



Town of Deerfield Committee Meeting

Deerfield Municipal Offices
8 Conway Street
South Deerfield, MA 01373
Ph: 413-665-1400
Fax: 413-665-1411

Date: September 22, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting (via Zoom)

Minutes

Attendees:

David Gilbert-Keith	Chair
M.A. Swedlund	Member
Steve Eipper	Member
Greg Franceschi	Member
Steven Svoboda	Member
Alex Herchenreder	Administrative Assistant

1) **Minutes:**

- a. Minutes: David volunteers
- b. Draft minutes from 8/18/22 tabled

2) **Connecting Communities Initiative:**

- a. Selectman Tim Hilchey talked with M.A. He would like a letter of support from us to Allison Gage at FRCOG for a Federal Grant toward shared geothermal in town. Deadline is today.
- b. M.A. moves that we agree to write a letter of support for Deerfield's Connecting Community Initiative (CCI) plan to build a Municipal Campus Geothermal Project to provide heating and cooling for four key buildings in the center of town. Seconded by Steve S., approved unanimously
- c. David agrees to write and submit it (appended below).

3) **Solar Planning Program from UMass Energy Extension:**

- a. David had indicated to Kayce (Town Administrator) that we would talk about this issue today, possibly missing deadline for support from Selectboards
- b. M.A. thinks it would be a very good thing and hopes town will work with Zara Dowling and her team to find grants, prioritize feasible sites for solar, and more. Alex will see if SelectBoard approved writing a letter in support of program.

4) **Green Communities:**

- a. EV Charging report: Steve S.:
 - Chargers add expense
 - Would be good in future to try when feasible to have stations connected to buildings to avoid demand charges multiplier on stand-alone meters that affects the whole month's bill.
- b. **Frontier:**
 - David met with Bill Hildreth who runs the physical plant of Frontier. David suggests best option for GC grant might be to use it toward installation and use of mini-splits to reduce use of gas-fired boilers. Notes need for more controls.
 - M.A. encourages involving Ben Weil of UMass Energy Extension to try to figure out best way to reduce fossil use at Frontier
 - David agrees to try to get Ben and Bill together
- c. GC does not cover bike paths. M.A. reports that Connecting Communities Initiative looked at bike paths and thinks they will be considered under the Complete Streets program.
- d. Questions raised about structure of Complete Streets and how to work with it. CCI minutes are on town website

5) **Updates:**

- a. M.A. will ask Nexamp if Eversource has yet approved the landfill solar project
- b. **North Main Park:** On hold pending lawsuit
- c. **Sr. Housing:** Some would prefer it be located at end of Braeburn to avoid loss of ballfields at proposed location. Braeburn less central to town but the Braeburn location would make it easier to use the field for geothermal installation
- d. **Aggregation:** All quiet. 3-year contract will be up for renewal in 2024.

6) **Action Items:** Swap shed at transfer station: No volunteers. Raise at town meeting?

7) **Scheduling:** Next meeting 8/18/22

Respectfully submitted,

David Gilbert Keith

Appended letter of support:



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To Whom It May Concern:

At our meeting today, the Deerfield Energy Committee voted unanimously to write this letter of support for Deerfield's Connecting Community Initiative (CCI) plan to build a Municipal Campus Geothermal Project to provide heating and cooling for four key buildings in the center of town. This geothermal project will also move the town toward its goal of becoming energy neutral.

The CCI has been working a plan to develop a net zero municipal campus for over a year and Geothermal heating and cooling is a key part of that plan.

Restoring and repurposing historic buildings along our main street will bring new life to our town center while at the same time maintaining its beauty. By saving the significant amount of fossil fuel required to regulate the temperature of these large buildings the Town can avoid the otherwise considerable and ongoing cost of that fuel.

For these and many reasons, the Deerfield Energy Committee supports the Connecting Community Initiative's request for funding of this Municipal Campus Geothermal Project.

Sincerely,

David Gilbert Keith
(Chair, Deerfield Energy Committee)