

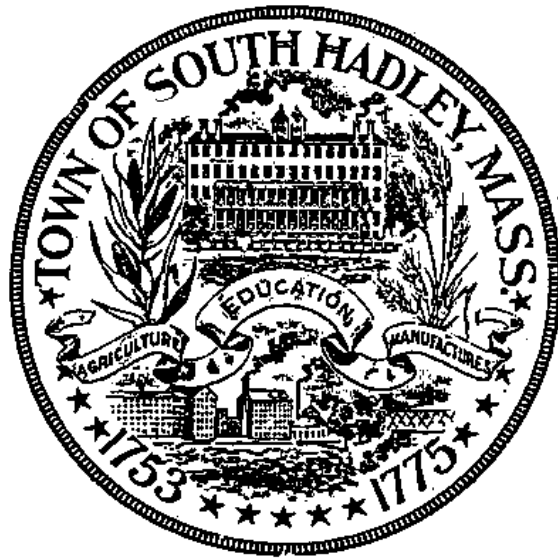


ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT



JULY 1, 2019 – JUNE 30, 2020

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Facts of Interest about South Hadley

- The 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. They may register the first day they move into town. Register at the town clerk's office, online, by mail or by motor vehicle registration renewal.

Population

Federal Census 2010 - 17,514
Federal Census 2000 - 17,196
2017 Local Census - 17,682
Federal Census 2020 - 18,179

Form of Government

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

Tax Rate

\$17.58 - FY 2020

Total Valuation of Taxable Property: \$1,659,404,423 -FY 2020

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:

(1st Congressional District)
Richard E. Neal

State Senator:

(Franklin/Hampshire District)
Joanne Comerford

Representative in General Court:

(2nd Hampshire)
Daniel Carey

Member of Governor's Council:

(8th Councilor District)
Mary Hurley

District Attorney:

David E. Sullivan

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

Police Department 538-5050

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 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6181**

Deputy Town Administrator – Town Hall Office Hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6185**

Human Resources/Procurement –Town Hall Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6129**

School Committee – High School Library, Newton Street, Meetings 1st 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 1st Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6184**

Town Clerk – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6183**

Collector/Treasurer – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6189**

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. 538-5030, ext. 6183**

Town Accountant – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6180**

Board of Assessors – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meetings 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 10 a.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6182**

Director of Veterans’ Services – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to noon. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6137**

Building Commissioner – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6186**

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 3rd Wednesday at 7 p.m. unless otherwise posted. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6187**

IT Department/Coordinator - Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6124**

Recreation Department – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meetings 2nd Tuesday at 6 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6188**

Payroll/Benefits Coordinator – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6117**

Planning Board/Planning Director – Town Hall Office Hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Meetings 2nd and 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6187**

Wiring Inspector – Town Hall Office Hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. **Tel. 538-5030, ext. 6111**

Plumbing/Gas Inspector – Town Hall Office Hours, M, Tu, Th and F, 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. **Tel.: 538-5030, ext. 6108**

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

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

Sealer of Weights & Measures - **Tel. 587-1002**

Parks Division – Town Barn, Lincoln Street. **Tel. 538-5030 ext. 6500**

Co-Forest Wardens – District #1 & 2 Fire Chiefs. **Tel.: (413) 532-5343 and (413) 534-5803**

Dog Officer – **McClair Mailhott Tel. (413) 538-5050**

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

Town Government

Elected Officials 2020

Moderator (3 year)

John R. Hine (2021)

Selectboard/Police and Sewer Commissioners (3 years)

Christopher F. Geraghty (2022)

Andrea G. Miles (2023)

Jeffrey A. Cyr - Chair (2021)

Sarah Etelman, (2023)

Bruce C. Forcier (2021)

School Committee (3 years)

Charles Miles (2022)

Allyson Garcia, (2023)

Christine A. Phillips (2021)

Allison R. Schlachter (2023)

Kyle R. Belanger - Chair (2021)

Board of Health (3 years)

Walter R. Wolf, DPM (2022)

*Johanna Ravenhurst (appointed)

Karen Pio (2023)

Jessica Collins – (Chair) (2021)

Linda Duguay (2023)

*Christine Remie (appointed)

Gerald A. Judge (2023)

Municipal Light Board (3 years)

Gregory R. Dubreuil - Chair (2021)

Anne Awad (2022)

Kurt C. Schenker (2022)

Peter McAvoy (2021)

John R. Hine (2023)

Trustee for Free Public Library (3 years)

Constance A. Clancy (2021)

Timna Tarr (2021)

David C. Morell (2023)

Barbara J. Merchant, (2022)

Gillian M. Woldorf (2023)

Susan Obremski-Crowther (2023)

Mitchell B. Resnick - Chair (2021)

Leslie P. Fields (2022)

Robert S. Berwick (2022)

Board of Assessors (3 years)

Thomas R. Reidy (2022)

Evelyn Mason (2021)

Kevin E. Taugher - Chair (2023)

Planning Board (3 years)

Diane Mulvaney (2023)

Melissa O'Brien (2021)

Nate Therien (2023)

Bradford S. Hutchison - Chair (2021)

Joanne Brown (2022)

Housing Authority (5 years)

Matthew S. Brunell (2021)

John E. Duda (2021)

Anne Blaney-Perez (2024)

James W. Menard - Chair (2025)

Christine Blaney (State Appointed)

Appointed Officials

Town Administrator

Michael J. Sullivan (2021)

Town Accountant (5 years)

William Sutton (2022)

Town Clerk

Carlene C. Hamlin (2023)

Town Collector/Treasurer

Donna Whiteley (2023)

Town Counsel (1 year)

Lisa Mead

Animal Control Officer

McClair W. Mailhott, Jr. (2020)

Building Commissioner (1 year)

David Gardner

Cable Studio (1 year)

Robert Smith

Chief of Police

Jennifer Gundersen (2022)

Conservation Administrator/Planner (1 year)

Anne Capra

Constables (1 year)

Michael Dubuc, David J. Labrie

Maclair W. Mailhott, Jr., Peter Michaels

Council on Aging Director (1 year)

Leslie Hennessey

Deputy Town Administrator (1 year)

Jennifer L. Wolowicz

Emergency Management Director (1 year)

Sharon Hart

Facilities Manager/Health & Safety Coordinator

Matthew Cowie

Human Resources/Payroll Manager

Michelle L. Parent

IT Network Technician (1 year)

James Doolittle

Ledges Golf Club

Mike Fontaine, General Manager

Parking Clerk (1 year)

Donna Whiteley

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Representative (1 year)

Joanna Brown

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Alternate Rep. (1 year)

Anne Capra

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board (1 year)

Michael J. Sullivan

Plumbing Inspector (1 year)

David Tourville

Public Library Director

Joseph Rodeo

Recreation Director (1 year)

Andrew Rogers

Registrars of Voters (3 years)

Carlene C. Hamlin (Ex. Officio), Shelley A. Gingras (2021), Nicole L. Casolari (2023), Amy M.G. Foley (2022)

Tree Warden/Inspector of Pest Control (1 year)

Vacant

Veteran's Agent

Paul Seifert

Wiring Inspector (3 years)

Roy Rivers

Sealer of Weights and Measures (3 years)

Thomas Kelleher (2021)

Superintendent of Public Works

James M. Reidy

Superintendent of Schools

Diana Bonneville, Interim

Town Meeting Members

Precinct A

Kyle Belanger (2023)
Deborah L. Bergeron (2023)
Gail Bielizna Pafford (2022)
Pauline Casey (2021)
Laurie A. Casolari (2021)
Regina E. Hall (2023)
Tara Cole (2022)
Gena M Lomelin (2023)
Aaron Ferguson (2022)
Leonard M. Finkowski (2021)
Lucia Foley (2022)
William Foley (2021)
Hector M. Lomelin (2023)
Alanna Hoyer-Leitzel (2022)
Michael Lafreniere (2021)
Mitchel J. Malinowski (2023)
Evelyn Masson (2022)
Andrew J. Schnitzer (2023)
Andrea G. Miles (2021)
Charles Miles (2021)
Clifford Pafford (2021)
Elaine Paulin (2022)
Raymond Rondeau (2022)
Allyson Garcia (2023)

Precinct B

Anne Awad (2023)
Edward Boisselle (2022)
Evelyn Chesky (2023)
Elaine D'Amours (2022)
Francis J. DeToma, Sr. (2023)
Jacqueline Dupre (2022)
Robert G. Judge (2021)
John A. Kelly (2023)
Paul A. Dobosh (2023)
Diane LaRoche (2021)
Winston Lavallee (2022)
Peter Mcavoy (2021)
Jeffery Millard (2022)
Jodi Miller (2021)
Scott R. Moore (2021)
Susan Newton (2021)

Bruce P. Piquette (2022)
Kurt Schenker (2023)
Anne Sobel (2022)
Rudolf Ternbach (2023)
Martha R. Terry (2022)
Thomas R Terry (2023)
Nathan Therien (2021)
Mark Zraunig (2021)

Precinct C

Andrew Beaudry (2023)
Chelsea Beaudry (2021)
James Canning (2022)
Jeffrey A. Cyr (2023)
Ann Eaton (2021)
Sarah Etelman (2022)
Daniel Faille (2022)
Jon E. Camp (2023)
Eric Friesner (2023)
Julie Gentile (2022)
John R. Hine (2023)
David King (2021)
Eileen Kosiba (2022)
Ken Kostek (2021)
Linda M. Duguay (2023)
Diane Mulvaney (2022)
Anthony J. Pluta (2021)
Christie Reardon (2021)
Tracie Rubeck (2021)
Renee Sweeney (2022)
Kevin E. Taugher (2023)
Amanda Vann (2022)
Robin Wagner (2021)
Michael Wozniak (2023)

Precinct D

Vernon Blodgett Jr. (2022)
Theodore J. Boulais (2022)
Ira J. Brezinsky (2022)
Barbara E. Bristol (2023)
Mark Cavanaugh (2021)
Carol P Constant (2022)

Richard Constant (2023)
Harriet Corbin Finkel (2021)
John Duda (2022)
Leslie Fields (2023)
Amy Foley (2021)
Peter A. Gagne (2023)
Beverly A. Gagne (2023)
Marilyn T. Gass (2022)
Stephen B Hamlin (2023)
Margaret E. Jodoin (2021)
Dale Johnston II (2022)
Patricia C. Kraske (2021)
Cynthia Pyle (2021)
Marie Rohan (2023)
Joan B. Rosner (2022)
Michael A Rosner (2023)
Allison Schlachter (2021)
Barry C Waite (2021)

Precinct E

Natasha Anderson (2023)
Antoinette T. Bara (2023)
Robert Berwick (2023)
Deborah Boehner (2022)
Joanna Brown (2022)
Brian Cahillane (2023)
Nicole L. Casolari (2021)
MP Chevy Chevrette (2021)
Kathleen Davis (2021)
Doris R. Dubois (2022)
Lawrence H. Dubois (2021)
Helen J. Fantini (2022)
Kathryn Gallivan (2022)
Christopher Geraghty (2021)
Marilyn G Ishler (2023)
Gerald A. Judge (2023)
Daniel Kelleher (2021)
Susan M. Kelsey (2022)
Thomas Lake (2021)
Jennifer Matos (2023)
Steve Merrill (2021)
Mitchell Resnick (2022)
Philip Sanford (2022)
Linda L. Young (2022)

Boards and Committees

Bike/Walk Committee

Nancy Bozek (2020)
Larry Dubois (2020)
Lucia Foley (2020)
Marilyn Gass (2020)
Margaret Jodoin (2020)
Mariann Millard (2020)
Melissa O'Brien (2020)
Carol Gillis (2020)

Board of Registrars

Carlene C. Hamlin (Ex-Officio)
Amy MG Foley - Chair (2022)
Shelley Gingras (2021)
Nicole L. Casolari (2023)

Bylaw Review Committee

Charles Miles – (2021)
Anne Awad Chair (2022)
Vernon Blodgett (2023)
Ira Brezinsky (2021)
Vacant (2022)
Vacant (2021)
Vacant (2023)

Canal Park Committee

Vacant (2023)
Vacant (2023)
Richard A Constant Chair (2021)
Eleanor Klepacki (2021)
Aaron Haesaert (2022)
Joshua Driver (2022)
Vacant (2021)

Capital Planning Committee

John Pietras (2020)
Theodore Boulais - Chair (2021)
Jeffrey Cyr (2020)
Christine Phillips (2023)
Charles Miles (2023)
Ira Brezinsky (2021)
Forrest Price Jr (2022)
Joan Rosner (2020)

Commission on Disability

Susan Dunderdale -Chair (2023)
Tay Silveira -Vice Chair (2022)
Jamie Mazur - Secretary (2022)
Larry Dubois (2021)
Johnstone Campbell (2021)

Connecticut River Channel Marking Committee

Lucien A Brunelle, Jr. (2020)

Conservation Commission

Neva Tolopko (2023)
Stephanie L. Clymer (2021)
James Canning (2021)
William Bacis (2022)
William DeLuca - Chair (2023)
Tom Dennis (2022)
Garth Schwellenbach (2021)
Mary Zawatski - Associate (2023)

Council on Aging Board of Directors

Rita Starzyk (2023)
Liane Pueschel (2021)
Linda Young (2021)
Carol Constant (2023)
Robert Pueschel (2023)
Karen Buscemi (2022)
Allyson Garcia (2022)
Laurie Casolari (2022)
Mary J. Boulais (2021)
Drewey Darnell (2021)

Cultural Council

Paul Lambert (2023)
Dick Matteson (2023)
Alexandra Ripp (2023)
Scott M. St. Pierre (2021)
Rebecca Slitt (2022)
Keith M. Paul (2021)
Robin C. Wagner (2021)
Alexis Allen (2023)
Ira Brezinsky (2023)
John Anz (2023)
Karen Donnelly – Associate (2022)

Historical Commission

Keith Paul (2021)
Michael Chunyk (2022)
Don Whelihan (2022)

Historical District Study Commission

Eleanor Small (2023)
Cynthia Baker (2021)
Pauline L. Casey (2021)
Francis DeToma (2022)
Gerald A Judge (2022)

Master Plan Implementation Committee

Judith Mirick Gooch (2023)
Margaret Jodoin (2023)
Keith Paul (2021)
Nate Therien (2023)
Alexis Allen (2021)
Michelle Wolfe (2022)
Larry Dixon (2022)

Municipal Golf Course Commission

Chris Collins - Alternate (2022)
Craig Camerlin (2022)
Leonard Finkowski (2021)
Walter Braley (2022)
Jeffrey Millard (2022)

Recreation Committee

Kathleen Sharkey (2023)
Raymond Carillon (2023)
Patrick Dawson - Chair (2021)
Byron Joy (2021)
Benjamin Sabbs (2023)
Mark Zraunig (2022)
David Mendoza (2022)
Laura Friesner (2022)
Ryan Kennedy (2021)

Redevelopment Authority

Francis J. DeToma Chair (2023)
Diane LaRoche (2022)
Gerald A Judge (2024)
Imad Zubi (2021)

**Senior Center Building
Committee (2020)**

Jeffrey A. Cyr
Carol P. Constant
Diane V. Supczak-Mulvaney
Linda L. Young
Theodore J. Boulais
Michael R. Siddall
Richard J. Pio
Richard Ness

**Sustainability and Energy
Commission**

Karl Hidden (2021)
John Howard (2023)
Jennifer Deforge (2022)
Raghu Raghavan (MHC) (2025)

Tree Committee

Linda Young (2021)
Genevieve Van de Merghel
(2023)
Michael Lamontagne (2023)
Dennis J Swartwout (2023)
Theodore Boulais (2021)
Bobbie Salthouose (2022)
James Canning (2023)

**Trustees of the Old Firehouse
Museum**

Robert J Blaney (2023)
Diane LaRoche (2021)
Philip L LaRoche (2021)
Kenneth Merchant (2021)
Desiree Smelcer (2022)
Wayne D Gass (2022)
Barbara Merchant (2022)

Zoning Board of Appeals

Barbara Erwin (2021)
Stephen Frantz - Associate
Jacqueline Dupre (2022)
Martha Terry (2022)

Retirements

In recognition of the many contributions to the Town of South Hadley by its employees, we express our appreciation for their dedication to the town and wish them a long and happy retirement. Retirees include Christopher Luscomb, Mark Schmitter, Jim Reidy, Donna Miesch, Steven Fleming, Ola Herbert, Paul Schmitter, Donna Pietrzykowski, Janice Caron, Suzanne Clark, Paul Foerster, Dawn Smith, William Donah, Pamela Howes, and Bruce Mailhott.

In Memoriam

We celebrate with gratitude the lives of all citizens, employees and volunteers now deceased, who have given their time and energy to help sustain the Town of South Hadley. We thank them for their dedication and service to the town, and recognize their efforts on behalf of our community.

Selectboard

Following the March town elections, we congratulate Sarah Etelman and Andrea Miles on their re-election to the Select Board. Their continued service and dedication to the board and the town is appreciated. Shortly after the elections in 2020, the year was trending “life as usual” and slowly transformed into “the new normal” due to the frightening COVID-19 pandemic that took hold of our nation and more importantly our community unlike any challenge we have ever endured. We would like to thank our residents for their patience and diligence during this unprecedented time. We believe South Hadley will continue to exhibit strength and unity as a result well into the future.

Our Annual Town Meeting was held on June 17, 2020 at Saint Theresa’s church parking lot. We would like to sincerely thank our Town Administrator Mike Sullivan, Clerk Carlene Hamlin, Town Moderator John Hine and all the town hall staff as well as Town Meeting Members for making the meeting a success in compliance with the Governors’ executive order. We are optimistic for the first “drive in” style town meeting - hopefully the last our community will have to encounter in the future.

Under the Governor’s executive order due to the pandemic, the Selectboard through the guidance of our Town Administrator and an appointed advisory committee, adopted a virtual platform to keep continuity of town business inclusive of all the various boards and committees to continue their service to the town, as well. This was a completely new concept of holding meetings for most if not all and we thank everyone for their patience and cooperation as well as their service to the community.

The town welcomed our new Department of Public Works Director in April of 2020. Christopher Bouchard took the helm after the

retirement of Jim Reidy in the fall of 2019. Chris comes with many years of experience in the field and we look forward to his future leadership of the department. We would like to thank Lieutenant Chris Luscomb and School Resource Officer Steve Fleming for their years of dedicated service and congratulate both on their retirement from our police department.

The Ledges Golf Club continues to trend positively considering the golf season got off to a really late start in June and a short extended season this past fall. We thank International Golf Maintenance and the staff for their cooperation and perseverance to continue the operation in its limited capacity while adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines throughout the shortened season.

The Selectboard voted June 30, 2020 to release a statement against racism. We respectfully recognize the concern and the remedy regarding this important issue. We thank all department heads and employees for engaging in trainings and applying the training to their everyday lives. South Hadley must continue the inclusion of all people to maintain civility within our community.

The town saw some much needed development within the falls area. The first project is the ongoing rehabilitation of the old main library to condominium units at the corner of Bardwell and Gaylord streets. The second project is on the property directly adjacent to the new main library on Canal Street that consists of 12 condominium units. Both parcels are now taxable parcels and have improved the properties as well. In addition to the falls area, the town is looking forward to the development of the Newton Street plaza that will consist of 60 affordable housing units. This project would not have been possible without the 40B designation for which Town Meeting voted.

The new dog park was completed and opened on Mulligan Drive in the fall of 2020. We are hopeful there will be a more formal “ribbon cutting” ceremony once the pandemic is behind us. In the meantime, we would like to sincerely thank the Friends of the South Hadley Dog Park for their efforts and continued support for that added destination within our community.

Our open space continues to grow positively. The town is in the process of acquiring a three-acre parcel along Rt. 116 (Amherst Rd.) The acquisition will allow the habitat to survive through preservation and management. This would not have been possible without the efforts of Conservation Administrator Anne Capra and grant funding from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The town has been fortunate and grateful for the grants we have been receiving. The most recent was the \$2.7 million Mass Works Grant for infrastructure improvements along Lyman and Fulton streets. These improvements will complement the proposed development in the Newton Street plaza as well.

To conclude, the Selectboard sincerely appreciates all its residents for their continued support of this great community. We are extremely fortunate to have such great participation on the all the various boards and committees. These efforts are what make South Hadley such a great place to live.

Respectfully,
 Jeffrey Cyr, Chair
 South Hadley Selectboard

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), Division of Local Services (DLS). For Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 (which runs from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020), property values were updated pursuant to certification standards set forth and published by DLS. The overall result of this certification, a.k.a. revaluation, was the total property valuation of the town increased by 4.1%. The average value of a single-family home for FY 2020 is \$264,800, up from \$ 256,000 last year.

As of January 1, 2019, which is the assessment date for FY 2020 property valuation, the total taxable value for all property of the Town of South Hadley is \$ 1,659,404,423. In addition, the exempt property valuation for the town is \$170,121,800. The *town* tax rate for FY 2020 is \$17.58 per thousand, down from \$17.75 per thousand, a decrease of 2.0%. The total town budget for FY 2020 was \$53,142,058 million with \$ 29,172,330 million being raised through taxation. The maximum allowable tax levy limit was \$29,181,095 including additional tax revenue of \$271,245 resulting from new growth in property values.

The following table illustrates the impact of all outstanding debt exclusions on the average single family tax bill over the last three fiscal years:

Project	Debt Service 18 amount	FY 19 amount	Debt Service FY 20 amount	FY 18 tax rate impact	FY 19 tax rate impact	FY 20 tax rate impact	FY20 Impact on average single family tax bill
Library	\$ 259,228.00	\$ 256,468.00	\$ 263,708.00	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.16	\$ 42.37
Plains	\$ 784,866.00	\$ 800,806.00	\$ 792,375.00	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.48	\$ 127.10
High & Middle School	\$ 18,589.00	\$ 207,175.00	\$ 137,675.00	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.13	\$ 0.08	\$ 21.18
	\$ 1,062,683.00	\$ 1,264,449.00	\$ 1,193,758.00	\$ 0.69	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.72	\$ 190.65

Fiscal 2018 average single family home value = \$247,600
 Fiscal 2019 average single family home value = \$256,000
 Fiscal 2020 average single family home value = \$264,800

This table lists the top ten FY20 taxpayers

Name	Nature of Business	Total FY 2020 Taxable Value	FY 20 Town Tax	% of Tax Levy
NStar Electric	Utility	\$ 11,466,726	\$ 201,585.04	0.69%
Maraline Development Corp	Commercial Properties	\$ 10,138,100	\$ 178,227.80	0.61%
Loomis Village	Assisted Living	\$ 10,107,000	\$ 177,681.06	0.61%
WBCMT-2007-C33	Manufacturing	\$ 9,411,600	\$ 165,455.93	0.57%
Columbia Gas of Mass	Utility	\$ 9,289,450	\$ 163,308.53	0.56%
Mount Holyoke College	Education	\$ 8,510,486	\$ 149,614.34	0.51%
Center Redevelopment	Retail/Residential	\$ 6,364,620	\$ 111,890.02	0.38%
Riverboat Village Assoc	Apartments	\$ 6,119,100	\$ 107,573.78	0.37%
Massachusetts SNF 2 LLC	Nursing Home	\$ 5,067,900	\$ 89,093.68	0.31%
Unihamp Mass	Professional/Grocery	\$ 4,215,600	\$ 74,110.25	0.25%

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 (7,219 taxable parcels) and personal property (185 billable accounts) to be committed to the Collector for issuance.

In addition to property tax bills, the assessors committed to the Collector 18,698 automobile excise tax bills and 354 boat excise tax bills.

Along with tax bills come abatements and exemptions. This fiscal year the office processed 842 abatements and/or exemptions across all categories of tax bills. A breakdown of the transactions for FY 2020 are as follows: 20 real estate abatements, 234 personal exemptions on real estate, 2 personal property abatements, 23 boat excise abatements, and 563 motor vehicle excise abatements. Abatements processed this year covered fiscal years 2008, 2010, 2017-2020.

Real estate deed transactions have increased this fiscal year from last year by approximately 4%. This fiscal year the office staff retrieved from the Registry of Deeds 527 transfers which were then entered into the valuation software on 493 properties.

For FY 2020, 602 building permits were retrieved, entered, and reviewed for 514 properties.

The board is continuing its data collection program for cyclical inspections as required by the DOR. We are currently on track to inspect or attempt inspection of all properties by the end of FY 2021.

In April of 2019 Lynn Masson, who was jointly appointed last year to fill a vacancy, was elected to the board for a two-year term. Lynn is dedicated to the world of assessing and we welcome her aboard as an elected official.

The board would like to remind the general public that most of the information in our office is public and open to inspection. It is the board's hope that if people find that accessing answers to questions and reviewing properties on the town's website or digital mapping program is too challenging, that they should feel free to contact 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. This year, with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic which changed the way our worlds operate, we especially thank Mike Sullivan, Town Administrator, and Jennifer Wolowicz, Deputy Town Administrator, for the support provided to our department and staff. This has been greatly 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, Chairman (2020)
Thomas R. Reidy, Clerk (2022)
Lynn M. Masson, Member (2021)

OFFICE STAFF:

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

Bike-Walk Committee

In FY20 the Bike-Walk Committee (BWC) continued to focus on advocacy for community biking and walking resources, and sought to build awareness and support participation among diverse audiences of all ages.

Support for town initiatives and objectives

- South Hadley Master Plan (MP) Update and Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update

BWC is identified in a number of MP and OSRP tasks. A BWC member served on both Update Committees; members joined in community forums and reviewed/commented on draft documents.

- 2019 Mass Trails Conference: Trails as Connections

Three BWC members attended the November 2019 state conference in Leominster for networking and workshops on developing, funding, maintaining, sustaining, and promoting a range of outdoor resources.

- ValleyBike Share

BWC continued to support efforts to promote interest in and use of this regional program.

Public activities

- Mount Holyoke College Project Stream Tour and Upper Lake Trails Trek—September 22, 2019

Guided tour and talk at the ADA-accessible boardwalk and restoration project with Kate Ballantine of the MHC Restoration Ecology Program, followed by a BWC-guided Trek of the campus Upper Lake Trails.

- Go4Life Stroll—October 20, 2019 (in collaboration with Council on Aging, Planning/Conservation Dept.)

The second all-abilities event at the River-to-Range Trail included trail interpreters stationed along the route and a collection for the food pantry, with water from Big Y and snacks from SHHS Culinary Arts.

- Leaping Well Nature Trail Dedication—November 17, 2019

The new trail on the former Toth property was dedicated with a ribbon cutting, refreshments, and a guided Trek organized by BWC. Selectboard and Toth family members, and others were present for the event.

- Guided Treks

Planned winter Treks at Bachelor Brook Forest Trail and Ledges Golf Course were postponed due to inclement weather. COVID-19 forced cancellation of rescheduled/planned Treks in March, April, May.

Advocacy and engagement

- Connectivity

Members have attended meetings and info sessions for the MA East-West Rail Study, MassDOT local projects, and SH Planning Board hearings to stay informed on topics concerning connectivity/access.

- Networking and Education

BWC seeks to network regionally and with other Town boards/committees to foster the development of biking and walking resources and has advocated for instituting regular joint meetings among Town committees with intersecting missions to support ongoing collaboration and information/idea exchange.

- Access for All

Through the service of our members and friends with physical disabilities, BWC is mindful of the value of accommodations in our public life. The BWC chair attended a Selectboard meeting in September, 2019 to discuss remote participation aspects of MA Open Meeting Law for facilitating committee participation by diverse community members, including those with physical limitations that restrict in-person attendance. Details of the no-cost/low-tech implementation strategies used by two nearby communities were shared.

- Maintaining Recreation Resources

In keeping with Master Plan objectives, BWC expressed support for maintaining, improving, and adding to accessible neighborhood

recreation sites, such as the playground near the new Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Lucia Foley, Member

Bike-Walk Committee (FY20):

Mariann Millard, Chair, Nancy Bozek, Larry DuBois, Lucia Foley, Marilyn Gass, Margaret Jodoin, Melissa O'Brien

South Hadley Council on Aging

The South Hadley Council on Aging, with the support and the participation of the community, identifies, advocates, and implements meaningful educational, cultural, social volunteer and wellness activities for persons age 60 and over.

The fiscal year began with a great deal of excitement; a design for the new senior center had been chosen, Souliere and Zepka Construction, Inc had been awarded the construction contract to build the new senior center, and the Town of South Hadley entered into a lease agreement with St. Theresa of Lisieux Parish Hall as a temporary location for the senior center's activities during the construction of the building.

The senior center's programming emphasized areas such as health and wellness, outreach and resources, recreation and socialization and nutrition education. Most of that programming transferred easily to St. Theresa's parish hall and we were able to serve the needs of seniors without missing a step.

In early January of 2020 we were very optimistic about the robust schedule of evening programming we had developed. The programs focused on elder law issues and wellness topics and arrangements were made to host our programs at the South Hadley Public Library.

In February 2019 we began working closely with our Regional Census Bureau Liaison to schedule informational events and activities to support and showcase the 2020 National Census.

On March 13, 2020 the senior center closed to the public. With a mission of combating social isolation by providing activities, education, recreation and service for older adults, the decision to close the center was heartbreaking, but a necessary step to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect our seniors against a global pandemic.

With guidance from our town administration, Board of Health, and Emergency Management Director, we developed innovative programming that was non-contact, curbside, remote and virtual.

Programming and Activities: virtual, channel 15, curbside and delivery:

- Wear a Mask Campaign: free handmade masks & surgical masks.
- Zoom Fitness programs: Tai Chi, Fitness Basics with Lindsey, Seated & Standing Yoga and Gently Yoga
- Virtual Coffee & Conversation Hour
- How to Zoom: instructional program.
- Reminiscing Workshop: Zoom & phone in
- Book Club (Zoom)
- Collage workshop (Zoom)
- Watercolor Class (Zoom)
- Online resources for Mind, Body and Spirit
- Golden Chronicle Word Search Challenge
- "The Price is Right" (Zoom game).
- "Check in" list of 190 seniors: monthly calls made by staff.
- "Hello Friends" note card program: monthly, 80 seniors participate; 10 COA volunteers assist with this program.
- Low Vision Support Group continues with conference call meetings.
- Census information promoted.

- Curbside Events: Stay Home Stay Safe Bags, Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast and the Brown Bag monthly supplemental food program.

- The COA received 150 All Access Passes to the Masterclass online instructional network.

- Friends of the South Hadley Seniors Friday Bingo (Zoom)

Channel 15 Programs

- Healthy Bones & Balance Class

- Paint & Sip workshop

- YMCA Fitness Class

- Home Safety and Fall Prevention Series

- Entertainment: Sheryl Faye presents Anne Frank

Virtual Support:

- Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group

- The New Normal: Conversations with Karen Buschemi, PMH-NP

- Mindfulness Practice with Kerry Ouimette

The COA transportation program closed on March 13 and remained closed for the rest of the fiscal year. We formed a partnership with PVTA and their Dial-A-Ride Program to continue transportation options for our seniors and we supplemented the cost of the PVTA tickets from our transportation gift account. Our grant funded medical transportation program was adapted to use the Dial-A-Ride system as well.

The Golden Chronicle, our monthly newsletter, provided monthly updates on COVID-19 and resources for food, delivery services for groceries and medication, PVTA information, senior shopping hours and our virtual programming options. Because information was changing so quickly in the days of the pandemic, we started a weekly email brief to keep our senior community informed of new updates and alerts.

The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors were very busy in Fiscal Year 2019/2020. They held several successful fundraisers to support the

new senior center building project, including the very popular Handbag Bingo Fundraiser, the Holiday Wreath sale, the Mother’s Day plant sale, and a spectacular concert with Dan Kane and Friends. The Friends generously provided funding for our curbside events and activities needs. We are grateful for their continued support.

This year was challenging to say the least; I thank the dedicated staff of the Council on Aging for their efforts on behalf of all older adult in South Hadley.

We sincerely wish to thank our town officials, boards and departments for their assistance and cooperation over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Hennessey, Director
South Hadley Council on Aging

Board of Directors
Mary Boulais, Karen Buscemi, Laurie Casolari
Drewey Darnell, Carol Constant, Allison Garcia, Liane Pueschel, Rita Styzyk, Janet Veitch, Linda Young

Commission on Disabilities

On November 20, 2019, town meeting members approved of the creation of a five-member Commission on Disabilities. The Selectboard interviewed potential members and candidates were nominated, elected and sworn in at the initial meeting on April 29, 2020. Members include: Chair Susan Dunderdale, Vice-Chair Jamie Mazur, Secretary Larry Dubois, Johnstone Campbell and Tay Silveira.

The Commission's purpose is to execute programs in coordination with the Massachusetts Office on Disability to bring about full and equal participation in all aspects of life for people with disabilities.

The Commission also advises and assists municipal officials in ensuring compliance with federal and state disability laws, reviews policies and activities of municipal departments and boards as they affect persons with disabilities, provides information, referral, advocacy and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and organizations in all matters pertaining to disability, and coordinates the activities of other local groups organized to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

Michael Kennedy, ADA Access and Advocacy Coordinator for the Center for Living & Working, attended the May 27, 2020 virtual meeting. Mike was one of two consultants responsible for surveying and completing the ADA Transition Plan. He discussed the overall scope of the survey and recommendations. He advised the Commission to work closely with the building inspector when new construction or modifications occur to ensure that ADA state and federal building code requirements are met in cooperation with the building inspector. The Commission met with the building inspector and we are working together on new projects as they develop.

Johnstone Campbell served as the COD representative on the subcommittee established to select the virtual platform for all town meetings. After researching, he recommended Zoom with the best options, like closed captioning, for people with disabilities. Zoom was selected as the meeting platform.

The Commission reviewed the ADA grievance procedure on the town website and sent several introductory communications to the ADA Coordinator. Going forward, the Commission set preliminary goals such as developing a priority list for recommendations outlined in the transition plan, reviewing the emergency preparedness plan, increasing the Commission's visibility and creating a confidential disability

survey to inform the Commission about residents' needs.

Conservation Commission

The Commission met 18 times to hold public hearings and meetings on permit applications submitted under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the South Hadley Wetlands Bylaws. Due to the COVID-19 State of emergency, the Commission adopted protocols to allow for business to continue virtually. Applications reviewed and determinations made are as follows: Notices of Intent (9), Orders of Condition (8), Amended or Extend Orders of Condition (2), Requests for Determination of Applicability (20), Determinations of Applicability (20), Certificates of Compliance (3), Partial Certificates of Compliance (3), Enforcement Orders (6), and Emergency Orders (1).

Management of existing Conservation Land:

There are 15 individual conservation areas under the care and control of the Conservation Commission, totaling 1,080 acres. This year, department staff created a Conservation Land Management Plan which itemized and prioritized upgrades needed at each Conservation Area. To benefit the ongoing management efforts, the town entered into a contract with Land Stewardship, Inc for a second year of invasive species management at Bachelor-Stony Brook Conservation Area. The second year of the contract sought to manage an approximately 2.5-acre area of land between the Connecticut River and the River to Range Trail. Prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Volunteer Conservation Corps aided in maintenance of trails across town. Maps of existing trails in Conservation Areas have been added to the Assessor's digital mapping database on the town's website.

MVP Planning Grant: The town secured a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

Planning Grant which sought to identify the vulnerabilities facing the town relative to climate change. The grant provided for a day-long stakeholders' workshop which was supplemented by public listening sessions. Following these sessions, town staff pursued grant funding to perform a town-wide culvert assessment which aimed to identify the most compromised culverts within town and draft preliminary designs for retrofitting each.

Regulatory and Planning Initiatives: The Conservation Commission and professional staff took part in a number of initiatives. An inter-departmental working group was established to review the town's existing Water Supply Protection District bylaw. The Conservation Commission was represented in addition to other boards and commissions. Separately, the Commission chair and vice chair met with town counsel to discuss potential revisions with the local Wetlands Bylaw. The Master Plan Implementation Committee met with the Commission to review the Commission's goals and objectives relative to the town's Master Plan Update. The Commission also reviewed and issued a letter of support for the town's updated Open Space and Recreation Plan, which later received approval from the state.

New Land Conserved: Through the hard work of Kestrel Land Trust, and the support of the Selectboard, the Town of South Hadley, represented by the Conservation Commission, accepted the designation as 'co-holder' of a Conservation Restriction for the local Adams Property, a 104-acre forest and farm on Pearl Street. Additionally, the Commission advocated for the town to exercise its right of first refusal to acquire the property at 315 Amherst Road. The property was enrolled in Chapter 61A tax designation which allowed the property to be taxed at a lower rate due to its use as agricultural farmland. Under Chapter 61A, if the lot is conveyed or if its use is changed, the town is given the first right of refusal to acquire

the property. With the support from the Selectboard and other town boards, the current owners were informed of the town's interest to purchase the property. The Commission intends to use their Land Conservation Funds along with additional grant funding to complete the acquisition.

Public Engagement: The Commission engaged in a number of public outreach campaigns. With assistance from the Connecticut River Conservancy, the Planning and Conservation Department hosted a Connecticut River clean-up event in the Fall of 2019. Additionally, the Commission co-sponsored a Go4Life Stroll at the River to Range Trail along with the Council on Aging and the Bike-Walk Committee. Members of the Commission, with help from the Tree Committee, hosted work parties to help maintain the Hahn-Warner Arboretum behind the South Hadley Middle School. Mailing and informational campaigns were ongoing throughout the year which included notification to Riverfront abutters of the Resource Areas on their property and a campaign to limit the amount of pet waste left on Conservation properties, and at other areas around town.

DPW: Administration

The South Hadley Department of Public Works is responsible for approximately 97 miles of road, 21 miles of drain pipe, 80 miles of sewer main, a 4.2 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant and five pump stations, a closed 26-acre landfill, compost area, and recycling center, 11 parks and other town-owned properties, a fleet of 50 vehicles, trailers, and equipment, as well as town tree maintenance.

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

Lamb Street & Bridge Street Improvements
This project started in 2019 and was completed in the fall of 2020 with the traffic signals finally

being installed. The scope of this project included the reconstruction of the intersection of Lamb Street and Bridge Street, new ADA ramps, and a new crosswalk with flashing beacon at Bridge Street and Grant Street.

Road Improvement Project

The reconstruction of North Main Street from West Summit Street to Pheasant Run and the entire Old Lyman Road was done in 2019 and the final paving, curbing, and striping was completed in the fall of 2020.

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

Paving sections of Alvord St, Bardwell St, Park St., Pine St. and Woodbridge St.

Sidewalk replacement on Center St and Warner St.

Replace a section of sewer line on Newton St.

We are working on integrating our asset management (roads, sewer, drain, sidewalks, signs, guardrail) into a single GIS platform.

We want to thank the employees of the DPW for their efforts this past year especially during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. I would also like to thank the Selectboard, Town Administrator, town departments, South Hadley Electric Light Department, District No. 1, District No. 2, and especially the residents of South Hadley for your cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Bouchard, Director

Viv Price, Acting Director July 1, 2019 – April 13, 2020

DPW: 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 are performed by this division.

The Highway Division working staff includes 9 employees: (1) Highway Superintendent, (1) Chief Mechanic, (2) Sewer/Drainage Maintenance employees, (5) Equipment Operators who perform road sweeping, signage, 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 570 tons of asphalt.

2020 was the year of the pandemic: COVID-19. Highway Division staff were designated as essential employees, and therefore remained working continuously, with added safety guidelines designed to protect the employees and the public to ensure continuous service, throughout the year. The roadway paving and reconstruction project were completed on North Main Street and Old Lyman road during the fall. In-house driveway apron paving, as well as new curbing install back-up with loam, with springtime raking and seeding, will complete this project.

Localized sewer repairs were made to the system on Ludlow Road and Abbey Street. Storm drain line and catch basin repairs were

made on the following: Waite Avenue easement, Mosier Street, Saybrook Circle, San Souci, Mountain Avenue to Joffre Avenue easement, Ferry Street Conservation area parking lot, New Ludlow road, Woodbridge Terrace, Lawrence Avenue and Black/Stevens Pond outfall.

New asphalt curb was installed on Pittroff Avenue and Woodbridge Street to reduce roadway washouts. Sidewalks were removed and replaced with loam and seed on Maple Street.

Town tree oversight and maintenance were added to the department this year, with the appointment of co-tree wardens, from existing departmental staffing. Tree work (removals/stump grinding) and storm damage cleanup took up considerable time this year, with many extreme weather/wind events, which impacted town roadways and properties on multiple days.

The Sign Department continued maintenance to all traffic and directional signs, street signs, as well as the Adopt-an-Island program signage. New mobile traffic sign boards (5) were purchased and put into use as needed. 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 September. Tree butt logs and stump grindings were picked up by the crews as needed and loam and seed were put in place. Roadside mowing and brush cutting was performed throughout the year. In addition, the compost area of the Recycling Center was maintained by Highway Division equipment operators.

All DPW vehicle maintenance and repairs are performed at the Highway Division garage. This task involves many pieces of different equipment, from street sweepers to backhoes and bucket loaders, utility trucks, and plow vehicles.

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. Some of these projects were unable to occur this year (fireworks), due to the pandemic, while other events (voting) were redesigned to accommodate the importance of the event taking place, with safety protocols to protect the workers and the public before/during/after the event.

The recent winter season was less than average, with the department responding to 10 snow/ice events, beginning on Nov. 30, and ending on March 23. The winter produced about 30 inches of snow, with 20 inches falling during the Nov. 30 storm.

I wish to thank the Highway Divisions' very dedicated staff, DPW staff, town officials, South Hadley Electric Light Department, Water Districts No. 1 & No. 2, Fire Districts No. 1 & No. 2, Police Department and residents for their cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
John Broderick, Highway Superintendent

DPW: Parks Division

The Parks Division is based primarily in the big white barn next to the high school athletic field at 28 Lincoln Ave. The Parks Division is responsible for the following: turf management, irrigation, athletic field grooming, lining and maintenance, landscape maintenance, annual flower plantings, trash removal at all town fields, parks and properties; and snow plowing on most town properties. The division is also responsible for the maintenance and operations for the two town splashpads and restrooms at BATTERY BROOK PARK and BEACHGROUNDS PARK.

The parks, athletic fields and grounds maintained by the division include the following: Town Hall / Police Station, Beachgrounds Park, the Town Common, Old Fire house Museum, Canal Park, Plains School, South Hadley High School, Mosier School, Michael E. Smith Middle School, Center School Field, Emerson Park Lecca Park, Woodlawn Park, the Senior Center, Town Farms Fields and BATTERY BROOK PARK.

The Parks Division utilizes an Integrated Pest Management Plan to comply with legislation affecting the application of pesticides on school athletic facilities and grounds. The purpose of the plan is to minimize environmental impacts and risks to children and adults using these facilities.

The Parks Division continues to maintain, organize, and staff BATTERY BROOK PARK on weekends during the summer season and throughout the year, and sets up the annual Santa's Land.

The department's capital equipment purchases consisted of a 2019 F250 crew cab flatbed with aluminum gate. Replacing the 2008 pickup model. Two new 60" deck Exmark mowers, replacing the 2013 models.

COVID-19 significantly affected the department's operations throughout the spring 2020 season. Sporting events for schools and recreation were cancelled as well as pavilion reservations at BATTERY BROOK PARK. The department posted COVID-19 safety and instructional signage on town fields, playgrounds and properties. Playgrounds were closed and swings were removed for a period of time in the spring. Basketball hoops were removed from courts. Trash receptacles were removed around town indefinitely and a "carry in carry out" policy was instituted. Town splash pads operated with bathrooms closed and reduced hours. Seasonal staffing was eliminated for the season. The full-time staff worked diligently to keep up with their duties, while adhering to COVID-19 protocols.

I wish to thank the Parks Divisions' very dedicated staff, the DPW staff, the Friends of BATTERY BROOK PARK, the Recreation Dept. and the many athletic groups, town officials, school officials, volunteers, and residents for their efforts and support over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
William J Simard, Parks Supervisor

DPW: 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 can perform 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.

Sewer mains root treated during 2020 were: Lathrop Street, North Main Street, Pine Hill Road, Atwood Road, Haig Avenue, Queen Circle, Berwyn Street, Mountainview Street, Mosier Street, Elm Street, Bombardier Street, Hillcrest Avenue, Willimansett Street, Miami Street, Ashfield Lane, Jewett Lane, High Street, Art Street, Yale Street, and Boynton Avenue. This work is performed to maintain and improve sewer main line flow, reduce any sanitary back-ups, and reduce emergency sewer call outs.

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, Town officials, and residents for cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
John Broderick, Highway Superintendent

DPW: 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, electronics, products containing mercury, mattresses, propane tanks, styrofoam (expanded polystyrene), tires, white goods, used motor oil and antifreeze, used vegetable oil and grease, appliances, paper / cardboard, mixed containers (cans, bottles, plastics) and household trash (green bags).

Income to the solid waste enterprise fund includes monies received from the annual trash fee, sale of green bags and fees for the transfer station / recycling center drop-off. In FY20 the Town recycled 948.07 tons of paper / cardboard, and 588.95 tons of bottles and cans and rigid plastics. The town disposed of 2614.40 tons of green bags. The transfer station / recycling center also recycled 93.86 tons of scrap metal and Styrofoam, 18.27 tons of e waste, oil /

antifreeze, batteries, 1,524 mercury devices (bulbs, thermometers, etc.), 115 tires, 230 mattresses, 260 freon appliances and recycled / removed textiles (clothing bins) from the waste stream.

In FY20 the Solid Waste Division was awarded a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$14,300.00. These funds are distributed in recognition of South Hadley's recycling and waste reduction efforts. The small-scale portion of the SMRP grant award was \$4,896.00 which was used for the town to buy green recycling bins. The town used \$8,978 on galvanized platform stairs for residents to use to recycle cans / bottles, rigid plastics, and cardboard / paper. We also used \$8,459.24 to purchase insulated grocery totes for residents to use.

Paper shredding and household hazardous waste collections were canceled due to COVID-19.

The transfer station and compost area reopened on June 1, 2020 after closing in March due to COVID-19. Residents now need to make a reservation to use the transfer station / recycling center or yard waste area, reservations (online) are taken with two reservations every five minutes. The transfer station / recycling center is now open five days per week, Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. (closed for lunch 12 – 1 p.m.) Residents also need to prepay online for any items being disposed of that have fees for disposal. (southhadley.org, under services, trash and recycling)

I wish to thank the Solid Waste Divisions' very dedicated staff, the DPW staff, town officials and residents for their efforts and support over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Quesnel, Solid Waste Coordinator

DPW: Tree Warden

As Acting Tree Warden for Fiscal year 2020 I'm happy to say it was both a challenging yet still productive period in caring for South Hadley's community forest. A significant number of tree work was performed by Northern Tree Service and the Department of Public Works. This included the removal and pruning of dead and hazardous trees and limbs that were obstructing power lines and property structures. Shade trees were also planted by the town's Tree Committee Chair Ted Boulias at various locations throughout the town.

Other accomplishments related to me by the Tree Committee chairman are as follows:

- Several members of the committee participated with the Conservation Committee on clean-up and maintenance work at the Hahn Warner Arboretum.
- Bobbie Salthouse continues to work collecting information and file paperwork to keep the town enrolled in the Tree City program.
- The committee also received the 25-year mile post and look forwards to continuing to work with the town and DCR to keep the certification active.

Also during that time period, both Geoffrey McAvoy and Shawn Schmitter were hired as co-tree wardens. Thanks goes out to Town Administrator Mike Sullivan and Deputy Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz for their commitment in filling this critical position.

I thank the Selectboard, the Department of Public Works, the Conservation/Planning Department, South Hadley Electric Light Department and the Tree Committee for the continued support, advice and hard work.

Respectfully submitted,
Viv. Price, Acting Tree Warden
(July 1, 2019 – March 1, 2020)

DPW: 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 primary treatment facility was built in 1960, and expanded to a secondary treatment facility in 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.

Throughout the fiscal year, the plant treated an average of 2.8 million gallons of wastewater per day, and processed 2,009 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.

Completed projects include the installation of baffles in the chlorine tanks to promote better and eliminate dead zones, the refurbishing of gravity thickener #1 to preserve tank integrity, and the replacement of the 24-inch valve at the Main Street pump station.

In 2018 and 2019, the WPC Division also applied for and was awarded two substantial grants through the Long Island Sound Futures Fund to upgrade one mechanical aerator, and to replace and install new instrumentation to promote Nitrogen removal to the Connecticut River. The aerator project has been completed and the instrumentation project is currently in progress.

We wish to thank the Water Pollution Control Divisions' very dedicated staff, the DPW staff, town officials and residents for their efforts and support over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Cijka, Operations Manager
Melissa LaBonte, Compliance Manager

Gro-South Hadley

Gro-South Hadley's board of directors is proud to report a successful garden season despite the challenges of COVID-19 and the weather. Located at the Town Farm Field on Rt 47, we are an organic community gardening program. We are gardeners of all ages and experience who work and learn together. We grow vegetables, herbs, fruits, grasses and flowers that nourish our own wellbeing and that of our neighbors.

In the spring we worked with town officials to establish safe practices so the garden could open. Soon all 46 plots were filled. Gardeners grew pesticide-free food for themselves and to share with their neighbors during this pandemic. The Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners adopted the Full Circle Garden as one of their projects. This partnership made it possible for the Full Circle Garden to deliver safely grown, harvested, and packaged pesticide-free food and herbs to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry, as well as senior centers and senior housing and veterans.

Volunteers are essential to a successful garden season. This year was no exception. The Permaculture Food Forest expanded, the Full Circle Garden improved their drip irrigation system, gardeners mowed, weeded, and helped each other through difficult times. Gardeners had time on their hands. We were able to improve our composting system, do a general garden clean up, and work together to remove a large tree that fell into two gardens.

Finally, the board wishes to thank the Town Administrator, Health Department, Recreation Department, Tree Committee, and DPW for their help during the season, as well as the District 2 Water Department for turning the water on and off numerous times and helping us trouble shoot and correct leaking faucets. Ongoing support from the Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners, Mount Holyoke College, and the South Hadley School System help us achieve our goals of organic gardening and feeding our neighbors. During this unusual year, we are grateful for the support the Council of Churches provided the Full Circle Garden, Action Plumbing for helping us keep our gardens watered, Luchessi and Edge Tree Services for extra wood chips, and anyone else who helped us grow a community garden over the past 10 years.

Finally, please welcome Dominique Deslauriers as President of Gro-South Hadley.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Rohan

Human Resources

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 relative 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. James Reidy, DPW superintendent, retired in September after serving South Hadley for more than 12 years. Also within the DPW, Mark

Schmitter retired after 24 years. We had two retirements from the SHPD – Lt. Chris Luscomb after 30 years and Steve Fleming, school resource officer, after 24 years. Last but not least Ola Herbert, senior clerk, retired after 25 years of service working in various departments with her last assignment being with the COA.

During FY20 our quarterly professional development days included topics such as goal setting and reaching resolutions, how to plan for retirement, public records and conflict of interest law, becoming a resilient leader, census 2020, as well as an update on the Master Plan and Open Space & Recreation Plan. Due to the onset of COVID-19 we were only able to host two of these sessions for our staff. These sessions are very well received.

Our department has had to quickly adapt and create a new service model in order to continue to serve the town. This includes transitioning to Zoom interviews for new hires and police promotions, exchanging paperwork via town hall drop boxes and/or at safe social distances outside to ensure the safety of all.

We had planned to host our seventh annual benefits fair in April and unfortunately the in-person event had to be canceled due to the pandemic. Michelle Parent, Human Resource/Payroll Manager, and Gloria Congram, Benefits Manager, were able to conduct virtual sessions with employees who had questions relative to the open enrollment period.

A grant of \$1,000 was awarded to the town Wellness Committee from the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust for our health and wellness programs. This was used by the Wellness Committee to provide opportunities to our employees about ways to educate them on how to stop the spread of COVID -19 with winter wellness bags that included face masks and hand sanitizer, boxed lunches delivered to

town hall, as well as Valentine's Day treat bags with the medicinal dark chocolate and snacks for staff who are in the building and limit their outside town hall travels throughout the workday.

Professional development continues to be one of our focuses. We have looked for trainings specific to our staff's needs as well as recertification courses for specific disciplines. Our Human Resources Manager and the WWTP Operations Manager attended a program through the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources (MMHR) titled Supervisory Leadership Development Program for local government managers and employees. This is a three-day, 24-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,
Deputy Town Administrator

Inspection Services Department

From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, the Inspection Services Department issued a total of 1,490 building, electrical, plumbing, and gas permits. The majority of those were for repairs, maintenance, or improvements to existing buildings including room additions, interior renovations and alterations, kitchen and bathroom remodeling, decks and porches, sunrooms, in-ground and above-ground swimming pools, fire alarm and sprinkler systems, attached and detached garages and

storage buildings, insulation and weatherization, rooftop solar systems, mechanical systems, woodstoves and pellet stoves, replacement windows and doors, and re-roofing and re-siding.

Permits for new construction included 14 single-family homes, 12 condominium units, and 1 community building.

The department conducted a total of 1,661 inspections, many of which were co-conducted with state and/or local fire safety officials and state building officials. Annual inspections included those of 115 public and private facilities such as churches, restaurants, bars and night clubs, schools, childcare and pre-school businesses, auditoriums, dormitories, libraries, lecture halls, movie theaters, and commercial swimming pools.

Despite limitations imposed by COVID-19 in the second half of the report period, all department inspection officials succeeded in maintaining or surpassing all minimum continuing education and training requirements.

The Inspection Services Department wishes to thank all the residents, contractors, town departments, fire officials, and many others whom we work with and depend on every day for helping us meet the department's mandates and goals.

Many thanks,
Claudia Frappier, Senior Clerk
Roy Rivers, Wiring Inspector
Dave Tourville, Plumbing and Gas Inspector
David Gardner, Building Commissioner

Inspection Services FY20 Activity Summary	
Building	
Permits: 555 Reported Est. Value: \$29,571,259 Inspections: 525 Fees: \$276,633	
Annual Inspections, Apartment Inspections, and Vacant Property Registrations: 171 Inspections: 115	
Fees: \$13,280	
Wiring	Plumbing/Gas
Permits: 326 Inspections: 395 Fees: \$43,464	Permits: 609 Inspections: 588 Fees: \$39,170
Department Totals Permits: 1,661 Inspections: 1,623 Fees: \$372,547	

community forum in October 2019. MPIC also hosted three additional “meetings in a box” for community members who couldn’t attend the forum. Beginning in November, members met with 23 separate entities and approximately 18 town department heads and employees to discuss the proposed goals of the update and to ask for their suggestions about tasks that their particular entity could undertake to achieve those goals. These suggestions would form the basis of a master list of action items in the update.

The COVID 19 pandemic and consequent suspension of in-person meetings led MPIC to check in virtually or by email regarding activities related to the 2010 Master Plan, and it was determined that most actions were either on-going, completed, or no longer relevant. As required, MPIC submitted its annual report to the annual Town Meeting. The entire report may be viewed at <http://southhadley.ma.gov/223/Master-Plan-Implementation-Committee>.

Judy Gooch Dobosh, Chair
Nate Therien, Vice Chair
Michelle Wolfe, Clerk
Alexis Allen, Larry Dixon, Margaret Jodoin,
Keith Paul, Michelle Theroux

**Master Plan Implementation
Committee**

The Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) annually assesses progress toward the goals of the town’s master plan. At least twice per year members make contact with boards, commissions, committees and departments that are assigned tasks in the plan.

During the 2019–2020-year MPIC was very involved in the development of an update to the 2010 Master Plan. Three members served on the Master Plan Update Advisory Committee, and all members helped staff the Master Plan

Planning Board

The Planning Board is pleased to submit its Annual Report for July 2019-June 2020 to the citizens of South Hadley. 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. 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.

Direct staff support in carrying out this mission is provided by Director of Planning and Conservation Richard Harris, Conservation Administrator/Planner Anne Capra and Senior Clerk/Planning Technician Colleen Canning with additional support and advice provided by the DPW superintendent, building commissioner, other town departments, boards, and commissions, and the fire districts and their water departments.

Along with the rest of the community, the board endeavored through the COVID-19 state-of-emergency to develop strategies and protocols to allow the Board to conduct virtual/online meetings and hearings to allow for robust opportunity for public comment and input.

The board welcomed Nate Therien to the Board who was elected during the 2020 local election. The board thanks Mark Cavanaugh, who was on the board for many years and functioned as Chair for a period of time, who left the board during 2020. The board honored the services of Larry Butler, former Planning Board associate member, on the occasion of his passing in 2020.

Master Plan efforts: Town staff along with the Master Plan Update Advisory Committee and Harriman Associates worked on an update to the 2010 Master Plan. The Master Plan Implementation Committee also assisted greatly in this effort. The Master Plan helps identify community goals, aids the town in meeting such goals, and guides the board in making decisions on projects. Harriman, in partnership with Tighe & Bond and RKG Associate, worked with town staff and the Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update Committee to update the 2012 OSRP. The board reviewed and endorsed the draft OSRP which subsequently received state approval.

By-law revision review: The board reviewed and held public hearings to consider

amendments to the Zoning Bylaw relative to Chapter 255-35: Water Supply Protection District and Chapter 255-84: earth removal, excavation, and fill activities. It was the board's intention for the amendments to be considered at the Special Town Meeting in Fall of 2019. However, the Massachusetts Attorney General's office had yet to approve articles from the previous Town Meeting that were foundational to the newly proposed amendments. Therefore, the board withdrew their endorsement of the articles for consideration at the Special Town Meeting in the hopes that it could be considered at Town Meeting in May of 2020. Due to COVID-19, only articles which were essential for government function were considered at the Town Meeting in May of 2020. Zoning bylaw amendments were not considered at that time.

Grant Activity: Town staff worked diligently applying for grant funding and helped in administering grants awarded to the town with support from the Board. The board endorsed a letter of support for MassWorks grant funding to upgrade infrastructure improvements to the Newton Street Smart Growth District which was later awarded. The town was awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning grant which funded stake-holder meetings and three public listening sessions with assistance from Fuss and O'Neill. Grant funding was acquired to retain Herriman Associates to conduct a study of the Route 202-Route 33 corridor which included an analysis of existing conditions and public engagement.

Development Management Activities

Approval Not Required (ANR) Plans: Six ANR Plans were endorsed by the board most of which sought to adjust property lines between abutting properties.

Illuminated Signs: The board approved one illuminated sign with special conditions to service the Greenfield Co-op Bank located at 487 Newton Street.

Site Plan Review: The board reviewed and approved three Site Plans with special conditions which included a new municipal dog park along Mulligan Drive, a new municipal senior center located at 45 Dayton Avenue, and a new telecommunications facility for the South Hadley Electric Light Department.

Special Permits: The board issued four Special Permits with special conditions for the following projects: conversion of a single-family home into a two-family at 116 Brockway Lane, installation of an eight-foot fence at 10 Bengier Avenue, development of Skinner Woods Flexible Development residences along Amherst Road, and redevelopment of the property at 36 Bridge Street for a mix-use redevelopment building. Additionally, the board reviewed four previously issued special permits for consideration of permit modification, permit extension, and permit performance guarantees.

Definitive Subdivision Plans: The Board reviewed and held public hearings to consider the development of North Pole Estates Subdivision along Hadley Street. The Board considered covenants and performance guarantees issued to three previously approved Definitive Subdivision Plans.

Other endeavors: The board considered proposals from members of the public which included a proposal for a hydrogeologic study of the Dry Brook Hill Aquifer and a proposal to develop an outdoor sculpture display/retail business within town. Additionally, the board reviewed and advised outside town departments on a number of initiatives which included the Historic District Study Committee's proposal for designating South Hadley Falls as a Local Historic District and review of the Redevelopment Authority's South Hadley Falls Urban Renewal and Redevelopment Plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Hutchison, Chair, Diane Supczak-Mulvaney, Vice-Chair, Joanna Brown, Clerk
Melissa O'Brien, Nate Therien, Michael Adelman, Associate Member, Director of Planning and Conservation Richard Harris

Police Department

I will not dwell on the negative, but your South Hadley Police officers and dispatchers were very busy responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud of the way all our staff adjusted to the changing work environment, on almost a daily basis, for that first 90 days of the pandemic. We relied heavily on the leadership from Town Administrator Michael Sullivan and Emergency Management Director Sharon Hart, who brought our efforts together with a consistent response from the Town. I am thankful that our police and dispatch staff took the protocol changes in stride, committed to ensuring their health so they could provide the level of service that the community deserve and expect.

It is important that I offer my gratitude to the Town of South Hadley residents and community stakeholders that have supported us during a year that has seen national reckoning, and unrest, regarding racial injustice and inequity in the criminal justice system. I appreciate those that have acknowledged the thousands of positive interactions our personnel have with the South Hadley community each year. SHPD strive for constant improvement, and we will continue to work towards equity, justice for all and improving how we serve the community. I also recognize and appreciate those community members that call us to task and who accept nothing but the best from the South Hadley Police Department. All community members, regardless of where you fall on that spectrum, can be assured that we are committed to reflection and actions that strengthening our relationship with the South Hadley community.

We will work diligently every day to earn your confidence and trust.

Staffing. We were pleased to welcome two new police officers to the Town of South Hadley Police, Officer Karl Kapinos and Officer Emily Tebo. Officer Kapinos, a life-long South Hadley resident, most recently worked for the Exeter New Hampshire Police Department and we are happy to welcome him home to South Hadley. Officer Tebo has been with the South Hadley Police Department as a Dispatcher since 2014 and we are pleased to have her experience and commitment move over to the policing side. In the E911 Communication Center we welcomed Grayson MacPhail, a great addition to our public safety efforts. The Department and Town offers our well wishes to Lieutenant Christopher Luscomb who retired after 32 years of full-time service and Officer Steve Fleming who retired after 25 years of full-time service.

Grant Funding. The Police Department was awarded numerous grants to supplement the budget and support our efforts. \$81,000 was received from the Massachusetts E911 Department for the operation of the E911 Dispatch Center; \$5,200 was received from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety under the Traffic Enforcement Grant Program; 20 Child Passenger Seats were granted for distribution to community members in need; \$3,000 was received from the City of Northampton to fund the SHPD regional Drug Abuse Response Team (DART); \$3,750 was received from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health to develop a SHPD Crisis Response Team (CIT). A 32% increase in grant funding was received from the previous year, thus we are aggressively pursuing ways to be good fiduciaries of the Town of South Hadley resources.

Community Engagement: Your SHPD staff have always prided themselves on robust engagement with the community. We look

forward to a time when we can continue outreach and engagement, absent threat of the COVID-19 disease. Despite challenges, we continued our collaborations with our South Hadley schools, youth athletics, food drives, the Connecticut River Task Force, and the Senior Center/ TRIAD. We also began efforts to renovate our website with up-to-date information and data that will be of interest to the community; check us out at www.southhadleypolice.org.

Call Activity: Officers arrested 127 persons, 22% which were for arrest warrants issued by a court. In addition, 163 persons were summonsed to court for criminal offenses. Arrests and summonses for FY20 decreased 21% from FY19. Communication Center staff dispatched first responders to 19,713 calls for service, an increase of 6% from FY19.

Mission Statement: The Mission of the South Hadley Police Department, working in partnership with the community, is to maintain social order and improve the quality of life within the Town of South Hadley. This is accomplished through constant vigilance and the pursuit of violators of the law as governed by both constitutional constraints and our ethical principles of justice, integrity, respect, courage, and allegiance. Our goal is to understand and serve the needs of the South Hadley community by providing the highest quality of police services, assisting in resolving problems, and promoting positive values through equitable and impartial policing consistent with and reflective of the shared values of the community.

Thank you for allowing us to serve the South Hadley community.

Very truly yours,
Jennifer Gundersen, Chief of Police

Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission gratefully acknowledges the hundreds of volunteers who assisted us in implementing all our programs and activities this past year. 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 in meeting the community's recreation needs.

The Recreation Commission welcomed two new members in FY20 as the Commission was expanded to nine members; Laura Friesner and Ben Sabbs. We look forward to working with both in the years to come! The Commission was expanded to give us a better chance to work in sub-committees, focusing on several important topics to the department.

This past year presented some real challenges! During the fall of 2019, the Pioneer Valley had an outbreak of EEE and West Nile Virus, resulting in our fall outdoor activities having to be done by sundown each day for a six-week period. Then in early March, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the spring season and several special events like the Easter Egg Hunt, Summer Concert Series, Bus Trips and all in-person fitness classes.

Programs and activities:

Youth sports offerings included basketball, field hockey, football, soccer, cheerleading and wrestling.

Summer sports programs included baseball/softball, basketball, soccer, golf, tennis, Art-ventures, Young Hacks Academy, Wicked Cool for Kids, Mad Science and Vet School.

We had close to 9,000 individual registrations for these programs.

Adult offerings included Aquacise, Pound Fitness, Co-ed Adult Soccer, Men's Basketball, and Women's Basketball. Bus trips took us to Fenway Park, New York City, and to Tanglewood for a James Taylor concert.

Special Classes: Babysitting training classes and Art-ventures. There were about 1,000 individuals that took part in these various programs.

Special Events: The annual Independence Day Fireworks Celebration was held on July 3, 2019 at the Michael E. Smith Middle School. The Major Corporate Sponsor of the event was once again PeoplesBank. We would also like to thank SHELD for their contributions.

Summer Concert Series: Concerts were held on ten Thursdays in June, July and August as part of the 2019 Summer Concert series and each night typically had a few hundred people in attendance. This event was funded by the Village Commons, multiple businesses and a grant from the South Hadley Arts Council.

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 Dept., Police, Fire Districts 1 & 2, SHELD, Water Departments, School Department and the Selectboard.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Dawson, Chair, Ray Carillon, Brian Couture, Laura Friesner, Byron Joy, Ryan Kennedy, Dave Mendoza, Ben Sabbs, Mark Zraunig

Recreation Staff

Andrew Rogers, Recreation Director
Danielle Stelma, Assistant Director

Redevelopment Authority

In response to a perceived need to revitalize the Falls area of South Hadley, Town Meeting voted to establish the South Hadley Redevelopment Authority in 2014. The board has five members, four elected at Town Meeting and one appointed by the governor.

At that same time, Town Meeting charged the Authority with developing an urban renewal plan for the Falls. With the aid of a professional consultant and support from the town's Planning and Conservation Department, the Authority prepared an extensive Falls Urban Redevelopment and Renewal Plan that was endorsed by Special Town Meeting held on November 20, 2019. The plan was subsequently approved by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development on February 3, 2020. The plan extends over 20 years and provides a detailed set of steps to greatly strengthen the Falls.

The Redevelopment Authority met six times in FY20. In partnership with South Hadley's Planning and Conservation Department, the Redevelopment Authority applied for and was awarded a Massachusetts Downtown Initiative Grant for the conceptual re-design of the 1.32-acre SHELD property on Main Street into a mixed-use development.

The project consultant, Harriman Associates, developed three design scenarios and conducted several virtual community presentations to gather feedback on the concepts.

Respectfully Submitted,
Francis J. DeToma, Chair
Tony Judge, Member
Imad Zubi, Member
Diane LaRoche, Member/Governor's Appointee

Sustainability & Energy Commission

Green Communities

Maintained communication with town officials regarding the status of our Green Communities application readiness. Provided input to the Town Administrator regarding our Green Communities effort. Worked with GBS Consultants on energy saving measures to aid the Green Communities application.

Community Outreach

Worked with the Master Plan Implementation Committee to update the commission's efforts. Reached out to other Town Boards/Committees to begin working together to implement action items in the Master Plan Updated and expanded the shared energy savings programs on the commission's webpage to maintain energy conservation initiatives for the public.

Town Clerk

The Clerk's Office fulfilled duties during a year like no other. During 2020, many of us have lost loved ones, lost jobs (or knew someone who has), had diminished responsibilities or had increased responsibilities (work, home-schooling, becoming barbers, etc), got Zoom Fatigue, said, "You're on mute" way too much, and generally rode the highs and lows the best we could.

We improvised, adapted, and overcame all obstacles the best we could most often thinking collaboratively and on our feet, literally! These tremendous efforts carried us through closing out a three-year campaign - "2020 Census" - and one of the most unprecedented election seasons during the most uncertain of times.

For these reasons and so many more I cannot thank enough my election leadership teams, our election staff and Board of Registrar. These are the folks who truly make South Hadley a wonderful place to work and live!

Respectfully Submitted,
Carlene C. Hamlin, CMMC
Town Clerk

Town Treasurer / Collector

**Balance in
the Treasury July 1, 2019 \$38,083,242.67**

Receipts	\$80,002,251.20
Expenditures	\$76,894,210.38

**Balance in
the Treasury June 30, 2020 \$41,191,283.49**

Non - Interest Bearing Checking Accounts

Peoples Bank	Payroll	\$95,824.76
Peoples Bank	Vendor	\$284,672.22
Peoples Bank	Electric Light	\$2,255,627.89

Interest Bearing Checking Accounts

Peoples Bank	Night Deposit	\$1,865.97
Peoples Bank	School Lunch	\$18,362.72
Peoples Bank	Gen Dep	\$4,165,071.60
Adams Community Bank	Gen Fund	\$2,964,565.67
Peoples Bank	ViewPermit	\$73,404.11
ESB	Electric Light	\$538,879.66

Liquid Investments

Peoples United Bank	Gen Fund	\$1,275,410.87
Peoples Bank	Ledges/Valley View	\$559,051.77
Peoples Bank	Rec Revolving	\$35,992.38
UniBank	Gen Fund	\$1,991,905.49
UniBank	Gen Fund	\$51,236.99
UniBank	Buttery Brook Revolving	\$7,161.52
ESB	Canal St/AAD	\$135,462.59
ESB	Middle School	\$104,104.00
ESB	High School	\$80,193.68
ESB	Arts Lottery	\$7,790.92
ESB	General Fund	\$3,305,404.58
ESB	Ethan Circle	\$20,690.47
Bartholomew	General Fund	\$2,625,082.40

Trust Funds

Bartholomew	Trust Funds	\$19,143,513.06
Bartholomew	OPEB Trust	\$1,450,008.17

All Cash and Investments	<u>\$41,191,283.49</u>
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Description	Outstanding Balance
Real Estate Taxes	
2020	\$444,928
2019	\$68,526
2018	\$23,069
2017	\$4,636
Prior Years	\$40,856

*All Balances from 2004-2016 are on Owner Unknown parcels

Personal Property	Outstanding Balance
2020	\$5,986
2019	\$3,212
2018	\$2,702
2017	\$2,710
Prior Years	\$38,062

Motor Vehicle Excise	Outstanding Balance
2020	\$218,845
2019	\$45,659
2018	\$21,109
2017	\$12,347
Prior Years (2007-2016)	\$108,071

Boat Excise (2008-2020)	\$31,481
RollBack Taxes	\$25,855
Annual Sewer Use Fee	\$175,391
Annual Trash Fee	\$25,094

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Whiteley, Treasurer/Collector

