

Connecting Community Initiative Committee (CCI)
Joint Meeting with Selectboard
September 12, 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. SB and 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~~
 - ~~Annie Curtis~~
 - ~~Carolyn Ness~~
 - ~~John Paciorek~~
 - ~~MA Swedlund~~
 - Analee Wulfsuhle - no longer a member, with deep gratitude for her contributions

Guests: Pam Predmore

- 6:35: Approve minutes from: May 25th and June 29th
- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yZ3yxJFNvDL8RyLptAPeKPiJ_msarHLNUWn8jJ4JVqs/edit - unanimous accepted
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uR0i6iKvWIMlqP0IkFEVhllFDPMXnW2d-cb-sG5oDR0/edit> -1 abstention, all else approved
- 6:40 - Discuss June 29th VHB presentation
- VHB Public Meeting presentation - September 14th Town Hall at 6pm
- Committee updates report
 - Energy working w/Eversource this summer; signed up energy audits for DPW building (w/engineering firm), Elementary School & Frontier. Has not yet received reports. Attending W. Mass Solar forums. Fed & State reps present, focus on W. Mass. Scott Jackson did a presentation about zoning & permitting, he’s on Whately Cons. Comm. Carey Judge from DOER put together a story map ranked every piece of property in the state(!) for solar. Stay

away from forest and agriculture (unless it's agri-solar). How to make it affordable? Solar coming to transfer station landfill. Received a draft solar action plan from UMass team-needs review and prioritisation. Looking for volunteers to help with prioritising the recommendations. Municipal Aggregation? nope.MA will follow up with Kayce

- MVP grant received for 2.0; money for Leary lot green infrastructure; and green infra for entry Elementary School; hoping for \$\$ for swales in Old Deerfield. CIPC meeting to review Police HVAC for Special T.M. No money for mitigation of flooding- keep going for grants. 604B & 319 moving forward. Back to Jo & Natalie- Leominster got slammed.
 - Open Space- met Aug 22, doing research on 5 Town owned parcels- need to do something to restrict development on them. Requesting to meet w/SB on how to protect. Concentrating on Pocumtuck Ridge. Talking with Franklin Land Trust.
 - Town Common- meeting on 19th of Sept. waiting on Town and State responses. DOT- when are they going to camera the road- how do we put pressure on them. Jo & Natalie? Maybe start w/out street. Suggested to go for extension to CPC
 - Leary Lot- thinking of trying to tie together with the beginnings of Town Common Meeting tomorrow night- in theory the final concept plan will be presented. EV charging stations (level 2 and level 3) and grants, demand charges were dropped to make the energy more affordable. Does the Town bear any cost for having the chargers? We are hopeful to break ground this year. Berkshire Brewing & Hamshaw lumber have vested interest. 2-way or 1 way. 55-57 spots; Follow up on grant from Gfld Svngs that covers software charges for EV charges.
 - Sewage - new clarifier on-line and working; grit tank issues being resolved; most done by hard winter; landscaping in spring.Closing on 2nd loan at end of the month.Issue around trees and line- want to build a berm, etc. working with neighbor
 - Frontier capitol committee- meeting on Wed. to get update on tennis courts (well underway); need to tackle the roof
 - Elementary School Committee is down a member; some refreshing of pre-school playground
 - Fellowship Hall portion of 1821 building for Library project - getting a load calculation performed (storage of books? and/or AAB board that considers requests for short-term reprieve from ADA so could use as library temporary facility). Need a plan. Library only has 1 sealed bid for RFP so far.
 - 1888 Building: Tim got a phone message from Senator Warren - you have 4M dollars assuming Congress passes a budget. Won't know in time for special Town Meeting. CPC meets tomorrow night.
 - Finance Committee- quiet. Will be meeting before special town meeting.
 - TBAC hasn't met
 - Certified 1.5 million in free cash - Eaglebrook paid a large building permit.
 - CPC- meeting tomorrow
 - Senior Housing- see committee report; need to get SB to sign Berkshire Design Contract
 - VHB meeting - stress that it's for brainstorming purposes
 - Didn't get T-Mobile grant for 50K
 - Planning Board - on chapter 179 (zoning by-laws), next meeting Oct 2 for chapter 179. Going to Town Meeting on Oct 23rd. PB did a site visit on the transfer station when NExAmp going to start building the solar array. Weather a challenge.
 - Need to clean things out of the 1821 building- need to set up dumpsters and a time.
 - Hiring of Planner-interviews conducted. 2 good candidates. 1 bowed out. Offer to second person that is in process of hiring negotiations.
 - Library - new cost estimate about 500K over last estimate. Fundraising: event Oct 8th of Science Fiction writers, got a donation from Gfld Savings Bank, we are still in a good space vis the budget, even so. Both architect and opm comfortable w/the estimate. This estimate does not include the solar panels- that funding needs to be figured out
- Other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before
 - Next meeting: Oct 17th 6:30

- Adjourn at 8:10 SB & CCI

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.