

Connecting Community Initiative Committee (CCI)

January 15th 2026 **6:00 pm**

Certain meetings normally held at the Municipal Offices are being held remotely, with adequate, alternative means of public access and, where required, public participation provided, in accordance with House Bill Number 62 of the 194th General Court, which extended the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 20, until June 30, 2027. Meetings are typically broadcast on Frontier Community Access Television (FCAT) and are available on YouTube.

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4136658576?pwd=Q1BtT0NBtkFPSzJzdGNhaHN4Wmozdz09>

Meeting ID: 413 665 8576

Passcode: musicHeals

Phone:

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 413 665 8576

Passcode: 6601007780

Agenda

- 6:30 - Call to order
Meeting Guidelines: speak one-at-a-time: follow Deerfield Code of Conduct (respectful, considerate, courteous): concise, non-repetitive
- Members present:
 - ~~Jim Cambias~~ John Stacey
 - ~~Julie~~ Chalfant
 - ~~Lili~~ Dwight
 - ~~Tim~~ Hilchey
 - ~~Andrea~~ Leibson
 - ~~Denise~~ Mason
 - Christopher Dunne
 - ~~MA~~ Swedlund
 - Pete Law
 - Mark Brennan
 - ~~Garey~~ Etehells
 - ~~Alex~~ Galloway
 - ~~Carolyn~~ Ness
 - ~~Analee~~ Wulfkuhle

Guests: Kathy Sylvester,

- 6:35: Approve minutes from: November 13, 2025
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UICfDdc2dUNkZvFWFTDWnMZ5Yd4XE83bQ8r1_YtDVjs/edit?tab=t.0- unanimous approved
- Committee updates report
 - DES- next meeting Tuesday. Tight budget year, review in Jan. requests, Feb, March - public hearing. Playground approved by Cons. Comm. Costs gone up. Dec. 5 Chairs meeting- Super review. Chapter 70 funding formula advocacy- large Nov. meeting in Greenfield. Return to CIPC? TBD.
 - Historic- not much going on. Looking at signage on the Old Deerfield town common-working with DA. Next meeting Senior Housing coming to the board. Feb 9 @ 5 pm
 - Library - John Stacey (most recently appointed Trustee). Soft opening Saturday-spectacular building. Staff learning all the new systems. April will be full opening.

- Finance- had 1st meeting of the season Monday. Got through indicators & they are posted on web site. Senior Center presented to them about new site. Significant increase to health care costs. Will be tough to provide level services. Just beginning.
- MVP - final report Jan 27 at 4:30 at Town Hall. Will have maps & detail on the amount of water we need to mitigate a hundred year storm (16"). Feb 12 Committee reviews next round of grants to continue mitigation efforts, education, planting, etc. PL566 request is moving along. Fingers crossed. Deadline? No. but was cut from 900 million to 43 million.
- Energy- working w/other towns to involve for Frontier Green Communities grant for better utilization of mini-splits. Working to submit all reports so can submit for next grant round. Working to prepare for Climate LEader roadmap- doing building tour with Matthew Morse & Julie & Ted Harvey from FRCOG. Contacting solar companies re: possible solar for waste water treatment plant. Will be part of the TBAC ? TBAC not really meeting- work to be taken on by Matt Morse's team and those in charge of buildings (department heads), but developed a list of proposed capital projects (not including solar) like energy management
- Open Space - resubmitting Mass Trail grant- met w/DCR folks were very encouraging- due Feb 2. Work on a walking loop on UMass land near the river + connecting to Hillside trail head. Participated in Engage: Deerfield Committee Fair- was interesting. New group - Pocket Playground working group. Looking to develop playground on Municipal Campus. Next meeting Feb 10. May be Open Space sub committee. Open Space Plan included "tot lots".
- Town Planner - signed contract w/Conway School of Landscape Design for us to become a Rural Housing Community of Choice (for grants!). Will also help with ADU by-law update to make us eligible. Goes until March. Weekly meetings, community outreach events. One the 1st week of Feb to review existing conditions & feedback. Got a Brownfields grant for Senior Housing Site. Got a Park Street approval to evaluate temporary changes. Very safety focused, lots of paint & flashing beacons.
- Town Common - will be part of the Elm St project. Met to bring everyone up to date on the projects. Working with DPC and Mass DOT. Plan for Public engagement? Maybe tie into w/the Conway School presentation. (Waiting on surveying) web site: off of Planning Board page, can sign up through town sign ups. Get into Currents.
- Old Deerfield sewer- expecting a report from engineer for a phased approach to upgrading the plant. 1st phase is electrical. Plan will detail what is next - clarifiers, head facility. More to report, expect a presentation to Selectboard. Will have conversations with the schools once the plan is laid out. Alex looking at grants, too. Solar panels part of the plan?- being evaluated because they may be fine.
- Selectboard- Trevor presented at Engage Committee Fair, MMA conference in Boston next week, much of Town Hall attending. Trying to meet with companies to see if any new opportunities to offset energy costs. Northeast Solar coming to look at 1888 building. Library looking for LEED certification- having solar helps this. We get \$100K when LEED certified. Could be as many as 160 panels on library.
- SCEMS - met Tuesday- looking to hire a consultant (actuarial) to look at state of operations as regional service. Should we "shrink" our range- does remuneration compensate for the cost? Get more towns to join?
- [CPC](#)
- [Senior Housing](#)
- Planning Board- ADU's work continues. Approved a number of projects over the last few years that haven't moved forward. Sunny Daze moving right along - opening possibly in March. New Cumby's detention pond that has been fixed, but haven't reported out yet. Do we have a policy to remind people that their time is running out? Amy has a spreadsheet. Another study - EVM Studio for South County Senior Center- convert current Town Hall for Senior Center or other use. SB requested a report for minimum work to make it a useable space. (BOO presented request for approx. \$170K/yr for Sunderland space) looking for 2

budgets- no change and new space budgets. OROFIL won land purchase for former DPW storage shed.

- ZBA- continuation of 7 Thayer St. former funeral home & single family home on lot. There will be a 3 family unit in the former funeral home. Down to 4 members - needs to be 5 with 2 alternates. Gaby won't be renewing.
- CIPC- haven't met yet- bound to be an interesting year
- Public Comment 2 minutes, if time permits
- Other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before
- Next meeting: Feb 12 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Adjourn at 7:23

The Connecting Community Initiative supports the Deerfield Select Board's anti-hate statement of November 11, 2022. We unequivocally condemn racism, discrimination and hate in all its forms, and we commit to work diligently to ensure that our town is welcoming and safe for everyone. We recognize our responsibility to understand and address all forms of inequality. We encourage diversity of voices and representation on all Deerfield town boards and committees. We pledge to help foster a community where all individuals can live happily, free of fear and with equal access to opportunities, regardless of age, race, religion, ethnic background, national origin, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation.