

Connecting Community Initiative Committee (CCI)
Joint Meeting with Selectboard
May 25th, 2023 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 58 of the 193rd 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 March 31, 2025.

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

- 6:32 - Call to order: SelectBoard; CCI
Meeting Guidelines: speak one-at-a-time: follow Deerfield Code of Conduct (respectful, considerate, courteous): concise, non-repetitive

- Members present:
 - ~~Jim Cambias~~
 - ~~Julie Chalfant~~
 - ~~Lili Dwight~~
 - ~~Tim Hilchey~~
 - Kate Lawless
 - ~~Andrea Leibson~~
 - ~~Denise Mason~~
 - Trevor McDaniel
 - Darius Modestow
 - ~~Carolyn Ness~~
 - John Paciorek
 - ~~MA Swedlund~~
 - ~~Analee Wulfkuhle~~

Guests:

- 6:35: Approve minutes from: March 30th, April 13th and April 27th : unanimous all
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aO17jYHv7JoxZdLfGqcJ9qJnlu_V89p8utS72RfQs3o/edit6:40
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i8So7fQhQMrT7OpTnWXeMu7CFofNMThY3gOqUGQ1GNc/edit>
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FMCyNOjrBw2s6RT_W6UKNAs4Xe2BjJHB6FO7NrWMfU/edit
- Committee updates report
 - OpenSpace: met Tuesday w/woman from Franklin Land Trust re:Pocumtuck River Trail System. Recommended: whether land is permanent or temp. Protected ? Committee examining restrictions. “Please nail down the Memorial Forest. Want a forest management plan through new farm bill.” Meeting w/Rachel Blaine as part of the Chase Foundation. Alan is no longer Chair, Julie Caswell is the chair, and will serve on the CPC

- Library- pushing ahead w/fundraising. Had “reveal” of the design on the 16th; questions that were asked were good ones. Sibley turnout was excellent. More fundraising coming; Jim rounding up SF & Fantasy writers. Eric Phelps- pursuing promising fundraising avenues. MA- If fundraising doesn’t work out is there a Plan B? - “Borrowing”. Don’t have to have all the fundraising before the shovel goes into the ground, can continue raising \$\$ as long as necessary. Does Treehouse provide a non-profit rate? Not clear. Didn’t donate anything.
- Hilchey: met w/contractor about 1821 building’s basement: put a membrane in the basement that seal the top of the foundation to create a barrier. Other avenues pursued as well (including a grant). Jack up the building; get old heating system out.- grant to be submitted on June 2; About 1M\$. Need to get the stuff out of the building. Tim & Carolyn will work w/Kevin on how to get stuff out of there. Franklin County Solid Waste has answers- MA can contact them if needed. Disposal of rugs, seat cushions, books, curtains- rule about fabric disposal we need to be concerned about. Kitchenware- couple of women in Northfield who rent flatware etc. for events. MA will follow up. Also Giving Circle ? Douglas Auctioneers ? Perfectly useable. “Sounds like a sub committee” - Denise will categorise and count the different things.
- Leary Lot: land transfer has happened & recorded (find out Wednesday) - contract for Berkshire Design has been signed and delivered. Want to finish before the end of the year.
- Shared streets: SB has committed 30K to engineering for crosswalk & beacons grant across from the library.
- 610K of AARPA has been allocated to the 1888 building project. Need to go to banks to talk about borrowing for the library- need to get Administrative offices involved. Jim- has established a relationship at Gfld Savings Bank. Need to start work on the loans now to cover any missing for the library at the time of completion. Need a “borrowing” committee to coordinate and balance our loans.
- For 1888 need to be denied twice by creditors before the USDA will consider us. 1888: full reno - 11M\$; 8M\$ only to 2nd floor; just fix exterior- 2M\$. Early Sept. know more. Finance Committee: during construction, everything is short-term; after construction when we know how much to borrow we go out for loans. Keith Barnicle grant specialist, former McGovern staffer, now at FRCOG.
- Finance: nothing to report. Have a conversation about 1888 - when to reconvene TBAC?
- PB: moving forward w/Peggy Sloane FRCOG to review 179 ByLaws (technical) to get us aligned w/state and Fed. requirements. A couple more work meetings, then public information session, then public hearings, then to Town Meeting. Have requested ZBA & Cons Com attend. Consequences of being out of compliance? One of the big issues we need to address soon is short term rentals. Will prioritise. ByLaws go to AG’s office. UMass folks report on solar have come out w/verbal & powerpoint presentation- more detail soon. Also have solar zoning bylaw recommendations. Allison Gage is going to talk to Peggy Sloane. Talked w/Peggy about updating the (22 yr old) Master Plan. Phase 1 a town survey. PB recommends reconsidering after the Fall Town Meeting. A break from Community Surveys prob. A good idea.
- James & Jason Heller putting in a bid on Cumberland Farms as 2 restaurants and a pocket park. They are going for a grant.
- Next workshop on native/non native/invasives and successional plantings for habitat- June 15 1-2. Free plants and gift certificates.
- Sewer USDA loan docs signed today
- Energy- SB appointing people from the Energy Committee to Frontier? Will be on the agenda for Wed. David, Jason Curtis, Lori, MA Swedlund. Other communities? Yes... don’t know if they’ve been appointed. MA is purchasing a big sign honoring the volunteers for the parade
- Healthy Soils - fully approved by Senate 1.2M\$
- Letter of support for Rural School Funding
- June 8 (tentative) for meeting w/businesses around Leary Lot

- Senior Housing: see report
 - One of the test pits near the church - get Tim into the conversation when we discuss.
 - Campus: VHB came out during Founders Day; suggestion to include businesses in poster; working on 3 different design / phases (depend on getting the St James property). Spoke w/Chief about the Police Station. Will be meeting w/Cons Comm next week. Conversation about the regionalization of police and fire (and water)
 - MassDOT may have finished the sidewalk on Sugarloaf
 - Got Letters of support from Sr Center BOO for grant application
 - Need a banner for CCI for parade; and one for Selectboard - conversation to follow
 - Tim going to All State Gravel on 6/2 w/Jim McGovern
- Other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before:
 - Rec Committee representation?
 - School Committee representation?
 - Town taking over Sugarloaf? Nothing yet. Jo Comerford has become involved. Are talking about shaving off around the center of town for Town Common.
 - Next meeting: June 29, 2023
 - Adjourn at 8:04

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.