

**SOUTH HADLEY ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M.**

Present for the Board: Chair Gregory Dubreuil, Vice-Chair John Hine, Anne Awad, Peter McAvoy (arrived 5:01)
Absent: Kurt Schenker

Present for SHELD: General Manager Sean Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant Kim Mendoza

Guests: SHELD Attorney Ben Coyle, Master Plan Implementation Committee Judith Gooch

The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Chair Dubreuil.

Master Plan Discussion:

Chairman Dubreuil explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review the list of tasks that the Master Plan Implementation Committee had compiled for SHELD. The tasks either had SHELD as lead on the project or working with other committees or town departments. Mr. Dubreuil read each associated task, along with the level of responsibility, the evaluation metrics and the priority of each task. Mr. Fitzgerald had listed input from SHELD for each task. There was a discussion by the Board members around each task and whether the task was an appropriate one for SHELD.

It was discussed that SHELD already engages in many of the tasks that are on the list and that they can be measured. The Board suggested ideas on how to identify and encourage conditions that attract and support people of color to work at SHELD and how to make use of college personnel or consultants to provide expertise, possibly by using college students for outreach activities.

One of the tasks that the Board did not agree with was for SHELD to offer town-wide Wi-Fi. It is not needed as SHELD is currently constructing town-wide fiber and offering Wi-Fi would put SHELD in competition with itself or with a third party. Mr. McAvoy stated he was told, by a computer expert, that Wi-Fi is not secure and did not approve of the idea. The Board also did not feel that it was an appropriate task for SHELD Staff, or a quorum of the Board, to encourage ratepayers of diverse backgrounds to run for the SHELD Board. This needs to be promoted at the Community level, not at SHELD.

There was a discussion around the nuclear assets that SHELD owns and the future of the nuclear power contracts. Mr. McAvoy made it very clear that he is against any use of nuclear power when the current contracts expire in 2045 and 2050.

Adjourn:

On a motion by Mr. Hine and seconded by Mr. McAvoy it was unanimously
VOTED: To adjourn

The open session ended at 6:08 P.M.


Anne Awad, Clerk

Approved: March 25, 2021

EXHIBIT A

List of Documents reviewed at the February 18, 2021 Municipal Light Board Meeting

1. Master Plan Goals for SHELD

Goals, objectives, entities, evaluation metrics and priority ranking					
GOAL 1: A THRIVING COMMUNITY					
Objectives					
1-1	Create the physical and regulatory conditions that support job retention and growth and encourage new retail and services.				
1-2	Focus on Economic development that provides well-paying jobs and attracts companies, including light manufacturing, that value South Hadley as a place for their employees to live and work.				
1-3	Support the development of housing at different scales and price ranges to meet the needs of people at all life stages and incomes.				
1-4	Improve connections for all, including those with varied abilities, and especially to open space and recreational activities to support community health and engagement.				
1-5	Strengthen social engagement by providing multigenerational programming.				
1-6	Support educational resources for people of all ages and abilities.				
1-7	Be a welcoming community that attracts and supports a diverse population.				
	ASSOCIATED TASKS	Entities Responsible/Co-Responsible (lead entity is underlined)	Evaluation Metrics	Priority (I = Immediate; ST = Short Term; MT = Mid Term; LT = Long Term)	Municipal Light Board Input/feedback
	Identify and encourage conditions that attract and support people of color	<u>Select Board</u> ; Administration; all entities	Are there instruments for identifying issues concerning people of color and for monitoring their experience of Town services? Are there mechanisms in place for identifying challenges and addressing them? Are there changes in Town demography and participation in civic life?	ST, MT	MLB Agrees: SHELd is posting jobs on diversity.com and attending diversity training and will continue to look for ways to increase diversity at SHELd. Need to leave hiring staff to GM. Can document diversity of new hires. Board needs to figure out how to get diversity on the board. SHELd has conducted Customer Survey to measure customer experiences.
	Promote low cost reliable electricity, availability of fiber, and potentially offer incentives for business or industry to locate or expand in South Hadley.	<u>SHELd</u> , Redevelopment Authority, Administration.	track business inquiries, new businesses, expanded businesses, jobs.	ST	MLB Agrees: SHELd already does these things by promoting our low rates in quartile newsletters and offers over \$100,000 in rebates annually for both business and residential customers. SHELd's rate schedules include an Economic Development Rider which provides an incentive for new businesses to locate in SH and existing business to expand operations and as a result increase jobs. We are able to pull reports showing how many new electric and fiber customers we have at any time.
	Investigate offering town-wide Wi-Fi.	SHELd	Has it been investigated? Next steps determined?	ST	MLB NOT Agree: This is not feasible for SHELd who is in in a full fiber deployment which will provide fiber to every home. Please REMOVE from task list.
	Facilitate public outreach events and forums around sustainability, to include public access TV, Know Your Town, mailed resource advertisements, and social media.	<u>Sustainability and Energy</u> , SHCTV, Know Your Town, SHELd. NOTE: this is also an "awareness" issue. What actions would need to take place in order to demonstrate that awareness led to action?	# events, # attendees, # other outreach. Depending on techniques being promoted (e.g. electric cars, recycling) track #s, other data.	ST	MLB Agrees: SHELd already does these things by actively participating in KYT and promoting many energy related topics (solar rebates) and services through our Social media (882 Facebook Followers) and bill inserts to all customers. SHELd does safety trainings at the schools and senior center. Fibersonic was holding in person meetings/trainings until COVID. MLB Monthly meetings are on SHCTV and on our website for viewing.

	Make use of college/university personnel and consultants to provide special expertise.	Administration, other entities as appropriate	#s used? Purposes? Products?	ST, MT, LT	MLB Agrees: SHELd works with Mt Holyoke college on a number of matters i.e.- solar and attends functions at the college. Will look into ways can make use of college personnel or consultants to provide expertise. Possibly use college students for outreach activities.
GOAL 2: CARING FOR OUR RESOURCES					
Objectives					
2-1	Protect the community's drinking water supply and ensure that it is adequate to meet the needs of the community in perpetuity				
2-2	Expand resources by engaging community members in support of the acquisition and maintenance of strategic open space parcels to support community and wildlife needs.				
2-3	Protect agricultural land as a natural resource and support local agriculture as an economic enterprise and historic resource.				
2-4	Develop regulations and programs that support the reuse and rehabilitation of historic buildings, the retention of historic development patterns (the interrelationship of streets, building footprints and open spaces) the creation of new and protection of existing viewsheds (views of landscapes and/or natural and historic resources)especially those of the Connecticut river.				
2-5	Integrate cultural opportunities into the life of the town, including regular and seasonal community events, public art in appropriate areas of town, support for cultural and educational programs, events at Mount Holyoke College, and a variety of existing and future indoor and outdoor gathering spaces.				
2-6	Identify state and federal programs and seek grants and other sources of funding.				
2-7	Coordinate resources to ensure protection of woodlands and the built environment against wildfire, given climate change				
	ASSOCIATED TASKS	Entities Responsible/Co-Responsible (lead entity is underlined)	Evaluation Metrics	Priority (I = Immediate; ST = Short Term; MT = Mid Term; LT = Long Term)	
	If SHELd moves, consider redevelopment of existing building or removal to support river access.	SHELd	how is site being used? River access changed?	ST/MT	MLB Agrees: SHELd has engaged with the town administration to provide a focal point (85 Main Street) to draft plans for a redevelopment grant. SHELd has also participated in the first redevelopment meeting.
GOAL 3: A RESILIENT COMMUNITY					
Objectives					
3-1	Address climate change and resiliency measures in all actions.				
3-2	Diversify the tax base to support jobs, manufacturing, goods and services for residents and strengthen the municipal budget in order to increase capacity and services.				
3-3	Encourage participation on Town boards and committees by people who are now or have been under-represented in the community, as demographics change over time, to ensure broad-based representation in decision-making and support for Town policies and actions.				

3-4	Develop a program to connect all residents and businesses to the proposed fiber network. Provide appropriate training and devices for low income and/or elderly households.				
3-5	Identify and take advantage of non-tax base revenue sources.				
	ASSOCIATED TASKS	Entities Responsible/Co-Responsible (lead entity is underlined)	Evaluation Metrics	Priority (I = Immediate; ST = Short Term; MT = Mid Term; LT = Long Term)	
	Incorporate addressing climate change/resiliency into mandate.	<u>Planning Board</u> ; SHELd	is it incorporated? Impact(s)?	ST	MLB Agrees: SHELd welcomes any climate change tasks. SHELd has one of the lowest carbon footprints in the Commonwealth with 90% of our energy supply from non carbon emitting energy sources. SHELd has built redundancy into it's distribution and fiber systems for back up.
	Work with Town administration and neighboring towns to consider adoption of Zero Net Carbon goals, tree planting, requiring energy efficiency standards with new construction (particularly municipal) electric charging stations, solar on existing structures, etc.	<u>Planning Board</u> , Administration, SHELd, Sustainability, Tree	goals adopted? Impact?	ST	MLB Agrees: SHELd supports this goal and has been steadily increasing its renewable energy with solar power and rebates for electric charging stations. SHELd has also increased its distributed generation policy caps and entered into a large scale Power Purchase Agreement for solar.
	Install solar arrays on the South Hadley High School with battery storage in conjunction with SHELd.	<u>School Dept</u> , SHELd, Sustainability	arrays installed? Impact on energy costs?	MT	This requires town and school commitment first before SHELd can get involved.
	Encourage ratepayers of diverse backgrounds to run for the SHELd board to ensure that all businesses and residents have access to Board functions.	<u>SHELd</u> , Select board	track diversity	ST/MT	MLB NOT Agree: This is not appropriate task for SHELd Staff/Board Quorum. This needs to be promoted in the Community not at SHELd.
	Incorporate renewable energy into our portfolio over time as load permits either through Department owned assets or other large-scale installations.	SHELd	track amount of renewable energy incorporated into portfolio	MT	MLB Agree: Mass has pending legislation that if approved would recognize nuclear in renewables. If it passes then SHELd's power supply portfolio is 90% renewable. SHELd will need to plan for 2050. We have 65 customers with solar currently plus the array at Mt. Holyoke College. We can track.
	Provide internet connectivity to every household and business in South Hadley with a combination of broadband, fiber and wi-fi .	SHELd	track #s of households, businesses getting connectivity	MT	REMOVE WIFI - SHELd is currently executing this goal and is in year 2 of a 5 year town wide fiber deployment plan. Currently have 2676 "interested" customers and 818 connected customers.
	Establish a grant program to provide internet-enabled devices to low-income households.	<u>SHELd</u> , School Dept, Library, Council on Aging	grant program established? Track #s of devices provided	ST/MT	MLB Agrees: SHELd is in discussions of ways to help low income families afford fiber but because Fibersonic is in the construction phase right now - this is on hold.
	Work with Council On Aging and Library to provide training for those unfamiliar with connecting to on-line resources.	<u>SHELd</u> , Council On Aging, Library, School Dept. Primary will depend on population to be served	track # requests for help, #s getting training	ST	MLB Agrees: SHELd was holding events however COVID has halted all in person training for now.
	GOAL 4: EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION				

Objectives				
4-1	Support a strong sense of identity through coordinated visual presentation of graphics and typefaces in all communications (reports, informational materials, signage and Town website, social media, and other messaging.)			
4-2	Provide a consistent, positive message for members in the South Hadley community and beyond, including attracting new business.			
4-3	Develop a clear and consistent method of publicizing Town policies.			
4-4	Provide timely information about Town actions, services, meetings and events.			
4-5	Function well and consistently in an emergency.			
4-6	Communicate progress in reaching the goals of this plan using the metrics defined in the implementation plan to indicate success or a need to reorient Town efforts.			
4-7	Improve access by citizens to information about and participation in Town governance, including by virtual means.			
ASSOCIATED TASKS	Entities Responsible/Co-Responsible (lead entity is underlined)	Evaluation Metrics	Priority (I = Immediate;	
Work with boards, committees and departments to identify baseline data for impact evaluation and standard metrics.	<u>Master Plan Implementation Committee</u> , boards, committees, departments	Baseline data identified?	I/ST	MLB Agrees: SHELd will work with others. SHELd will continuously look for ways to improve town participation. SHELd will gladly share progress or metrics for our goals.
Work with boards, committees and departments to monitor progress towards goals using metrics defined in this Master Plan Update.	<u>Master Plan Implementation Committee</u> , all boards, committees, departments	Is monitoring happening? Feedback from boards etc. as to usefulness; feedback to SB, PB, Town Meeting as to progress	MT/LT	MLB Agrees: SHELd will work with other boards SHELd conducts surveys of its employees and its customers for feedback. SHELd will gladly share progress or metrics for our goals. SHELd is measured on our power outage restoration times. We report on this monthly and annually. SHELd has received national recognition for exceeding utility industry standards. SHELd established a social media presence to publicize events and keep the public informed in emergency situations. Soon to be starting a text notification system for outages. New AMI Meters will tell SHELd of an outage before a customer can call in.