

South Hadley Redevelopment Authority

Minutes of Meeting on March 9, 2016

Present: Imad Zubi, Tony Judge, Win Lavallee, Diane LaRoche, Kathy McCabe, John Shevlin,
Frank DeToma minutes from February 9 meeting accepted as written

A motion was made by Diane LaRoche asking that the Redevelopment Authority endorse the passage of the Community Preservation Act on the April town ballot. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

John Shevlin presented us with some suggested improvements that could be made to traffic patterns in South Hadley Falls. These suggestions will become part of the Redevelopment Plan, and include construction of roundabouts at Main and Bridge and at Lamb and Main. He also recommends that a comprehensive traffic study should be done to explore possible changes to traffic patterns on Bolton, Spring, Hartford St, Smith St. Also, funds should be earmarked for an engineering study to lay the groundwork for the proposed roundabouts. The goal of these proposed changes is to improve traffic flow, increase pedestrian safety, and accommodate cyclists.

Also discussed was the idea that South Hadley Falls would benefit from becoming an “experience economy” rather than a retail economy, as it was historically. Improvements and upgrades in the Falls should allow for visitors to experience the vista of the Connecticut River from bike paths and walkways.

Kathy McCabe gave us a draft copy of the Goals and Strategies to be included in the Redevelopment Plan for comments/discussion. Also included is an Overview section, with a brief history and a vision for the future of South Hadley Falls.

The Redevelopment Plan will be presented at a Know Your Town meeting on March 31, 2016.

Win Lavallee talked about recent discussions that he has had regarding the shortage of food-buying options in South Hadley and interest in a food co-op. He would like to pursue further discussion on this and will keep this group informed.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at public library

Adjourned 8:55 p.m.