

CPAC

News of South Hadley's Comprehensive Plan in process

The CP Advisory Committee has started work on the second phase of the Comprehensive Plan and we want to keep the community posted about our progress. After the energizing community meeting last November 12th at the high school, we finalized DRAFT versions of the first four elements of the plan, Housing, Transportation, Economic Development, and Municipal Facilities and Services and they are posted on our website vhb.com/southhadley/. In this new year, we started on the second phase of the project where our subcommittees are addressing the elements of Community Design and Land Use, Open Space and Recreation, Natural Resources, Cultural and Historic Resources.

To jump start our thinking about this second phase, the committee gathered last week on February 11 in Town Hall, joined by members of the planning board, the conservation committee, historical society for a simulated activity designed to help us think together about choices that might face us regarding South Hadley's land use. We were divided into five groups, each with a map of a section of town, and a task to make changes in only our section. We located a school, set aside conservation land, replaced commercial facilities, installed 75 units of housing, found a new site for the library, following the "invented", but certainly possible, assignments and restrictions imposed by our VHB consultant, Juli Beth Hinds. During the evening, we switched groups and worked on a different section of town, with the same choices to make. The evening closed with presentations showing the similar and different choices that groups had made for the same section of town.

While we made no "real and binding" decisions during this educational "game", we agreed it was one of our best meetings. We were given a visceral introduction to the difficulty of choice making among competing interests, as we tried to envision what South Hadley might look like as we followed some of the input we've been getting from the community thus far. Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved and provide input and feedback.

What's upcoming this spring will be more advertised public meetings on phase two issues, and we hope you'll be with us to share your views. If you wish to receive email notification, email CPAC@southhadley.org to be

added to our communication list. If you wish to check the drafts of previous sections, go to vhb.com/southhadley/

*Reported by CPAC member
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