

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 developed, more information has been added to the website including some initial drafts of different plan elements, issue papers, minutes of meetings, notices of Community Gatherings, etc. 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, Mike Fisher, Lucia Foley, Robert Gelinias, Martha Johnson, Dale Johnston, Wendy Kelleher, 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.
- Over the past two years, CPAC members worked with VHB, Inc. and the Town Planner to conduct numerous public forums and some surveys to solicit community input. Out of these efforts, the CPAC has developed a draft of the proposed Comprehensive Plan consisting of 10 chapters which are posted on the Town's website. Links to these chapters are provided below.
- During the months of September-October, 2009, CPAC members will be making edits to these chapters. Subsequently, the final proposed plan will be printed and submitted to the Planning Board for their adoption. However, this will not be the

end of the public involvement as the Planning Board is intending to submit the proposed plan to Town Meeting for their endorsement.

“Final Drafts” of Plan Chapters

The “final drafts” of the plan chapters are posted on the Town’s website. *Please note that over the next several months, these “final drafts” are anticipated to be revised as the members of CPAC work to complete the proposed Comprehensive Plan.* To view these drafts, please click on the links below. Please note that some of the chapters are close to 2Mb in size and may take 1+ minutes to download.

Chapter 1 – Introduction and Vision:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter1.PDF

Chapter 2 – Community Design & Land Use:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter2.PDF

Chapter 3 - Housing:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter3.PDF

Chapter 4 – Economic Development:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter4.PDF

Chapter 5 – Natural Resources:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter5.PDF

Chapter 6 – Open Space & Recreation:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter6.PDF

Chapter 7 – Historic & Cultural Resources:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter7.PDF

Chapter 8 – Transportation:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter8.PDF

Chapter 9 – Municipal Facilities & Services:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter9.PDF

Chapter 10 – Implementation Program:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter10.PDF

Chapter 10 Annex – Implementation Matrix:

http://www.southhadley.org/Pages/SouthHadleyMA_Planning/documents/Chapter101.PDF

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. CPAC would like residents, property owners, and

businesses to provide comments on the plan. You are urged to submit the comments through the website <http://www.vhb.com/southhadley/default.asp> or a note to the CPAC members. The CPAC members value and welcome your input.

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

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