

AGENDA

Deerfield Open Space Committee Meeting January 7, 2026 5:00pm – 6:30pm

***Meeting will be held in person at the Deerfield Town Hall, Conference Room
8 Conway St., South Deerfield, MA***

And on Zoom.

Remote Meeting Connection noted below:

Please click this URL to

join. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6200078930?pwd=Z2d6ZzNuMVhJMkVJT2VUYW9yaFhCQT09>

Meeting ID: 620 007 8930 Passcode: 627371

Dial In: 1 (301) 715 8592; 1 (309) 205 3325; Toll Free 1 (877) 853 5257

Meeting attendees should mute phones (*** 6 for landlines**) unless asking questions or commenting. All attendees should wait to speak until other participants are finished.

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approve Minutes of 12-8-2025 Meeting
3. Update: Grant Application to Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to Allocate Funds to New Deerfield Conservation Fund
 - Application is for \$100,000
 - Julie and Chris attended the Dec 17, 2025 CPC meeting where the grant application was reviewed
 - CPC wants more information to support the review:
 - What is necessary under state law to establish the Conservation Fund, which is under and administered by the Conservation Commission?
 - How would the range of uses for open space purposes that are approved by CPC be defined and how will use of funds be separately tracked?
 - What process will the Conservation Fund use to make decisions on which open space projects to fund and what oversight does the Selectboard and CPC have over these decisions?
 - Several parties are working on identifying answers to these questions including Kathy Sylvester and Peter James (CPC), Pete Law and Sean Libbey (Conservation Commission), Julie Caswell and Chris Curtis (Open Space Committee), and Christopher Dunne (Town Administrator)
 - The project will be reviewed again at the Jan 14, 2026 CPC meeting
4. Submission of 2026 MassTrails Grant Application
 - The resubmission deadline is February 2, 2026
 - Committee members will discuss work so far on resubmission on the MassTrails grant we made in 2025 with updates in several important areas of the grant application:
 - Renovation and upgrade of Pocumtuck Ridge Trail from Hillside to Stage Road, better and more in-depth description of its connectivity value

- Design of Ct Riverview Loop, better and more in-depth description of its accessibility, better and more in-depth description of its connectivity value
 - Connector from Pocumtuck Ridge Trail near Hillside Trailhead down to parking area for Ct Riverview Loop (inclusion depends on discussion with UMass Amherst)
 - Indigenous Working Group activity, emphasize link to equity issues
 - Equity program, environmental justice
 - Involve children and adults
 - Plan for completion of grant application
5. Close Meeting
- Next meeting date: February 9th? 5:00-6:30pm
 - Adjourn

Minutes to be taken by Julie Caswell.