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GREATER SOUTH HADLEY COMMUNITY

As well as continuing many of the programs previously played on Channel 15, many new programs from inside and outside South Hadley have been added to the line up, including: Democracy Now, An Orthodox Approach, Kids A Cookin', Expedition: New England, Thursday Night Classics, and From the Archives.

The following is a short list of programs produced by several of the key "independent producers" in town (Bob Johnson, Linda Young, Andrew Beaudry, and Dale Johnston): MHC - Hot Jazz On A Cold Night, Dining Out In South Hadley, Taking Care of Business - Carey's Flowers, and The Common Re-Dedication Ceremony.

Channel 15 continues to bring residents Selectboard, School Committee, and town meetings; as well as Charter Commission, and Comprehensive Plan Meetings with help from some local volunteers.

Channel 12 has seen a change with the addition of our new video server. It has changed from a 24 hours feed of a single program (Classic Arts Showcase) to an eclectic mix of programs under the title "SH Classics". We now offer a great collection of old television programs, cartoons, music, movies, and educational programs all of which were received at no cost, but at the request of the community we have retained Classic Arts Showcase as our central focus.

There is a continued effort to increase outreach to "independent producers" from within the community to take advantage of the training and equipment that is available through the studio in order to produce their own programming.

SCHOOL

Justin LeTellier and Dan Pease assisted in teaching "Visual Media" students basic video production and editing skills. Approximately 15 programs were produced. They also worked with the music and theater departments to produce several music and theater performances highlighting the many talented children of South Hadley. Also, with the help of a variety of students, a number of sporting events were broadcast both taped and live, all of which included student commentators and multiple camera people.

Justin has also assisted students with the production of their video projects and acted as the Advisor to the extra-curricular club "Tiger Times" - the South Hadley High School student-run TV news program. He also served as a mentor in the High School's "Connections" programs by supervising student, Addison Boroff, a production assistant in his internship program.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Zahm, Chair

Sean Hannon

Constance Clancy
William Collins
Gregory Gauthier

Dale Johnston
Robert Nolin
Robert Pueschel

Canal Park Committee

The Committee this year has focused on the overlook at Canal Street and the adjacent Bicentennial Canal Park, its trails and non-motorized boat launch. Power washing and staining of the overlook is scheduled for October. This will not only enhance the appearance of the overlook but will help to preserve and extend its life. As we go forward we will need to address maintenance of the overlook that may likely exceed past budget expenditures.

The status and final plans for the Gatehouse Park and the Riverside Park are at present not resolved. The question of the demolition of the Texon building has not been definitely determined but restoration does appear to be unlikely.

The Canal Park Committee continues to rely on the wonderful energy of many volunteers to plant flowers and shrubs, eliminate invasive species, clean litter, clear vistas and paths, and generally make the park shine. The increasing amount of people taking advantage of the non-motorized boat launch, enjoying the beautiful vistas, fishing, or enjoying a quiet moment are a testament to our great volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Constant, Chair

Conservation Commission

Between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 the Commission met 21 times to hold Public Hearings, Meetings and Executive Sessions on proposed projects. We received seven new Notices of Intent and 20 new Requests for Determination, and continued review on many more. We issued four Amendments and six Extensions to Orders of Conditions, 12 Certificates of Compliance, and approved 18 new Building Permits. The Commission also issued five Emergency Certification Orders, most dealing with flooding problems, five Enforcement Orders and one Violation Notice. All of the wetland applications required plan review, site visits, legal notices, public meetings or hearings, issuance of Orders or Determinations, and monitoring.

Projects under review included general maintenance permits for Mount Holyoke College, the Loomis Community and the Orchards golf course; renovation of the Beachgrounds Park; maintenance and expansion of the SHELD utility corridor; water, sewer, gas and electrical maintenance and repair projects; vegetation control for dam maintenance, and beaver problems at the Ledges golf course. Project oversight continued on the Shadowbrook retention pond. There were also many smaller projects for

single family home construction and additions, drainage work, docks, vista pruning and tree removal.

The Conservation Administrator continues to monitor active projects around town for adherence to their Order of Conditions, attend meetings on town issues, advise the public and the Commission on administrative procedures, and offer conservation department input on various projects such as the landfill expansion proposals, Texon building demolition, Falls revitalization and Planning Board permit reviews. The Administrator participated in meetings on the Connecticut River Scenic Farm Byway, which group received a grant through the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for \$1.2 million dollars for Connecticut River Scenic Farm Byway Land Protection in Hadley and South Hadley on Route 47. The Administrator and members of the Commission attended meetings and provided input for the Heritage Landscape Inventory program and Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC).

The Conservation Commission continues to work on trails and management of the conservation properties. With the help of the DPW, we installed four new signs at the Bachelor/Stony Brook, Carver/Jones, Gormally and Bynan conservation areas. We thank Girl Scout Troop 98 for planning and repainting the blazes on the two main trails on the Black Stevens Conservation area. Our enthusiastic and indefatigable volunteer Lin Pickle continues to help maintain the trails, including remarking a new trail on the north side of Bachelor Brook off Route 47. The Commission filed with DEP for trail maintenance on the Black Stevens conservation area and Bagg-Pierce Wildlife Sanctuary. A Mount Holyoke College student identified common invasive plants on the Bachelor/Stony Brook property and prepared a report outlining control methods. A Mount Holyoke College professor is conducting plant research with students on some of the Bachelor/Stony Brook fields. Farmer Steve McCray continues to lease six fields at Bachelor/Stony Brook for corn and hay crops. The Commission installed a new gate at the Town Farm to prevent unpermitted vehicle traffic from entering the farm fields at that entrance to the Bachelor/Stony Brook conservation area. With the help of 20 volunteers, including members of the high school environmental club and Home Improvement Associates, we had a very successful Earthday cleanup April 19 at the Black Stevens Conservation Area. In a few hours we collected a full dump truck of debris, half a dumpster of trash, and 8 large bags of recyclable containers. Many thanks to DPW for picking up, and Interstate Waste Services for accepting the materials.



Earth Day Volunteer Kristin Stueber



New gate at the edge of Town Farm parking lot.
(Conservation Photos Courtesy of Janice Stone)

In addition to the above, the Conservation Commission worked on farmland protection through promotion of a Right to Farm bylaw and establishment of an Agricultural Commission. Both of these bylaws are meant to support our local farmers, and were passed unanimously at spring town meeting. In addition the Commission has begun work on promoting and facilitating state approval and financing of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) on McCray's farm off Alvord Street. An APR would reimburse the farmer for the development value of his land, in exchange for permanently protecting it as working farmland.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fleming, Chair
Dennis Swartwout, Vice-chair
James Canning, Secretary
W. Bradford Allen, Commissioner
Arthur Jackson, Commissioner
Jacob Masenior, Associate Commissioner
Janice Stone, Conservation Administrator
Linda Scott, Clerk