

Press Release:

South Hadley Electric Light Department Purchases 545 Granby Road

The South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD) is excited to announce the purchase of 545 Granby Road in South Hadley, MA. SHELD is in process of evaluating this property for a future home for Electric and FiberSonic Internet operations.

SHELD left no rock unturned in its search which included extensive research of appropriate properties in South Hadley Falls and South Hadley at large. SHELD was actively seeking a location in the Falls as it is an important part of SHELD's history, however given the complexities a utility must consider when strategically serving a community, the Falls did not have a parcel which suited those varied needs.

The Granby Road opportunity comes to SHELD at a great value. The timing of the Granby Road acquisition in conjunction with Town plans to develop a mixed-use facility in the Falls centered on SHELD's historic 85 Main Street location, are strategically aligned. SHELD's purchasing of the Granby Road property at the same time the state awarded the Town a grant for the redevelopment of the Falls are of benefit to both the Town's taxpayers and SHELD's ratepayers.

SHELD's General Manager Sean Fitzgerald stated that "SHELD is committed to serving our customers in accordance with our strategic initiative of enhancing the quality of life in South Hadley and the Town's vision for redevelopment of the Falls area. We are pleased to work with the Town on their Falls development efforts which center around the 85 Main Street property."

Town Administrator Mike Sullivan commented that "We are excited about the possible future uses for the SHELD present site and will work with Planning and the Redevelopment Authority to consider a viable reuse which benefits the community. SHELD's efforts to find a suitable property to develop their new home close to the Falls, and accessible to all parts of the community, is greatly appreciated".

SHELD's Board Chair, Greg Dubreuil, commented "Our hearts and our history are in the Falls. We felt it important that we make every effort to remain a part of the Falls economy and community, however the availability of appropriate locations are very limited. We need to focus on a suitable location, in a business zoned area, that will accommodate our equipment needs and growth requirements for both electric and fiber operations. The Granby Road location provided just that at an attractive price."

SHELD intends on conducting public meetings to address any questions from stakeholders during the process for the development of the Granby Road property.