



November 15, 2013

Honorable Selectboard;

Please accept this as an abridged accounting of recent activities of the Town Administrator on your behalf and related to various projects and initiatives.

Special Town Meeting; I hope we all feel prepared for the upcoming November 19th Special Town Meeting. The representatives from the Youth Commission will be in attendance and I hope to be allowed to introduce them at the onset of the meeting.

The questions and concerns I have been asked have been primarily around the Fibermark, Redevelopment Authority and Medical Marijuana articles. I think there is general support for all twelve articles, but we will see come Tuesday evening.

Recreation Department; I am sure you are all aware of the passing of Gert Sugrue who worked for years in Town Hall most recently in the Recreation Department. She was an effervescent upbeat presence in Town Hall and certainly liked by all her co-workers. She will be missed.

Please know that my intent is not to refill that position. The Assistant Parks Director was recently increased to a full time position, along with taking on additional responsibilities previously covered by the Youth Commission Director. This consolidation has helped increase the Park's staffing and the Director will continue to use the revolving fund to assist in covering other gaps in service.

As we have discussed previously these consolidations and retooling moves will continue when the opportunity presents themselves.

Ledges Golf Course; The ATA and I recently met with Doug Juhasz, Mike Fontaine and Chef John at the facility to discuss the winter schedule. The center of the conversation was to make sure the Selectboard's desire of having the Ledges be accessible to other recreational and communally beneficial activities beyond golf. The idea of drawing other citizens in to enjoy their investment was imparted.

We expressed how thankful the SB was with the efforts put forth by the staff during the golf season. Through sound management and respectful dialogue the season was a success and all bets should be paid in that regard.

The winter is significantly untraditional for a New England golf course. Having a mix of indoor activities and outdoor events will have to be part of any attainment of the goals set forth. Art classes, bird watching, Nordic skiing, snow-shoeing, cooking instruction and partnering with non-profits were all part of the conversation. They stated the idea factory will stay open.

If the SB decides to give their endorsement for a winter schedule I would suggest that it is clearly articulated as an experiment, should maximize the offering to various constituencies and have as a bedrock the idea of improving the image of both the Ledges and the Town of South Hadley. Thank you for your diligence on this important issue.

Channel 40; I was approached by Rob Hastings a producer for ABC40 about having South Hadley host a live remote on December 24. The broadcast was to be setup at the Commons, but I wanted them to consider South Hadley Falls as well, they will be getting back to me on that and other details.

This is new addition to the newscast is modeled after the Fox25 Zip Trip which is very popular in the Boston market. I told Rob we would be happy to be the first community to be billboarded on this new program. There will be a featured non-profit (Neighbors Helping Neighbors), conversations with citizens and public officials. They have not given us any of the details but I told them we would be ready. I am hopeful to be able to give you more information early next week.

I believe the Gazette is also running an article about the Medical Marijuana industry and their want to site in South Hadley, you never know how those articles will go, but as long as they spell our name right. I also want to let you know we will continue to look for these opportunities to improve South Hadley's standing in the community of communities of Western Mass.

Master Plan Implementation Committee; I recently met with the MIPC to discuss progress on the goals set in the master plan. We had a healthy discussion about what reaching and ever moving goal means. I made the comparison to Toyota Motors commitment to continuous improvement or "kyzane" and how it might be applied to a municipality.

These are very dedicated individuals who are seeking ways they may be most effected in our collective "kyzane". It cannot be said enough how valuable these citizens are to keep us on track. I hope I gave them some confidence that we are in fact making progress towards implementation. The challenge is that term (implementation) suggests a beginning and therefore end, not a forever journey.

MIAA Rewards Grants; The ATA, Payroll Specialist Julie Gentile, Administrative Aide Laura Krutzler and I met to discuss how we might best effect change with a MIAA Grant. There are two areas human resources and safety/security where they offer grants.

The team decided there were areas of record keeping that were in need of new ideas and property security. When the grants are finalized I will apprise the SB of them so you may review the application and intent.

Thank you for your continued guidance and support. I truly continue to enjoy my (sometimes crazy) job here in your town. I also am thankful to be working with so many talented professionals.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Sullivan Town Adminsitrator

