

Connecting Community Initiative Committee (CCI)

February 12th, 2026 6:30 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

Minutes

- 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 Gambias
 - Julie Chalfant
 - Lili Dwight
 - Tim Hitchey
 - Andrea Leibson
 - Denise Mason
 - Christopher Dunne
 - MA Swedlund
 - Pete Law
 - Mark Brennan
 - Carey Etchells
 - Alex Galloway
 - Carolyn Ness
 - Analee Wulfkuhle
 - Trevor McDaniel

Guests:

- 6:35: Approve minutes from: [January 15, 2025](#)- unanimous
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VcMPGI6YS2AD5gWxpuD18Os2num3a4MxeWY-u9DRICs/e/dit?tab=t.0>
- Committee updates report
 - Finance- started meeting; most of the budgets are in except for DES (2 weeks). Pretty bleak. Healthcare gone up 40% since last year. All proposals are more than projected revenues, will be cuts. Just in the beginning. Then will review with each department Then work with Selectboard (up to SB). Frontier - level service would be 6.45% increase, so they reviewed and proposing cut 6-7 positions, brings to 2.44 for Deerfield. Frontier pays own health insurance. DES is all on the Town.
 - Library- more delays for elevator- assembly in April; Official grand opening in October; waiting for architect for the front door to fix latch. 1.52 million fund raising. Special Meeting for budget approval. Building maintenance expenses are now part of library budget.

Significant increase in operating costs. Hoping to avoid cuts. Good response to annual appeal. Cans for library- no one is doing it. Salt shed is now storage; Ideas bandied about. Maybe a school group? Trevor will post on Deerfield Now seeing if someone will pick them up.

- MVP - submitting under new Eco-1 process. We qualify as having no match required for the grant. Pleasant Street and Capt. Lathrop culvert are first up (Lathrop has sewer pipe, too). Conservation District- submitting a grant for restoration of Bloody Brook. Submitted bio-diversity grant, too. Administered by Franklin Conservation District. "Sponge Community" discussion (water capture of nuisance flooding and working it down to the 2 year level). Future parking lots - bylaw changes to require pervious pavement. There is no money until October 1.
- Town Common- nothing; trying for a meeting on the 27th to review results of asset management and the different streets. Waiting on DPC. Sewer- close on Old Dfld rehab. Plan- looking for plans of 3 phased project on 27th. 2 asset management plans for wastewater & storm water. Camera work is done.
- Progress at 1888- new addition encapsulated. Moving on with interior infrastructure. Talking w/solar companies for bids for roof. Will be a change order, but will all be handled. Use the USDA funds. Library- seeking bids from solar companies Have 2 estimates from 1 company. 29Megawatts /year. Falling roof snow is a problem near the book drop. Franklin County Tech building walkthrough of presentation. Preliminary number - 680k/year. Needs to be approved by a ballot vote by the majority of voters on Oct. 6, 2026. Other options- MBSA is rigid. Feb 23 will be presented to the town. Senior Center is a budget item; Budget comes to Finance Committee, must pass in every town. Presentations coming up in March.
- Open Space - just met. Resubmitted application for Mass Trails to design a 1.7 mile riverview loop on UMass land. Have an MOU w/UMass. Connecting trail that goes west on hillside. Repair segment of Pocumtuck trail. Hope to hear end of June. Working with CPC on Conservation fund. Playground work group... is now an official subcommittee to follow open meeting law. Identified 2 good spots for playgrounds.
- Energy - Final report for DES Building Mgmnt report submitted to DOER- now can submit for Frontier. FRCOG is helping. Building Tour with Matthew Morse in preparation for the roadmap. Looking at infrastructure, age, and long range plans in preparation for grants. Library electric bill- yikes! Requesting estimates on Wastewater treatment plant for solar. Next meeting feb 24 at 4 pm
- [CPC](#)
- [Senior Housing](#)
- Christopher Dunne notified- no automatic backfilling of hiring people
- Electricity rates going up - have to start up plants because it's been so cold. Greg has been very involved in it. ISO New England
- DES- had 1st review of budget
- Historic - 1 meeting; unanimous approval for Meeting House. Concern about look of new construction in town.
- ZBA - new member, Elaine Conoyer (sp?), also serves on CIPC
- Planning Board - working w/Conway School on ADU by-laws. Starting work on Master Plan.

- Public Comment 2 minutes, if time permits
- Other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before
- Next meeting: March 12 @6:30
- Adjourn at : 7:53

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.