Reading Teachers at the Plains and Mosier Elementary Schools. Other resources and opportunities funded through this grant are instructional materials and student assessment materials as well as stipends for curriculum facilitators and professional development experiences for educators.

Title IIA Improving Educator Quality – Fund Code 140

Grant Allocation: \$46,669

Fund Use: Augments a portion of the salary of the Director of Instructional Support Services. Additionally, stipends to support curriculum facilitators and mentors for the district mentorship program are financially supported by this grant. Professional development activities and accompanying materials receive proportional funding as well.

Quality Full-day Kindergarten – Fund Code 701

Grant Allocation: \$59,800

Fund Use: Partial teacher (2) salaries and partial salaries for paraprofessionals (4) assigned to kindergarten.

Early Childhood and Care – Fund Code 262

Grant Allocation: \$31,690

Fund Use: Partial salary for one preschool teacher at Plains Elementary School

Academic Support – Fund Code 632 (School Year)

Grant Allocation: \$4,200

Fund Use: Provides funding for tutors to assist students at South Hadley High School during out-of-school time

who still need to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate.

**Academic Support – Fund Code 625 (Summer)**

Grant Allocation: \$1,200 (The allocation was reduced in FY15.)

Fund Use: Provides funding for tutors to assist students at South Hadley High School who still need to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate from high school.

**Inclusive Preschool – Fund Code 391**

Grant Allocation: \$18,986

Fund Use: Partial salary for one preschool teacher at Plains Elementary School

**Drug Free Communities – Fund Code W57**

Grant Allocation: \$125,000

Fund Use: Salary/project initiatives

**Special Education Program Improvement – Fund Code 274**

Grant Allocation: \$15,254

Fund Use: Supporting personnel costs

**Special Education Early Childhood Improvement – Fund Code 298**

Grant Allocation: \$2,000

Fund Use: Supporting professional development

**Perkins Secondary Allocation**

Grant Allocation: \$16,852

Fund Use: Supporting our woodshop programs

**Awards**

Counting part-time employees and many who serve as substitutes on a regular basis, the district employs close to 350 people or just under 315 full-time equivalents. We have many capable and committed employees, but are only able to single out a few at a time to receive public acknowledgement. This year, I want to recognize the following individuals for a job especially well done:

**Outstanding Employee Award**

Daniel Szfrancowicz, Head Custodian, South Hadley High School, was recognized on the Opening Day for Staff.

**2016 Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award**

**Recipients:**

Mitch Koziol, Science Department Chair/Teacher, South Hadley High School

Jennifer Markow, School Psychologist, Plains and Mosier Elementary Schools

Deborah Vanderpoel, Grade 3 Teacher, Mosier Elementary School

**Employee of the Year**

Eileen Garvey, Plains School Nurse and District Nurse Leader, received the district’s coveted Golden Apple Award.

**School Retirements**

The district held a recognition luncheon to celebrate the long and distinguished careers of several who retired over the past year, including:

Employee	Position	Yrs. of Service
Denise Audette	Educational Therapy Assistant	9
Kathleen Boissonneault	Language Arts Teacher	15
Michelle Bussiere	Mathematics Teacher	22
Kathleen Chlanda	Mathematics Teacher	16
Jane Domaszewicz	Food Service Professional	14
Cynthia Fleming	Paraprofessional	33
Jonathan Kelly	Social Studies Teacher	29
Catherine Morse	Reading Teacher	22
Anne Pancione	Foreign Language Teacher	18
Patricia Poulin	Educational Therapy Assistant	23
Anne Stanek	Music Teacher, Elementary	21
Kathleen Sutton	Food Service Professional	30
Cheryl Tracy	Paraprofessional	28

As I close my fourth annual report as your superintendent, I want the citizens of the Town of South Hadley to know that we are grateful for their continued fiscal and community support of the South Hadley Public Schools; and I want to underscore that we are serious about offering the best possible educational programs and services to the deserving students of this Town. While always mindful of being good financial stewards, we remain passionate about continuing to build upon the already strong educational legacy of your school district. To those ends, please know that we have ambitious goals to make your school system even better in the coming years. Last, but not least, thank you for your continued support of the South Hadley Public Schools.

Respectfully,

Nicholas D. Young, Ph.D., Ed.D., MBA  
Superintendent of Schools

**South Hadley Public Library**

[www.shadleylib.org](http://www.shadleylib.org)

[www.facebook.com/newSHPL](https://www.facebook.com/newSHPL)

@SHPLibrary on Twitter

[www.instagram.com/southhadleypubliclibrary/](https://www.instagram.com/southhadleypubliclibrary/)

Merriam-Webster defines a library as “a place where books, magazines, and other materials (such as videos and musical recordings) are available for people to use or borrow.” If that is the case, then the South Hadley Public Library is working hard to expand that definition in new and exciting ways for our community. As much as the library remains a place for books, it has become clear that the real focus of the new library is people. Reading and literacy exist alongside discovery and investigation for patrons of all ages.

As we completed our first full fiscal year in the new library building, we strived to improve and expand the services offered to the community. Many new and innovative programs were offered, collaborations with

local organizations was expanded, and a strong commitment to free public programming brought many first time visitors to the library. The library was honored to receive a Paul Winkse Access Award from the Stavros Center for Independent Living in recognition “for going the extra mile in offering access to persons with disabilities” in the design of the new building.

Situated along the historic South Hadley Canal, the library aims to be a gateway to the nature and history along the Connecticut River. This past year our library was invited to participate in Holyoke Infrastructure Day, a project of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers, which celebrated the hydro-engineering marvels along this stretch of the river. We partnered with the Canal Park Committee to hold an Open House in the library’s Local History Room that highlighted South Hadley’s contributions to the region’s commercial history. Library staff also received formal tours of the Robert E. Barrett Fishway to learn more about the annual spring fish migration and be able to better answer questions from the public.

The library worked with several other organizations and town departments to apply for and receive a Town Wide Preservation Assessment and Collection Identification grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. This grant is being used to identify collections of historical importance and make recommendations for long-term preservation. In addition to the library’s local history collection, partners in the project include Center Church, the Old Firehouse Museum/South Hadley Historical Society, Gaylord Memorial Library, Mount Holyoke College Archives & Special Collections, and several municipal departments including the Town Clerk. Materials examined in this project include the town’s Canal Park Committee archives, which this year were transferred to the library’s Local History room for improved conservation and access.

A working group with representation from the Gaylord Memorial and South Hadley Public libraries continued to work on plans to integrate the two libraries into a single public library for the town. Working with a grant-funded consultant, a final report was developed that laid out the groundwork for how a unified library system would work. The public was invited to provide feedback at a public forum held at the library in October and a Know Your Town forum at the high school in March. Based on the consultant’s recommendations and public comments, the South Hadley Public Library Board of Trustees voted on April 4, 2016 that “The Board of Library Trustees is in favor of integrating library services between South Hadley Public Library and Gaylord Memorial Library and requests that the Town of South Hadley move forward with this process.”



*Library Rock Wall*

Both libraries coordinated this year’s “South Hadley Reads” community reading event, which this year joined other libraries in Franklin and Hampshire counties in a Big Read sponsored by Cooley Dickinson Health Care. All libraries hosted discussions and programs centered on the book “Being Mortal” by Dr. Atul Gawande. This book sparked many conversations centered on how people choose to spend the final years of their lives.

The Fifth Annual Adult Summer Reading Program was themed “Escape the Ordinary”. This six week summer program had 175 participants and included weekly handouts for adults to take home and several exciting programs. There were lectures on “The Real Thor and Loki” by Professor Sherrill Harbison of the German and Scandinavian Department at UMASS- Amherst and “The History of the Comic Book Code” by Professor N. C. Christopher Couch of the Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures of UMASS- Amherst. Other lectures included “The Origins of Superheroes” by Professor Don D’Amato of the Springfield Technical Community College History Department and “The Physics of Superheroes” with Assistant Professor Kerstin Nordstrom of the Physics Department at Mount Holyoke College.

The library presented 67 adult programs with one of the most popular being “An Evening with the Spirits with Rick Boisvere” that drew 70 people to the Community Room. The second most popular program was artist and South Hadley native Peter McLean’s “The Salem Witch Trials through Art” which drew 55 participants. All told, 1,440 adults attended these programs.

The new monthly adult “Color Me Calm” coloring group was instantly popular, and provided an artistic refuge for adults to gather and color while listening to relaxing music.

We had another year of unique offerings in Youth Services. The library offered various concerts, crafts, magic shows, author events, animal shows, Bingo, chess clubs, therapy dog programs, science workshops, night raves, gaming, mime show, movies, cooking demonstrations, scavenger hunts, story times, rhyme times, skating party, bubble painting, paracord bracelet making and many more – too numerous to list! One of the most exciting events of the year was when we had Nile, a 43’ long inflatable humpback whale inside the library. Children were able to actually go inside of the whale and learn all about whales and taking care of the environment.

“On Your Mark, Get Set, READ” and “Get in the Game – READ” were our children’s and teen summer reading program slogans. We had several sports and fitness related activities for patrons to enjoy. We offered yoga, ballet, circus activities, martial arts and even an old fashioned field day for all to participate in. Participants also enjoyed a pottery demonstration, life size games, duct tape wallet making, smoothie making, zen garden creations, bug programs and others. This summer’s most exciting program, thanks to the Western Massachusetts Council of Boy Scouts Venture Crew, was a 30’ climbing wall that was set up across the street from the library where people were able to climb and rappel down.

For fiscal year 2016 the Youth Services department offered a total of 322 programs for children and teens with total attendance of 5,638 participants. It’s refreshing to see so many in the community using their public library.

In order to offer as much as the library does, it can’t be done without the generosity of others. Many thanks are extended to Bill Hoefler of Interskate 91 North, Laurel Carpenter of K9’s for Kids Pediatric Therapy Dog Unit, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Boston Bruins, the South Hadley Cultural Council, Mount Holyoke College chemistry department, the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library, and the many teen and adult volunteers we have throughout the year. Without your support we would not be able to offer such a wide variety of youth programs for the community to enjoy.

The library greatly appreciates the volunteer and fundraising support of the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library under the direction of President Nancy Reale. The Friends held a successful BOOK IT 5K race, participated in the Canal Village Potpourri, sold merchandise and raffle tickets... all to benefit our library and fund the many performers, speakers, and activities that filled both our library meeting rooms and outdoor lawn space all year long.

It is difficult to capture the energy of the library over the past year through simple numbers, but the FY16 statistics certainly reflect a well-used library and materials collection:

The building, technology, & collections:

- ❖ 192,900 items checked out

- ❖ 27,632 items received for our patrons through inter-library loan
- ❖ 14,832 items sent to other libraries through inter-library loan
- ❖ 42,392 uses of online databases & electronic collections
- ❖ 21,836 sessions at the library’s public computers
- ❖ 48,561 wireless network connections
- ❖ 1,058 meeting room bookings

Library users:

- ❖ 9,227 active SHPL library cards
- ❖ 1,440 attendance at adult library programs
- ❖ 582 attendance at teen library programs
- ❖ 5,056 attendance at children’s programs

I would like to thank the library staff who continue to develop new and innovative ways to make the most of the library: Jody Bachelder, Meg Clancy, Jen Comeau, Lorraine Ensor, Liz Frosch-Dratfield, Jeff Lachowitz, Rena Lapinski, Linda Manijak, Erin Pronovost, Bethany Roberts, and Desiree Smelcer.

Finally, we are fortunate this past year to have a dedicated & publicly elected Board of Library Trustees: Chair Mitch Resnick, Vice-Chair Bob Berwick, Maxine Cechvala, Connie Clancy, Susan E.O. Crowther, former member Hollis Haley, new member Barbara Merchant, David Morrell, Timna Tarr, and Gillian Woldorf. These individuals volunteer their time and talents to keep the South Hadley Public Library a vibrant community resource for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Rodio, Library Director  
Email: jrodio@cwmars.org

## **Sustainability and Energy Commission**

The Sustainability and Energy Commission (SEC) was created as a means for implementing aspects of the Master Plan and approved by Town Meeting to serve as a forum to promote high levels of energy efficiency, energy and natural resource sustainability and to guard against the effects of energy and natural resource disruption/depletion and climate change.

Although not officially disbanded, the group has not actively met for the past two fiscal years. Its most active subcommittee, the Bike-Walk Working Group, became an ad hoc committee reporting directly to the Selectboard in August of 2015.

## **Tax Collector**

Outstanding balances for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016:

Description	Outstanding Balances
<b>Real Estate Taxes</b>	
2016	361,070
2015	27,605
2014	5,052
Prior Years	12,929*

\*All balances from 2004-2012 are on Owner Unknown parcels

Personal Property	
2016	6,725
2015	2,557
2014	2,965
Prior Years 2007-2013	11,092

Motor Vehicle Excise	
2016	121,142
2015	35,736
2014	13,544
Prior Years (2007 – 2013)	49,822
<b>Boat Excise (2008-2016)</b>	4,670
<b>Rollback Taxes</b>	22,507
<b>Annual Sewer Use Fee</b>	133,577
<b>Annual Curbside Pick-up</b>	14,440

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Baldini, Treasurer/Collector

## Town Clerk

Historically, the position of Town Clerk dates back to biblical times when clerks were often considered scribes or scholars. Their writings became the official records of the period. Today, the Town Clerk continues as the official record keeper for the town and records all official business conducted at Town Meetings and elections and provides a wide variety of services to the general public as well as local, state and federal governments. The major functions of the Town Clerk's Office are spelled out in over 73 chapters and 400 sections of the Massachusetts General Laws as well as the local town by-Laws. Other responsibilities include records management, registration and certification of vital statistics, voter registration, licensing, compilation of the Annual Census and the Street/Voting Lists, Board of Appeals and Planning Board decisions, and the most complex - those relating to elections and Town Meeting.

Fairly new is the State Ethics Commission's enabling Act of 2009 which requires City and Town Clerks to provide municipal employees, including elected and appointed officials, with an annual summary of the Conflict of Interest Law as well as instruction on how to complete the mandatory online training requirements. Another part of this legislation, the revision of the Open Meeting Law, provides that municipal clerks are now required to post meeting notices and agendas of all committees and boards at least 48 hours prior to the meeting exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. This seemingly simple

requirement can be quite time consuming in a community of 17,632.

The Town Clerk's Office is often considered the core of local government serving as the central information point for local residents. The Town Clerk's Office serves as Commissioners to Qualify Oath of Office for the Commissions Division of the Office of the Secretary of The Commonwealth and, until January 1, 2012, as licensing agents for the Division of Fish & Wildlife. At that time the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife began to issue licenses electronically. One of the requirements was that the State's vendor would withdraw license fees from the Town's checking account on a weekly basis. Since this was not permitted by most communities (including South Hadley) we could not continue selling Fish and Game licenses.

The number of Town Meetings and elections varies from one fiscal year to the next ranging from one Town Meeting and one Election to multiple Town Meetings and Elections (not including any specials called by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the Selectboard). The Annual Town Election is held the second Tuesday in April according to South Hadley's By-laws and our Annual Town Meeting is held on the second Wednesday in May also according to South Hadley By-laws.

### FISCAL YEAR 2015 – 2016

Special Town Meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 2015

State Presidential Primary Election – Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Annual Town Election – Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Special Town Meeting – Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Annual Town Meeting – Wednesday, May 11, 2016

State Primary Election – Tuesday, September 8, 2016

State Election – November 8, 2016

### FY2016 HIGHLIGHTS

On February 2, 2016 the Office of the Attorney General sent notice approving Warrant Articles #12 and 13 (Zoning) and Warrant Articles #11, 14 & 17 (General) from the Special Town Meeting held on November 18, 2015. The State Presidential Primary held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 had a 49% voter turnout with 3,371 Democrats casting votes, 1,782 Republicans casting ballots and 3 Green Rainbow members casting votes. The Annual Town Meeting of Wednesday, May 11, 2016 voted to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,220,103 for the Fiscal year 2017 operating budget. The meeting also voted to amend the General By-Law Section 204 subsection H Planning Board by striking "five 5 years" and inserting "three 3 years" term limits for elected Planning Board members. The Annual Town Election was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 and had a 14.60% voter turnout. Some highlights from this election were electing five members to the Municipal Light Board (up from three in previous years) and the defeat of a CPA ballot question. All incumbents were re-elected. The State Primary Election held on September 8, 2016 saw an 11% voter turnout with 1,072 Democrats voting, 159

Republicans and 1 United Independent casting votes. Lastly and historically, under the new election laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all cities and towns held for the first time Early Voting for the November 8<sup>th</sup> State Election. Early voting began October 24<sup>th</sup> and ran thru November 4<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk's Office offered over ninety (90) extra hours of early voting and saw 4,045 voters over the 11-day period. South Hadley had the highest early voting turnout in Western Massachusetts and fifth highest in the Commonwealth. On November 8<sup>th</sup> 5,293 registered voters chose to vote on Election Day bringing South Hadley's total vote count for the State Election to 9,338. Once again these numbers are historic for South Hadley as well as record breaking in the State. The Clerk's Office was awarded numerous awards from the State in recognition of everyone's hard work and voter turnout. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize those efforts of a few because without them all this would not have been possible. To Mike Sullivan, DPW, Police Department, Lynn Roberts and Melissa Couture Rimbold thank you for endless hours of support and commitment and last certainly but not least our amazing election staff and Nicole Casolari. Election Day and Early Voting could not have happened without all your hard work and commitment. You saw my vision but it was your teamwork that helped make it happen, thank you.

The following is a comparison of the South Hadley's vital statistics compiled during the past three fiscal years.

VITAL STATISTICS	2014	2015	2016
Births	122	137	123
Deaths	206	218	178
Marriage Intentions	78	68	77
Marriages	77	62	77
Homebirths	0	0	0
Business Certificates	97	316	62
Dog Licenses	1,495	1,460	1,473
New Voters Registered	703	645	959

The Board of Registrars consists of four members of which one member is the Town Clerk. The remaining members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen for alternate three year terms. This Board can be compared to an Election Commission in a town and the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth at the state level. The Board must always contain, as nearly as possible, representatives of the two leading political parties - Democrats and Republicans - and no more than two members of each. The Selectboard reappointed Registrar Amy Foley to serve a three year term. The Town Clerk and office staff carries out the functions of the Board of Registrars. These responsibilities include the conduct of elections and recounts, voter registration, compilation of the Annual List of Residents, publication and circulation of the voting and street lists, certification of signatures on nomination papers and petitions, and recording of Town Meeting minutes and attendance.

All registered voters in South Hadley vote at South Hadley High School with five voting precincts reporting to the

gymnasium unless otherwise designated to alternate rooms.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlene C. Hamlin, CMMC, Town Clerk

## Town Treasurer July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Balance in the Treasury	July 1, 2015	32,581,972.86
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### July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

<b>Receipts</b>		79,903,924.49
<b>Expenditures</b>		(78,886,198.41)

Balance in the Treasury	June 30, 2016	33,599,698.94
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Non-Interest Bearing Checking Accounts		<b>0.00</b>
Peoples Bank	Payroll	756,360.14
Peoples Bank	Vendor	3,365,965.51
		4,122,325.65

Interest Bearing Checking Accounts		
Peoples Bank	Electric Light	2,214,665.03
Peoples Bank	Night Deposit	56,641.20
Peoples Bank	School Lunch	87,290.48
Peoples Bank	Gen Dep 5321	2,971,641.48
Peoples United	Sweep 0106	(3,089.21)
Chicopee Savings	Gen Dep 2812	291,162.96
Chicopee Savings	On-line 3588	6,974.81
United Bank	Payroll closed	(4,127.47)
United Bank	Vendor closed	(23,686.42)
ESB	Consumer Dep	334,174.10
		5,931,646.96

Liquid Investments		
United Bank	Gen Fund 6537	716,310.06
United Bank	Gen Fund 7392	516,453.80
Peoples Bank	Ledges/Valley View	327,443.10
Peoples Bank	Recreation Revolving	66,566.68
Unibank	3881	3,570,750.84
Unibank	Rev Acct 6231	61,485.33
Unibank	BB Revolving 0688	25,998.99
ESB	Middle Sch Act 8424	65,297.68
ESB	High Sch Act 8408	67,658.19
ESB	Arts Lottery 8937	17,108.52
ESB	Gen Fund 1812	3,420,010.23
		8,855,183.42
Term Investments		
U.S. Treasury Bills		0.00
Repurchase Agreements		0.00
Other		0.00

Trust Funds		
ESB	Performance Bonds	5,161.77
MMDT	Conserv #2489	65,152.43
Bartholomew	Trust Funds	14,421,185.28
Bartholomew	OPEB Trust	199,043.43
Total Trust		<b>14,690,542.91</b>

All Cash and Investments	<b>33,599,698.94</b>
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Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Baldini, Treasurer/Collector

## Tree Warden

As Tree Warden, I am happy to report that progress continues for the care of South Hadley's community forest. During F.Y. 2016 a significant number of public trees have been pruned, several dead and hazardous trees have been removed and tree planting has increased. Other accomplishments include the town's 21-year membership in Tree City U.S.A. and the ongoing relationships with the National Arbor Day Foundation, the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association, the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the University of Massachusetts.

I thank the Selectboard, Department of Public Works and the Tree Committee for their support, advice and hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Ryan, Tree Warden

## Wiring Inspector

The time has once again arrived for a report on the work completed by the office of Wiring Inspector for the fiscal year July 2015 to June 2016. There were 348 permit applications issued and a total \$30,888 collected in fees.

Alarm Systems	32
New Homes & Condos	25
Additions & Remodeling	77
Above-Ground Pools	15
In-Ground Pools	3
Service Upgrades & Repairs	71
Misc. Appliances (A/C, Dryers, Oil Burners, Etc.)	52
Commercial Work	56
Solar Photovoltaic System	6
Temporary Services	5
Multi Family	6

At this time, I would like to express my appreciation for the assistance and cooperation I have received in the performance of my duties as Wiring Inspector.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Rivers, Wiring Inspector

## Youth Commission

The Youth Commission is in its sixth year and has continued to be a part of community events and activities. Without the support of the Adult Task Force, other town

organizations and community groups as well as local business they would not be able to accomplish all that they have. This past year we had a fellowship with a Mount Holyoke College senior, Eliza Dorney. She assisted running meetings, focus groups and events with the Commissioners. The Youth Commission would like to thank everyone who has supported them over the past year and who has continued to help them grow.

**Community Events:** The Youth Commission volunteered their time at FallsFest where they worked doing various activities including crafts and games with children, restocking soda and water and helping vendors set up and break down. They also were Celebrity Chefs at Buttery Brook Park for Cruise Night in July. As usual the youth participated in the annual 'Bag the Community' Event, dropping off bags and sorting food.

**Youth Commission Fundraiser:** The popular fundraiser, Flamingo Flocking, came to an official end in April. The fundraiser was extremely successful. Over 150 South Hadley residents and/or business were flocked and over \$2,000 was raised.

**Youth Commission Events:** Not only did the Youth Commission volunteer at many community events but they participated in many of their own events. This was the second year of the Trick-or-Treat trail at Buttery Brook Park. This year games and crafts were added to the event as well the trail. The event was a huge success with over 100 kids partaking in the festivities. A family movie night took place in December at the High School Auditorium where they showed the movie Incredibles.

With another year in the books, the Youth Commission looks forward to the upcoming year and many more new and exciting opportunities.

A big thanks to our seniors Jess Allen, Andrei Danilchenko, Jailene Rodriguez, Martiza Roman, Dylan Sparks, Dominique Stevenson-Pope & Christian Vadella for their contributions over the past year to the Youth Commission. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and hope you continue with us for the next few years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Stelma  
South Hadley Youth Commission Director

### Youth Commission

Jess Allen	Jon Niemiec
Kathryn Chouinard	Jailene Rodriguez
Andrei Danilchenko	Martiza Roman
Morgan Flynn	Dylan Sparks
Julia LeBlanc	Dominique Steveson-Pope
Emma Manzi	Christian Vadella

### Adult Task Force

Dave Allen	Steve Longpre
Sue Brouillette	



# Annual Town Election April 12, 2016

Precinct	A	B	C	D	E	Total
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<b>MODERATOR FOR ONE YEAR</b>						
Edward J. Ryan, Jr.	167	231	211	171	214	994
Write Ins	2	9	2	6	5	24
Blanks	55	132	83	125	143	538
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1556</b>

<b>SELECTBOARD FOR THREE YEARS</b>						
Ira Brezinsky	165	264	206	203	227	1065
Write Ins	1	6	3	2	5	17
Blank	58	102	87	97	130	474
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1556</b>

<b>SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THREE YEARS</b>						
John Kelly	163	240	193	168	201	965
Write In	2	3	8	1	4	18
Blank	59	129	95	133	157	573
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1556</b>

<b>BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THREE YEARS</b>						
Walter Wolf	173	262	202	200	233	1070
Write In	2	3	3	0	2	10
Blank	49	107	91	102	127	476
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1556</b>

<b>MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD FOR THREE YEARS</b>						
Kurt Schenker	98	149	124	85	128	584
Vernon Blodgett	130	189	128	167	195	809
Dale Johnston	55	99	85	110	70	419
Diane Mulvaney	82	141	132	80	133	568
Write In	2	0	1	1	1	5
Blank	81	166	122	161	197	727
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>3112</b>

<b>MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD FOR TWO YEARS</b>						
Gregory Dubreuil	97	166	118	129	161	671
Jeffrey Millard	106	151	140	118	143	658
Write In	1	1	1	0	0	3
Blank	20	54	37	55	58	224
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1556</b>

<b>MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD FOR ONE YEAR</b>						
John Hine	149	239	187	178	203	956
Write In	2	3	6	0	4	15
Blank	73	130	103	124	155	585
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1556</b>

<b>HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR FIVE YEARS</b>						
John Duda	171	250	211	188	219	1039
Write Ins	1	0	1	0	3	5
Blanks	52	122	84	114	140	512
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1556</b>

<b>BOARD OF ASSESSORS FOR THREE YEARS</b>						
Francis Conti	165	226	188	166	205	950
Write In	1	1	2	0	2	6

Blank	58	145	106	136	155	600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1556</b>

## LIBRARY TRUSTEES FOR THREE YEARS

Robert Berwick	121	174	141	147	170	753
Maxine Cechvala	117	183	138	141	159	738
Barbara Merchant	154	209	183	155	171	872
Richard Matteson	93	128	114	102	112	549
Write In	0	6	1	1	1	9
Blank	187	416	311	360	473	1747
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>1116</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>1086</b>	<b>4668</b>

## PLANNING BOARD FOR FIVE YEARS

Write in	13	42	25	52	26	162
Bradford Hutchinson	0	21	3	35	13	72
Matthew McDonough	1	3	10	7	3	24
Blank	211	329	269	250	335	1394
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>1556</b>

## COUNCILOR – HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR TWO YEARS

Write in	14	9	16	5	9	53
Julie Gentile	0	0	4	0	0	4
Jeffrey Millard	0	0	0	0	2	2
Blank	434	733	572	599	713	3059

## BALLOT QUESTION 1

Yes	102	199	105	148	158	712
No	96	138	178	141	182	735
Blank	26	35	13	13	22	109
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>1556</b>

Precinct	A	B	C	D	E	Total
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**TOWN MEETING MEMBER PRECINCT A  
FOR THREE YEARS (VOTE FOR EIGHT)**

Gail Pafford	144	0	0	0	0	144
Carolanne Bright	141	0	0	0	0	141
Beth Dowd	143	0	0	0	0	143
Elaine Paulin	146	0	0	0	0	146
John Urekew	145	0	0	0	0	145
Write-ins	83	0	0	0	0	83
John Scibak	21	0	0	0	0	21
Raymond Rondeau	20	0	0	0	0	20
Lucia Foley	19	0	0	0	0	19
Blank	990					990

**TOWN MEETING MEMBER PRECINCT B  
FOR THREE YEARS (VOTE FOR EIGHT)**

Edward Boisselle	0	183	0	0	0	183
Elaine D'Amours	0	189	0	0	0	189
Thomas Chevalier	0	187	0	0	0	187
Jacqueline Dupre	0	202	0	0	0	202
Winston Lavallee	0	220	0	0	0	220
Anne Sorbel	0	203	0	0	0	203
Martha Terry	0	222	0	0	0	222
Jeffrey Millard	0	180	0	0	0	180
Write-in	0	15	0	0	0	15
Blank	0	1189	0	0	0	1189

**TOWN MEETING MEMBER PRECINCT C  
FOR THREE YEARS (VOTE FOR EIGHT)**

James Canning	0	0	166	0	0	166
Sarah Etelman	0	0	168	0	0	168
Julie Gentile	0	0	177	0	0	177
John Wessig	0	0	132	0	0	132
Write-in	0	0	31	0	0	31
Daniel Faille	0	0	4	0	0	4
Diane Mulvaney-Supczak	0	0	3	0	0	3
Elizabeth Austin	0	0	2	0	0	2
Renee Sweeney	0	0	2	0	0	2
Blank	0	0	1678	0	0	1678

**TOWN MEETING MEMBER PRECINCT C  
FOR TWO YEARS**

Ann Eaton	0	0	183	0	0	183
Write in	0	0	1	0	0	1
Blank	0	0	112	0	0	112

**TOWN MEETING MEMBER PRECINCT D  
FOR THREE YEARS (VOTE FOR EIGHT)**

Theodore Boulais	0	0	0	166	0	166
Ira Brezinsky	0	0	0	185	0	185
Carol Constant	0	0	0	177	0	177
Marilyn Gass	0	0	0	156	0	156
Dale Johnston	0	0	0	153	0	153
Joan Rosner	0	0	0	161	0	161
Vernon Blodgett	0	0	0	175	0	175

John Duda	0	0	0	146	0	146
Write-in	0	0	0	5	0	5
Blank	0	0	0	958	0	958

**TOWN MEETING MEMBER PRECINCT D  
FOR TWO YEARS**

Denise Presley	0	0	0	178	0	178
Write in	0	0	0	1	0	1
Blank	0	0	0	123	0	123

**TOWN MEETING MEMBER PRECINCT E  
FOR THREE YEARS (VOTE FOR EIGHT)**

Doris Dubois	0	0	0	0	146	146
Kathryn Gallivan	0	0	0	0	154	154
Susan Kelsey	0	0	0	0	140	140
Mitchell Resnick	0	0	0	0	176	176
Joshua Abrams	0	0	0	0	117	117
Joanna Brown	0	0	0	0	164	164
Helen Fantini	0	0	0	0	117	117
Philip Sanford	0	0	0	0	119	119
Write in	0	0	0	0	8	8
Blank	0	0	0	0	1332	1332

**TOWN MEETING MEMBER PRECINCT E  
FOR TWO YEARS**

Bruce Forcier	0	0	0	0	75	75
Allyson Garcia	0	0	0	0	84	84
Kenneth Rogers	0	0	0	0	87	87
Write in	0	0	0	0	2	2
Blank	0	0	0	0	114	114

Total Ballots	224	372	296	302	362	1556
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Voter Turnout	14.60%
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**A TRUE COPY ATTEST:**

**Carlene C. Hamlin**  
Carlene C. Hamlin, Town Clerk