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Region

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF VIRTUAL
PUBLIC HEARING
Subdivision Regulation
Update

The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider repeal and replacement of South Hadley’s current Subdivision Regulations (Chapter 360: Subdivision Regulations) with updated regulations to include new

Articles I through XII; and new Appendices A through H. The materials relative to the proposal are available on the Town’s website at the following link: <https://www.southhadley.org/1318/ProposedDraft-Bylaws>. Alternatively, hard copies of the documents may be viewed at South Hadley Planning and Conservation Department office.

The public hearing will be held through virtual format with log-in information below:

URL to join: [https://us02web.](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82239969930?pwd=CGVSN01dmQVbJLgQk5k-FytwPOB66n0.1)

[zoom.us/j/82239969930?pwd=CGVSN01dmQVbJLgQk5k-FytwPOB66n0.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82239969930?pwd=CGVSN01dmQVbJLgQk5k-FytwPOB66n0.1)

Or join by phone: 1 (301) 715 8592 **Webinar ID:** 822 3996 9930 **Passcode:** 091311

Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated.

Brad Hutchison, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
01/23, 01/30/2026

BOARD

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with her assessment after viewing the photos she provided of a myriad of signage examples from around the town. They came in all shapes and sizes. They included temporary or moveable freestanding lawn signs, sandwich boards, vertical banners, and real estate signs. Also, permanent lighted and unlit commercial tenant and multi-tenant signs, overhanging and “pylon” styles, wayfinding, caution, and site management signs. Another just urged, “Love Your Neighbor.”

The (current and proposed update of the law) is “too lengthy, wordy and conflicting in a lot of parts ... I think if we took this bylaw and condensed it to a way it is clear, concise and yet effective, I think it is something we really need to consider,” said board member Rob Wachilla.

All the other members agreed.

“The square footage thing (dimension limits for sign categories) is just ... I mean, at one point I almost said, “Can we stop the carousel?” said member Bob Szklarz. “I need to get off. I felt like I was going around in this time loop.”

“It’s hard to even figure out which section of the bylaw you should be referencing,” member Brad Hutchi-

son said. “I was going to suggest (organizing the law) by signs allowable by permit and signs allowable without a permit, but maybe there has to be different treatment for different zones, which adds a little bit of complexity.”

Hutchison added that “it’s hard to even figure out which section of the bylaw you should be referencing.”

“I feel we need some wayfinding (directional) signage for our bylaw,” he added.

Capra noted that the complexity of the sign bylaw can be understood when the existing zoning map contains numerous exemptions approved in the past that allow uses that conflict with the overlying zones, including residential, commercial, industrial, and others.

“Right now we have residential uses in business zoning districts, and we have businesses in residential zoning districts.”

Board Chair Diane Mulvaney suggested breaking down the sign issue as a conflict of temporary versus permanent signs and the distinction between business and non-business signage.

“We’re always talking about, is this a temporary sign or is this a permanent sign? It starts there, and then you describe what that type of sign is.”

“Then, you indicate when

it needs to be permitted (allowed by permit)? When does it not need to be permitted? It seems that he organizes it in a little bit better way,” Mulvaney said.

Mulvaney suggested that the town consider a more informal approach to signs.

“Do I need to ask permission (for a sign) or can I just put it up? And we get into the minutia, and we go down a more of a rabbit hole, and nobody knows what they want to do and what they need (to do) to get their message across,” Mulvaney said.

In other business, the board approved a Special Permit for a flexible development at 136 East St. and its stormwater management plan. The project consists of 14 units of single and duplex condominiums. Each unit will be limited to ownership by at least one person over 55 years of age.

The approval also required a restriction that the access road be “a private way in perpetuity and not subject to acceptance by Town Meeting.”

Under the board’s decision, the road condition must be acknowledged within the development’s master deed, recorded at the Hampshire Registry of Deeds, and notification (of that condition) must be provided to buyers.

REVUE

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theme, composer, or idea. There is minimal dialogue, a fast pace, and constant mood shifts.” She added that this format allowed the Harlequins “to work to our students’ strengths and really showcase them at their best.”

This year’s production also pushed students beyond familiar territory. Many performers are stepping into the spotlight in new ways. “Some of these students have never performed solos or in very small groups,” Curtis said. “We do have full cast numbers, but students had to commit to stepping outside of their comfort zones.” That risk-taking paid off. “The result is that many students have built their confidence levels and have found that they are capable of performing at a very high level.”

What truly sets this revue apart is the level of student ownership. “I think what is most unique about this show is that aside from the two ensemble numbers and one small group number, the music was all chosen by the students,” Curtis said. While the adults offered guidance, “ultimately, [the students] made the final selections.”

For more than 45 years, the Harlequins have been a cornerstone of South Hadley High School’s arts community. “The Harlequins have been an important part of South Hadley High School for over 45 years, offering students a creative home that does not exist during the school day,” Curtis said. “Whether the cast is large or small, Harlequins gives students a space to take creative risks, build confidence, and express themselves.” Her hope for audiences is simple but mean-

ingful: “that audiences leave not only entertained, but with a deeper appreciation for the growth, commitment, and courage these students bring to the stage.”

The musical revue will take place at South Hadley High School on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 31 at 2 p.m., featuring songs from Hamilton, Wicked, and The Great Gatsby, among others. Ticket information can be found on South Hadley High School Harlequins’ social media pages.

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TOYS

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The showcase featured the hard work the students put into creating this toy, and their work in thinking of the child the toy would go to. The students got to present their toys to their classmates, and the showcase allowed them to show their families their hard work.

“I enjoy watching their ideas come to life and seeing their excitement through the building process, as well as their pride in the finished work. I also like giving them a chance to experience different ways of learning,” said Gardner.

The STEM program has been a great success in the school, providing these students the opportunity to learn more about themselves and the world around them through science and creating something to make the world a better place.

“I am most proud that all the students completed a successful, functional toy. They all worked hard, and it was fun to see the design process each group undertook to complete the task,” said Gardner.

Celebrating the students and their hard work over the year was a wonderful experience, and provided a



Submitted photos

Come and try your hand at the ice cream toss.



Phillipe the Pig helps to teach about money.

way for the students’ work to focus not on just what they learned, but also on how their creations can help someone else in a unique way.

LIBRARY

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not have known about before.

Appointments will take place in a 15-minute session during a two-hour allotted time slot on a Saturday in a shared place for community members to learn from one another. The types of repairs given during the session will be based upon availability of the volunteers.

“I’m hoping this helps build confidence, connection, and sustainability. On a practical level, it saves people money and reduces waste. On a bigger level, it reminds people that they’re not alone, that asking for help is normal, and that skills don’t have to be hidden or gatekept,” said Smelcer. “It also brings different generations together - people who grew up fixing things alongside people who were never taught how - and that kind of knowledge shar-

ing is incredibly valuable.”

From sewing, stitching, basic electronic repairs, basic tech help, or other small repairs, volunteers can offer services to help with a wide variety of skills to utilize from our own neighbors.

“Honestly, watching the “ohhh” moments - when something clicks, when a repair works, or when someone realizes they can understand how something functions. I’m also excited to see people discover skills in themselves they didn’t think they had, whether that’s fixing, teaching, or problem-solving,” said Smelcer, eagerly looking forward to the program’s start.

The program’s goal is to start on a Saturday in May, and for anyone interested in taking part in this new opportunity, you can call Desi at the public library at 413-538-5045 or email her at ds-melcer@cwmars.org to volunteer.

“Fix It only works because of community participation - both the people who volunteer their time and the people who are willing to show up, learn, and try. The library is here to facilitate that connection, and I’m really excited to see how the program grows based on what the community needs and suggests,” said Smelcer. The opportunity to share this program with the community will open doors and opportunities for people to access help and support without having to worry about the cost of going somewhere else. Helping others in a neighborly way is what the library is all about, and will help make the world a better place along the way.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Paddles

5. Screenshot rating

8. Very fast airplane

11. Immune responses

13. “Partner” to feather

14. New England river

15. Longest river in New Guinea

16. Midway between east and southeast

17. Israeli politician

18. Back bones

20. Consumed

21. One you can rely on

22. Dressed up gaudily

25. Representatives

30. Dog breed

31. Pitching statistic

32. Manpower

33. S. Korean entertainer

38. Outsourcing firm

41. Viceroy of Egypt
- under Turkish rule

43. One who removes antlers from a flower

45. Potluck dish

48. Discount

49. Airborne (abbr.)

50. Cavalry sword

55. Basics

56. Hollywood director

Howard

57. Affiliated in mind or body

59. Horsley and Majors are two

60. Midway between northeast and east

61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

62. Malaysian isthmus

63. Fall back

64. Cheek
2. Baseball’s best pitchers

3. __ Nui, Easter Island

4. Invests in little enterprises

5. Constant

6. Hobby

7. A place to store food

8. Short-tail marten

9. Burn with a hot liquid

10. Left his heart in San Francisco

12. Swedish krona

14. Legendary actor Connery

19. French cleric

23. Former measure of length for textiles

24. Opaque glassy substance

25. Residue of burned item

26. A place to unwind

27. Japanese honorific

28. Terminus
29. Fails to make a shot

34. Journalist Tarbell

35. College hoops tournament

36. Monetary unit of Macao

37. Of she

39. Spoke ill of

40. Elements

41. Kilocalorie (abbr.)

42. Shades

44. Poem of fourteen lines

45. Pole used in Scottish sport

46. Hollyhocks genus

47. Street name for marijuana

48. Polio vaccine developer

51. Swiss river

52. Prejudice

53. Actor Idris

54. Confederate soldiers

58. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

1. Former CIA