

Town of South Hadley Master Plan
KICK-OFF MEETING NOTES
October 22, 2007

STRENGTHS

- People, volunteers
- Mount Holyoke College – vibrancy, culture
- Small-town character
- Mt. Holyoke Range
- Connecticut River
- Community pride
- Geographic location
- Elected officials, town staff
- Intellicoat
- Canal Park
- Bedroom Community
- Rural yet convenient
- Scenic vistas
- Schools
- 5-College system
- No downtown

WEAKNESSES

- Affordability; type of housing
- Falls v. Center; Two-town mentality; “Dual Personality”
- Lack of a “Sense of Place”
- Two water districts; two fire departments
- No place for young people to gather
- Lack of community spirit
- Too much focus on small rather than big picture
- No Town common
- Route 202 is a barrier
- Lack of restaurants that stay open late.
- Lack of playgrounds
- Financial burden of the Ledges Golf Course
- No track record of successful plan implementation
- Lack of walking, running, bike trails
- Lack of commercial uses
- Personal agendas

OPPORTUNITIES

- Stronger partnership with college
- Canal area / Texon redevelopment
- Revitalization of Falls
- More formal public use of Ledges (recreation, etc.)
- Public access to Connecticut River
- Route 47 Scenic Byway (Funding)
- Clean up Town ponds
- Tax incentives for redevelopment
- Take back the waterfront

THREATS

- Aging town infrastructure
- Increasing school budget
- One dimensional tax base (residential)
- Charter change
- ATV's abuse the land
- Overdevelopment – loss of view corridors, open space, farms, New England character
- “developers getting around everything”
- Overburdened schools
- Casino in Holyoke
- Apathy
- No money to purchase expiring affordable homes

HOT BUTTON ISSUES

- The Ledges
- The Castle
- Ambulatory, Fire, Water District
- Charter Change
- Village Commons
- Falls Revitalization
- Elementary Schools

COMPARABLE TOWNS

- Granby
- East Longmeadow
- Ludlow
- Belchertown
- Wilbraham
- Easthampton
- Amherst