

# South Hadley, Massachusetts

## Comprehensive Plan Update



South Hadley has begun work on its first Comprehensive Plan in 30 years. The first steps to this effort were appropriation of funding for a consultant by Town Meeting, hiring a consultant (VHB, Inc.), appointment of a 15-member Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC), and creation of a process for keeping the community informed and involved. The status and information regarding the planning process and website is outlined below.

### **Website**

The CPAC has a website hosted by the consultant which provides more detailed information regarding the Comprehensive Plan. As it is developed, the website will provide drafts of different plan elements and notices of Community Gatherings and CPAC meetings. Go visit the website which can be found at:

<http://www.vhb.com/southhadley/default.asp>

### **Status of Comprehensive Planning Process**

- September 2007, the Planning Board contracted with the firm of VHB, Inc. to provide consultant services for the comprehensive planning process.
- November/December 2007, with input from VHB staff, the Board recruited and appointed volunteers to serve on a 15-member Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. At present, the membership consists of the following: Kate Bedard, Connie Clancy, Lucia Foley, Robert Gelinias, Martha Johnson, Dale Johnston, Jeremy King, Jeffrey Labrecque, Dan Luis, Jesse Lytle, Melissa O'Brien, Kurt Schenker, Martha Terry, Nathan Therien, and Linda Young. Kevin McCaffrey was appointed to serve as an alternate for Jesse Lytle as the Mount Holyoke College representative. Wendy Kelleher was recently appointed to fill a position that is anticipated to become vacant within the next 2 months.
- During 2007-2008, CPAC members conducted several public forums (including a Community Gathering on March 5, 2008), met with numerous community officials and leaders, and conducted surveys to obtain community input. Based on the comments and review of various data, a series of Issue Papers were developed

to guide formulation of the Comprehensive Plan.

- CPAC conducted four Issue Gatherings during July 2008. The results of these sessions led to finalization of the Issue Papers and development of draft plan which address: Economic Development, Housing, Municipal Facilities, and Transportation. These four elements comprise “Phase 1” of the Comprehensive Planning effort.
- Following development drafts of the first four plan elements, CPAC conducted, with VHB assistance, a Community Gathering in November 2008 to solicit input on the various recommendations in each of the first four plan elements. Subsequently, CPAC made further revisions in the draft plan.

### ***Things to Come***

- *Phase 2.* CPAC has initiated work on Phase 2 of the Comprehensive Planning process. This phase is to include the following subjects: Natural Resources, Recreation and Open Space, Cultural and Historical Resources, and Community Design and Land Use. Over the next several months, CPAC will be working with VHB and other members of the community to develop Issue Papers and draft materials regarding these four subject areas. In so doing, CPAC may also be making further revisions to the first Phase documents as well.
- *Community Gatherings.* During the winter and spring, 2009 several more Community Gatherings will be conducted. Your participation is encouraged.

### ***Request for Ideas, Suggestions, Comments***

To keep all persons informed of our progress, minutes of all of the CPAC meetings are posted on the website for your review. Copies of the Vision Statement and Goals, “ Issue Papers” and draft chapters for the first four elements of the Comprehensive Plan are also posted on the website (<http://www.vhb.com/southhadley/default.asp>). CPAC would like residents, property owners, and businesses to provide comments on these materials. You are urged to submit the comments through the website or a note to the CPAC members. The CPAC members value and welcome your input.

Your ideas, suggestions, and comments may be submitted to the following:

South Hadley Planning Board  
116 Main Street – Room 204  
South Hadley, MA 01075