

Town of Deerfield



Photo Courtesy of Fred Beckta

Annual Town Report for the Year Ending December 31, 2023

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Founders Day Bells created by the children of the Deerfield Elementary School

ELECTED OFFICIALS

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Charles Shattuck III, Chair	Term Expires: 2024
Frank J. Leone	Term Expires: 2025
Francis (Skip) Sobieski	Term Expires: 2026

CONSTABLES

Raymond Burniske	Term Expires: 2024
Sharyn Paciorek	Term Expires: 2025
Adam Sokoloski	Term Expires: 2026

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Carey Etchells, Chair	Term Expires: 2025
Erica Jacob, Vice Chair	Term Expires: 2024
Anne Curtis, Secretary	Term Expires: 2025
Mary Ramon, Member	Term Expires: 2024
Trevor McDaniel, Member (appointed)	Term Expires: 2024

ELECTOR UNDER OLIVER SMITH WILL

Leslie Dwight	Term Expires: 2024
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FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Melissa Novak, Chair, Deerfield	Term Expires: 2026
Olivia Leone, Vice Chair, Deerfield	Term Expires: 2024
Christopher White, Secretary, Sunderland	Term Expires: 2025
Robert Halla, Member, Whately (appointed)	Term Expires: 2024
William Smith, Member, Whately	Term Expires: 2025
Philip Kantor, Member, Conway (appointed)	Term Expires: 2024
Mary Ramon, Member, Deerfield (appointed)	Term Expires: 2024
Keith McFarland, Member, Sunderland	Term Expires: 2026
Joseph Elias, Member, Sunderland (appointed)	Term Expires: 2024
Damien Fosnot, Member, Deerfield	Term Expires: 2025
Jared Campbell, Member, Conway	Term Expires: 2025

TILTON LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Satu Zoller – Chair
Marjorie Shearer – Vice Chair
Cynthia Von Flatern – Secretary
James Cambias
Nancy Maynard
Kathleen O’Rourke
Elizabeth Schmitt

PLANNING BOARD

Board Members:

Denise Mason, Chair	Term Expires: 2026
Emily Gaylord, Vice Chair	Term Expires: 2025
Rachel Blain	Term Expires: 2024
Andrea Leibson	Term Expires: 2024
Kathleen Sylvester	Term Expires: 2024
Kathleen Watroba	Term Expires: 2025
Satu Zoller	Term Expires: 2024

Some of our broader goals:

- Updating our Town Master Plan
- Increasing housing in a responsible and responsive manner
- Creating a forum where public voices are heard while balancing projects that come before the Planning Board

We are pleased to welcome a Town Planner who can work with town administration, boards, and committees regularly to be alert to the ways that Deerfield can maintain healthy growth and continue to be a safe and orderly place for people to live.

Members dedicate their time to serving on this board and on other boards and subcommittees as representatives of the Planning Board. The PB is blessed with strong connections with the Selectboard, the Ad Hoc Senior Housing Committee, the Connecting Community Initiative (CCI) committee and the Open Space Committee. It is important because the efforts of those boards affect the work of the PB.

Month-by-Month Highlights for 2023

January

We continued the Public Hearing for Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Hospital (V.E.S.H) from November 2022 to expand their parking facility pending the results of a peer review, the cost of which falls to the applicant.

Concerning Condominiums at Sugarloaf: there were issues that needed to be addressed before the PB signed the Certificate of Compliance: silt sacks that need to be removed, stormwater system needed to be cleaned out and the catch space with the silt deposits needed to be stabilized. These were not issues in dispute with the peer review and the Building Commissioner reported that the issues were minor.

Accessory Dwelling Unit subcommittee reported on the ADU bylaw reviewed by the Town attorney. A Public Hearing was set for February.

February

The PB approved an anti-hate statement: “The Deerfield Planning Board supports the Deerfield Selectboard’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. As elected leaders, we recognize our responsibility to understand and address all racial inequality. We will encourage diversity of voices and representation on 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 race, religion, ethnic background, national origin, ability, gender identity or sexual orientation.”

We approved a Certificate of Completion for the Condominiums at Sugarloaf.

The public hearing for the VESH project continued with Berkshire Design speaking to the peer review letter. The VHB changes to the plan were not received with enough time to review therefore the Public Hearing was continued to the March meeting.

There was a presentation of the process for Accessory Dwellings. Additional income would enable residents to stay more comfortably in their homes or neighborhoods; would increase housing inventory and protect property values and residential character of existing neighborhoods; legalize conversions in compliance with building codes. The Public Hearing was continued to March.

A Public Hearing was opened for applications filed by Sunny Daze Inc. for site plan review special permit and storm water management review for property located at Greenfield Road.

Road map 159 lot 14, to construct three new cannabis related buildings, including a 5000 square foot test laboratory, 26,705 square foot indoor cultivation facility, 3539 square foot dispensary, associated parking for each building. A VHB engineer, presented on behalf of the applicant. A peer review was requested for site plan and for stormwater.

March

We held a continuation of the Public Hearing for the Proposed Accessory Apartment bylaw. It was decided to be placed on the Town Warrant pending council's review of appeals process.

The Public Hearing for VESH applications for Site Plan Review, Stormwater, Special Permit was continued. Concerns of the peer review were met except for the landscape plan. In accordance with the waiver request for the site plan approval, any future permitting of the site shall require a landscaping plan. If plans are not submitted to the PB within two years of completion of construction, an updated landscape plan will be required to be submitted to the PB. The lighting plan which had not been submitted previously was reviewed and it was determined that it met the standards of the bylaw. VESH expansion Site Plan and Special Permit (with conditions) was approved.

April

The Public Hearing continued for the SunnyDayz Site Plan Review, Stormwater, and Berkshire Design peer review. The discussion of the site visit consisted of tree removal, discussion of vegetative choices for landscaping and the water basins, zoning, and stormwater.

There was a discussion with the Conservation Commission regarding the traffic study based on a 2016 Mass DOT counting station. The full size of the acreage is approximately 28 acres, with 4.95 being utilized for business purposes leaving 23 acres remaining as is.

We continued the conversation about LED fixtures. A total of 16 with single or double heads, the distance they will be regarding light spillage (minimal, if any) and light disturbance beyond the property were discussed. We also discussed filtration and odor and the state-of-the-art design to fully mitigate concerns. Hearing was continued to the May meeting.

May

We reorganized according to our bylaws and nominated Denise Mason, Chair, Emily Gaylord, Vice Chair, Kathy Watroba and Rachel Blain, Clerk (shared).

The SunnyDayz Public Hearing continued. Public comments touched on topics such as the importance of trees, the potential removal of trees under different scenarios, and collaboration with local environmental agencies to address various aspects of the project. The conversation reflected a comprehensive evaluation of the project's environmental impact and potential mitigation measures. The PB discussion revolved around concerns about flooding, sediment, and the need for more trees. There was also a mention of a phasing plan and the importance of avoiding a half-finished project. The applicant's Site Plan Review, Special Permit and Stormwater applications were approved with Pre-Construction, Construction, Stormwater, Marijuana, and Project Completion conditions.

Cumberland Farms presented a plan to convert six parking spaces along Elm Street into eight spaces, including four for electric vehicle (EV) charging. The proposed changes involved encroaching on landscaped areas and adding EV charging stations. The PB suggested amending the original site plan to submit an application with specific documentation, including a narrative, updated site plan, and details on EV chargers. The board emphasized the importance of landscaping considerations.

The PB requested that Cumberland Farms submit a Site Plan Review Amendment application by May 31 for review at the June meeting.

June

We discussed and approved an ANR (Approval Not Required) on River Road.

The PB discussed Fire Chief Kurt Seaman's concerns regarding outstanding issues related to site access and training at Frontier III Solar on Settright Road. There was a need for further clarification of the issues. The PB planned to review the conditions set forth in the special permit issued on 1/23/2019 to address any outstanding concerns.

The PB had a conversation about adopting a menu of conditions that can be applied depending on the project. The board discussed the usefulness of having a set of standard conditions, and members are encouraged to review the existing draft and suggest additions.

We talked about updating the Master Plan. Grant funding of approximately \$30,000 was considered for the Master Plan. We spoke about the importance of community input. The need for updates in energy and climate aspects of the master plan was emphasized.

July

The PB held a Public Hearing for 567 River Road Special Permit Application. The applicant stated the reason for the long driveway was to preserve farmland at the front of the property. It was approved with the condition to pave the first 10 feet.

Condominiums at Sugarloaf Street Acceptance: the developer of Condominiums at Sugarloaf subdivision stated that the roads were designed to town standards from initial planning in anticipation of road acceptance by the town. He gave a description of the road acceptance process. The PB agreed that the roads have been constructed to town standards. PB sent their endorsement to the Selectboard for a Public Hearing.

Public Hearing Nexamp Site Plan Review. The engineer gave a general introduction to Nexamp and the proposed project. The project is a partnership with the Town of Deerfield. Nexamp will construct and be the owner/operator of a 2.9-megawatt solar array on the town landfill site at 42 Lee Road. Nexamp will operate the array for up to 40 years before decommissioning and restoring the site to its original state.

The discussion covered stormwater, abutters, safety & security, liability, and inverter noise. A site visit was scheduled, and the hearing was continued to August.

August

Public Hearing Continuation Nexamp Solar 42 Lee Road: Public comment concerns were addressed. Nexamp representatives stated that construction disturbance would be minimal and will last 3 months. DEP permit conditions included construction monitoring and monthly inspections for a minimum of one year. Ongoing operating noise was calculated to be negligible. Noise levels must conform to DEP standards. DEP will conduct third party inspections on completion, as per management plan submitted, and noise more than MGL 310 CMR 7.10 would be abated. Fire risk is historically minimal and designed to be contained to one unit.

PB deliberation followed with discussion of the benefits of the project to the town, including making good use of an otherwise unbuildable brownfield site and energy credits available to citizens. It was approved with the following conditions: Comply with all performance and payment bonds in accordance with state law, and a removal bond is required for decommissioning assurance.

A Public Hearing was held for Florent to operate a research and manufacturing facility. The discussion revolved around carbon sequestration vs emissions, amount and quality of emissions and hazardous waste disposal. The research facility will only be in operation 6-10 hours per week and will employ up to five people. More carbon is sequestered than released in the manufacturing process and hazardous waste is less than 100 kg and will be shipped to DEP approved facility in East Brookfield or a different DEP approved facility. Phase one was approved and the applicant agrees to come before the Planning Board before commencing Phase Two manufacturing.

September

We held a Chapter 179 Review Public Information Session. A PowerPoint presentation prepared by the FRCOG explaining proposed changes to existing c 179 bylaws. Minor edits were suggested to clarify items and fix mistakes. Copies of the edited presentation were posted to the town website. A Public Hearing for the proposed c 179 bylaw changes was scheduled for October 23, 2023.

October

A Public Hearing for Chapter 179 Zoning bylaws was held. The final version of "Proposed Revision to chapter 179 Zoning Bylaws was divided into three parts, for consideration at the October 23, 2023 Special Town Meeting. The documents were available in the Municipal Offices Foyer and on the town website and titled "Town Meeting Version dated October 3, 2023". The version approved at the hearing went to a vote at the November Town Meeting.

November

The Public Hearing for the Leary Lot was held. A representative from the Berkshire Design Group presented the project. Plans were for a new municipal parking lot comprising 61 parking spaces, maintaining existing EV charging stations and adding eight new EV level two and three charging stations. The surface will be porous asphalt, except for the entrance/exit lane on the northwest side, which must be nonporous due to setback constraints. The test borings show groundwater levels and sandy content of soil that are conducive to the use of pervious pavement.

The project will include pedestrian amenities, bike racks, a rain garden, a bioswale along the southern edge to capture runoff, tree box filters and ornamental tree plantings. Plantings are all native species. The lighting is 14' neo colonial lamppost type, not overhead parking lot.

A discussion revolved around maintenance, traffic, stormwater management and the abutting apartments. The PB agreed that the benefits of the project outweigh the detriments, that the Site Plan and Stormwater Report were clearly presented, and that peer review of the project would not be necessary. Site Plan and Stormwater Permit were approved.

Public Hearing for Cumberland Farms project plans to add two new EV charging stations/parking spaces to the existing six parking spaces for a total of eight spaces. This will require 370 square feet of additional paving, to be offset by removal of an equal amount of impervious surface under the existing outdoor seating area, which will be replaced with plantings. The plan calls for one accessible EV space and a concrete pad for the second EV space to be built immediately, with a charger for the second space to be added at a future date.

The PB noted that the detention pond on the south side of the property has not been maintained, as required by the PB Site Plan and Stormwater Permit Decision of March 8, 2017. Cumberland Farms will restore the detention pond by draining it, removing invasives, refilling it with clean sand to restore it to the specs in the original stormwater plan. Cumberland Farms will set up quarterly maintenance to prevent leaves from clogging drains. A site visit was arranged to examine the current condition of the detention pond. Public Hearing was continued to December.

December

A joint meeting of the PB and Selectboard was held to address and open spot on the PB. Satu Zoller was voted to fill the vacant seat on the PB.

A representative appeared at the Conservation Commission meeting of November 30 to discuss the scope of planned clean up and restoration of the detention basin at Cumberland Farms. They requested approval of the Site Plan Review Amendment conditioned on completion of detention basin restoration to original plans. Cumberland Farms will update the operation and maintenance manual for the stormwater system to include quarterly maintenance of the detention basin and will provide the updated manual to the contracted landscaper.

The Conservation Commission Chair, Peter Law, confirmed that Cumberland Farms is cooperating on restoration of the detention basin and protection of the resource area.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Mason, Chair
Planning Board

SELECTBOARD/BOARD OF HEALTH

Carolyn Shores Ness; Chair, term ending 2024

Tim Hilchey; term ending 2025

Trevor D. McDaniel; term ending 2026

Wet and warm! That is how our 350th birthday year started out, and that is how it ended too. In between, our farmers suffered significant crop losses and our town experienced unprecedented road damage. Three back-to-back storms in July caused major road damage and erosion in well over one hundred locations, and the town has spent more than \$2.3 million on emergency repairs alone.

Residents and businesses were isolated as water washed over agricultural fields. Intense and sustained advocacy by our legislative delegation, Senator Jo Comerford and Representative Natalie Blais, resulted in a line item in the State's 2023 Supplemental budget that delivered \$1.58 million to help pay for our emergency road repairs. Their efforts also resulted in a \$20 million fund being created to help local farmers address millions of dollars' worth of debilitating crop losses.

In the coming years, the town will need to pursue every federal and state grant program available to pay for climate resiliency improvements as well as an extensive list of necessary long-term road and infrastructure repairs.

We owe a debt of gratitude and special thanks to Police Chief John Paciorek Jr., who also serves as the town Emergency Management Director. He has spent hundreds of hours on recovery efforts. His oversight made it possible to achieve road repairs and infrastructure upgrades that will be more resilient in the face of future intense weather events.

Chief Paciorek worked closely with Highway Superintendent Kevin Scarborough, Conservation Commission chair Peter Law and the Selectboard. He coordinated the repairs with local contractors like Mike Morawski so that residents could access their homes and businesses and emergency service responders could reach our citizens in need in the shortest time possible. It is anticipated that all stabilization and emergency repairs will be completed before the 2024 Town Meeting.

Despite the weather, numerous 350th celebration events went off without a hitch throughout the year, and the town stayed extremely busy with extensive town business. Special Thanks go to Jeff Hubbard and Gothic Top Farm in Sunderland for making it possible for the Selectboard to have a float in the parade, in spite of the rainy weather. The \$22 million South Deerfield Wastewater Treatment Plant project is wrapping up. The excellent team made up of our engineers, contractors and town representatives made it possible for the project to come in on time and under budget. Particular thanks to our financial team of Brenda Hill and Sarah Kimball, who in partnership with the Selectboard successfully executed USDA paperwork for the sewer plant grant and 40-year loan.

The 1888 Building was rented out to the Pioneer Valley Mosquito District to cover our costs while we waited for a \$4million federal earmark to build an addition and renovate for Town Hall operations.

The Selectboard and Planning Board chair Denise Mason, who is also chair of the Connecting Community Initiative, met with state Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer to review Deerfield's efforts to address climate change and its impacts on our community. From the late 1980s to now, Deerfield was able to lay out our case of intentional efforts that needed more support from the State.

This year alone, the comprehensive Solar Action Plan was developed, a 2.9 MW solar facility on the landfill is nearing reality, and we participated in the Franklin County municipal aggregation effort to address high electricity prices, once again saving our residents money, and supporting renewable energy sources. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness committee (MVP) received an MVP 2.0 grant to review and update the town's original MVP plan, which was the first in the Commonwealth.

We received a \$2.4 million federal grant to install four Level 3 and four Level 2 EV charging stations in the Leary Lot municipal parking project, which will create 55 new parking spaces to support business activity in downtown South Deerfield.

State MVP grants will also help pay for green infrastructure and climate resiliency measures in the Leary Lot and the front entrance of Deerfield Elementary School.

We received several grants from the Franklin Conservation District that helped fund the "Deerfield 2030 Yard by Yard" program and provided support for outreach workshops, educational materials, plants and consulting on healthy soils, native plants, and pollinators. These grants will also provide training for the highway department on how to control invasive species and advice on managing Bloody Brook with the goal of mitigating climate change impacts.

We supported and facilitated the Energy committee's efforts to have energy audits performed on town-owned facilities to create a roadmap for future energy efficiency projects. We voted to support a Climate Resiliency Stabilization Fund and continued efforts to diversify the town's tree belt with more resilient trees. Additional work will hopefully be supported by the state in the future.

The Selectboard worked with the Ad Hoc Human Rights committee to develop a timeline and a set of goals. We also developed and adopted a Selectboard Statement on Human Rights. We encouraged other committees to do the same.

The renovation of the 1821 Building (the former Congregational Church) has made great strides. Eaglebrook School hired and paid for a construction company to make major renovations to the Fellowship Hall portion of the building. It is so exciting to start to see the beauty of the building emerge.

The renovated space will provide a temporary home as the Tilton Library expansion is underway. Once the library project is complete, the refurbished space will provide an excellent new home for the Senior/Community Center while the town seeks new grants to fund renovations of the main building of the former church.

A Special Thanks to Peter Thomas for his long hours cleaning historic town records and for coordinating with the Selectboard to successfully move them to Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association to be protected and archived.

We signed an Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) with Greenfield, Montague, Sunderland, Shutesbury and Leverett. The agreement allows us to participate in an eight-year shared service, funded by a \$492,000 yearly grant, to increase public health accessibility. This provides Deerfield residents with public health nurse hours, health agent hours, health-related training, and supplies.

We successfully ran a Senior Flu Clinic and two Flu/Covid clinics at Deerfield Elementary School. A grant from the Department of Public Health paid for a wastewater testing program at the South Deerfield Wastewater Treatment Plant aimed at detecting Covid in the community. That program has been extended and successfully converted to an automatic testing process.

At the Special Town Meeting in October, voters authorized the town to borrow up to \$5 million to pay for emergency road repairs. We hope to rescind the entire amount at the Annual Town Meeting this April. Voters also approved using Community Preservation Act money designated to promote creation of community housing to purchase the former St. James Church property as a site for developing affordable senior housing. Voters also voted to accept Gray Lock Lane and Snowberry Circle as public ways. The Town Clerk's office was successfully reorganized, and Cassie Sanderell is now the full-time Town Clerk.

After an extensive search process, Christopher Dunne was hired as the Town Planning and Economic Development Coordinator. He previously served as Blandford's town administrator. Following the departure of the previous leader, the duties of chief of the South County Emergency Medical Service were revised and updated, and a search process resulted in the hiring of a new Chief, Joshua Sparks, who joined the South County EMS from the Auburn emergency medical service.

It was with great joy to end 2023 with ALL emergency road repairs functioning as they should during the storm of December 18. No new damage was observed, and all roads were stable. On December 30, the Selectboard unveiled a ceramic tile mural created by local artist Judith Inglese. The mural honors the long history of our region. It was a fitting conclusion to a year celebrating all 350 years of our beautiful community.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Shores Ness, Chair, Selectboard/Board of Health
Timothy J. Hilchey, Member, Selectboard/Board of Health
Trevor D. McDaniel, Member, Selectboard/Board of Health

TOWN MODERATOR

Daniel Graves

Term Expires: 2024

The current Moderator is Daniel F. Graves, Esq. and can be reached by email at dgraveslaw@gmail.com He has served as Deerfield's elected Town Moderator since 2016.

While elected, the Moderator does not set the agenda or articles for Town Meeting or serve in any other office or position within the Town to maintain neutrality.

The Moderator serves as the presiding officer at the Annual Town Meeting and any Special Town Meetings, regulating the proceedings, deciding all questions of order, and making public declaration of all votes.

The Moderator's goal is to conduct the Town Meeting in a civil, fair, and expeditious manner, allowing all points of view a fair hearing and voice and to balance those voices with the volume of articles often before the Meeting in any given year.

While Town Meetings and Special Town Meetings are called by the Selectboard, the Selectboard members are only equal voices at the meeting where all citizens are entitled to a voice and vote.

The Town of Deerfield has adopted a set of rules under a publication called "Town Meeting Time." The Moderator enforces the rules using that publication as his guideline.

The Moderator also makes all appointments to the Finance Committee and makes other various appointments on a variety of boards.

The Moderator invites any citizen to reach out to him at any time with any interest in serving on Town Boards or with questions regarding process or proceedings at any time.

Daniel F. Graves, Moderator

Deerfield 350th Anniversary Celebrations - 2023

Date	EVENT
Dec 31/Jan 1	Deerfield 350th Anniversary Jubilee Dinner and Dance at Deerfield Academy
January 1	Lighting of Deerfield's 350th Anniversary Cake in front of South Deerfield Fire Station
February 19	Peter Thomas, <i>The Sokoki and Their World in 1663</i> , Deerfield 350 th & Northfield 350 th Speaker Series, Northfield
March 3	Peter Thomas, <i>Squakheag Material Culture in 1663 – Tradition, Adoption, Adaptation & Spirit</i> , Deerfield 350 th Speaker Series, given at the Dublin Seminar, Historic Deerfield
March 26	Peter Thomas, <i>The Founding of Deerfield, and Its Initial Settlement</i> , Deerfield 350 th Speaker Series
April 22	Clarkdale Fruit Farm History and Peach Orchard Walk
April 23	Barbara Mathews, <i>"Help Us Soon or We Shall Suffer"</i> , <i>Recovering Community History of Poor Residents in the Early 18th and 19th Centuries</i> , Deerfield 350 th Speaker Series
May 5	Founders' Day Weekend – March of grammar school students and teacher to celebrate the string of commemorative bells at Tilton Library
May 6	Founders' Day Weekend – Toll the Meeting House Bell; community gathering with entertainment by Farley String Band
May 7	Pictorial Postmark Competition – Launch of postmark for 30 days; winners' recognition ceremony
May 7	Gary Sanderson, <i>New Interpretation of the Bloody Brook Neighborhood</i> , Deerfield 350 th Speaker Series
June 17	Deerfield 350th Parade in the afternoon
June 18	Chicken Barbeque in the afternoon with exhibits about Deerfield's history, Fire Works in the evening
July 6	Peter Thomas, <i>World of the Pocumtucks</i> , Deerfield 350 th Speaker Series given at Historic Deerfield Summer Lecture Series
August 12	Deerfield 350th - Northfield 350th Challenge Softball Game
September 17	Tree House Brewing Company Half Marathon
September 17	Peter Thomas, <i>The Tale of Bloody Brook: An Early Event during King Philip's War, September 18, 1675</i> . Deerfield 350 th Speaker Series
October 14	Eastern European Heritage Festival: Dancing to Eddie Forman Orchestra, Polish lunch, Father Charles Jan Dimoscola talk on Polish history in the Valley, arts & crafts, genealogical and historical exhibits at PVMA
October 15	Eastern European Heritage Festival: Dr. James Pula presentation about the Kosciuszko Squadron; "Piast" presented Polish folk dances; "Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble" performed acrobatic dances, at Frontier.
October 22	Kevin Sweeney, <i>The French and Indian Wars: Writ Large and Small, 1688-1763</i> , Deerfield 350 th Speaker Series
October 28	350th Anniversary Cake Dismantled & Gifted to Leverett's 250th Anniversary Committee
November 12	Thomas, Sanderson & Mathews, <i>And That's the Way It Was: A Photo Essay and Reflections about Deerfield's People, Places and Ways of Life</i> , Deerfield 350 th Speaker Series
December 3	Kevin McBride, <i>King Philip's War: The Battle of Great Falls/Peskeompskut (May 19, 1676)</i> , Deerfield 350 th Speaker Series
December 10	Open Houses of Deerfield's Four Active Churches; Peter Thomas, <i>"The Churches of Deerfield, Then & Now"</i> - a history compiled and distributed for this event
December 30	Unveiling of the Judith Inglese Ceramic Mural "History Flows Like A River" . This was mounted on the Town Hall

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

350th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Members of the Steering Committee for Deerfield's 350th Anniversary: Peter Thomas, Chair; Carolyn Ness, Selectboard Representative; Holly Lankowski, Parade Committee Co-Chair; Diane Martin, Coordinator for Founders' Day Weekend; Kelly Charest, Parade Committee Co-Chair; and Jay Stryker. We are pleased to present a summary of the major celebratory events that occurred throughout 2023, as are the Friends of Deerfield Inc: Alex Herchenreder, President; Stan Adams, Secretary & Founder; Chris Harris, Treasurer & Founder; Marie Thomas, Past Vice President; Jennifer Remillard, Past President & Founder; James Cambias, Past Vice President & Founder; Timothy Hilchey, Past Treasurer & Founder. We hope that you have all experienced the thrill of participation. We appreciate the expressions of thanks for the breadth and quality of people's experiences. Many of these happenings were filmed or recorded and can be viewed on the *Deerfield350.org* website during the coming year in case you missed the initial opportunity.

Working groups, coordinated by one or several members of the Steering Committee, were formed to organize major events; one event was individually organized; other prominent events were coordinated by the Friends of Deerfield. On a number of occasions, particularly for the year-long 350th Speaker Series, the History Working Group and Friends of Deerfield worked together to provide informative talks about the town's past followed by gatherings for conversation and refreshments. Funding for our celebrations was provided through town appropriations passed at Town Meeting or through generous donations raised by the Friends of Deerfield. Thank you to all who volunteered your time, skills, and financial support for a celebration we will not forget.

Deerfield 350th Anniversary Jubilee Dinner and Dance was a terrific way to begin the new year, held at Deerfield Academy on December 31, 2022 – January 01, 2023. Beth Karas was Master of Ceremonies, brief presentations were given by Jennifer Remillard (President of FoD), Trevor McDaniel (Chair of the Selectboard), and Liz Coldwind Santana-Kiser (Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians) before being served a scrumptious and elegant dinner by Hillside Organic Catering. The O-Tones provided the music for those of the 200 attendees who could still dance to midnight. All had a truly memorable time.



Jubilee Dance with the O'Tones Band at Deerfield Academy on December 31, 2022

Our **350th Birthday Cake**, with its 350 candles, was lit on January 1, followed by a brief recognition ceremony at the South Deerfield Fire Station. The cake, some 25ft in diameter and 18ft high, graced the entrance to Deerfield from Intersate-91. It had been a beacon to celebrate the founding of Westfield, Hatfield, and Whately before arriving in Deerfield and is currently lighting the center of Leverett. Many thanks to Galenski Farm and Underground Supply Inc for providing the necessary equipment for lifting and moving the 17 sections of the cake. Fred Beckta should be credited with being its able caretaker throughout the year.

★ OUR EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEERS ★



LIGHTING OUR WAY FOR THE YEAR



Photo Courtesy of Diane Martin

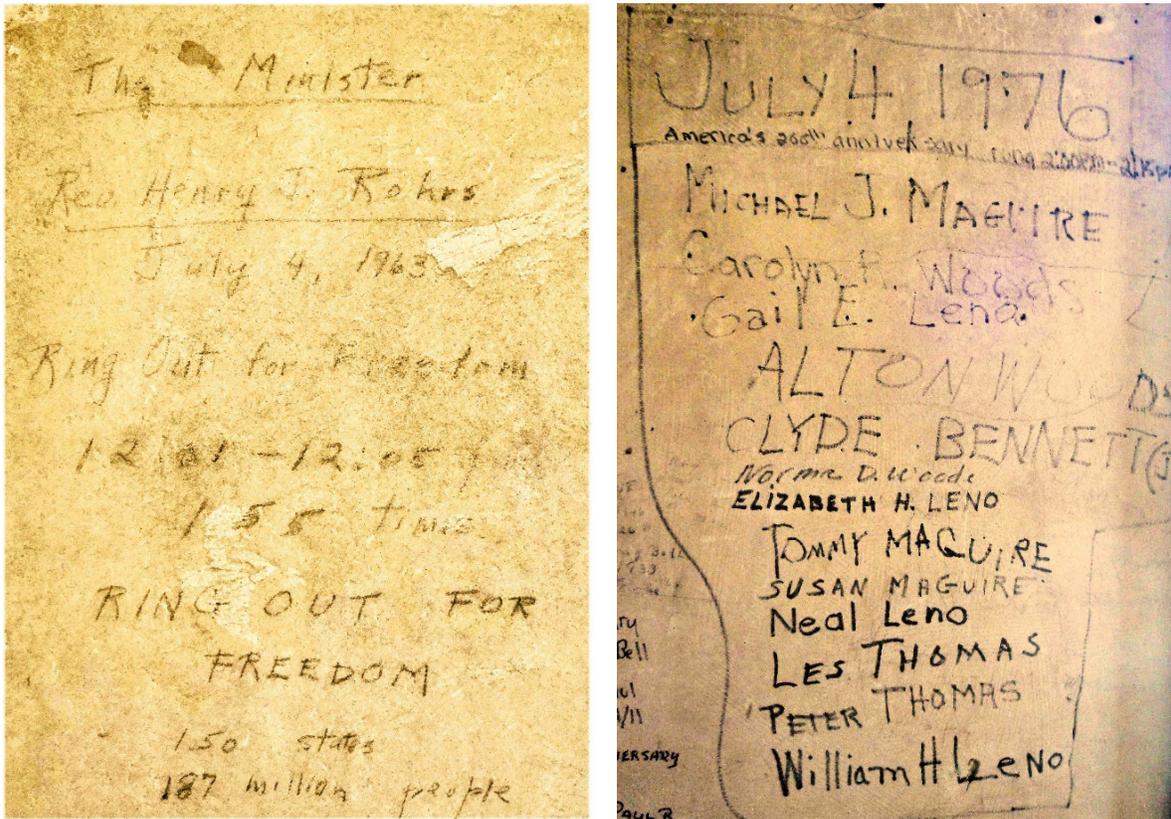


Cudos to Tom and Ben Clark organizing an excellent guided tour of **Clarkdale Fruit Farm** and the **Peach Orchard Walk**. The blend of history of the evolving landscape and the new techniques being used in the orchard was most informative.

Founders Day Weekend, May 5-7. For two centuries the Meeting House of the Congregational Church, originally built in 1821, was used for both religious purposes and for public service and commemorations. The Town Clock was added to the steeple in 1910. The bell was once used to call out the fire brigade.



Town meeting notices were once posted on the front door. And for more than a century, the bell rang out to commemorate high school graduations, weddings, numerous Fourth of Julys, the 250th anniversary of the United State, the signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord, and other commemorative events that are all recorded on the walls of the belfry.



What better way to celebrate Deerfield’s 350th birthday than to open the doors to the church and have the bell rung 350 times to mark our birthday, but another plan was also afoot.

As Diane Martin recounts, “I decided to approach the Deerfield Elementary School (DES). My thought was 350 bells for 350 years. I asked to meet Catherine Richotte, the art teacher at the school. I wanted to know if the students could make 350 bells for our celebration. My meeting at DES was warmly received.” Through the combined efforts of Catherine, Tina Gemme, the DES principal, and teachers Jennifer Smith and Carla Chilton, the idea went from idea to production.



Photo Courtesy of Diane Martin

Bells were ready by May 4 and were strung across the front lawn of Tilton Library – “from tree to tree to post to post and back around.”



Photo Courtesy of Peter Thomas

The entire student body and faculty of Deerfield Elementary School, led by the Frontier Marching Band and a Deerfield Police Department escort, walked to the library on the sunny cool morning of May 5 to see their bells fluttering in the breeze. A large group of smiling townspeople and parents met them. There were a lot of thumbs up seen. After a brief ceremony to explain what the bells represented, students and teachers returned to school. Some of the students decided to take their bells home, while others intend to share their bells by including them in the time capsule – to be buried in the coming months, along with the dedication of a granite bench commemorating Deerfield’s 350th anniversary. The time capsule will be placed near the bench and opened in 50 years.



On Saturday, May 6, the Meeting House doors were flung open and, with the bell rope dropped to the first floor, children and adults were invited to ring the bell in celebration of the town’s birthday – an effort that far exceeded the 350 tolls anticipated. Marie Thomas made “I Rang the Bell” buttons as mementos and participants were asked to sign a guest register. The Farley String Band provided interludes of jigs and reels and the Friends of Deerfield provided ice cream. Thanks to Melissa Perot for sprucing up the Meeting House yard with plantings and to all who assisted with the extensive preparations, setup and takedown required to make the weekend a memorable occasion.



Deerfield 350th Pictorial Postmark Competition and Event (Kelly Charest, Event Planner)

In 2022, the Deerfield 350th Anniversary Steering Committee, as part of the Town of Deerfield's celebration of its 350th birthday, began a pictorial postmark competition. In commemorating the birthday, the Steering Committee decided to have two pictorial postmarks, one for South Deerfield and the other for Old Deerfield. The contest was open to students of Deerfield Elementary, Frontier Regional, as well as all Deerfield residents in two categories: Ages 5-11 and 12-18.



The winners selected were Ainsley Southergill (South Deerfield) and Brooke Charest (Old Deerfield) with runner-up drawings from Charlie Payne and Ayden Novak.

Deerfield 350th Anniversary Steering Committee members along with the support of Robin Driscoll, Postmaster for Old Deerfield, and Charlene Waryasz, South Deerfield Post Office, planned the Pictorial Postmark event for Founders Day Weekend and Sunday, May 7, at both post office locations (Old Deerfield followed by South Deerfield). The contest winners were able to stamp the first pictorial postmark, and stamped envelopes (purchased by the Friends of Deerfield) were handed out to attendees. The stamps were available for a month afterward for purchase and the decommissioned stamps will be added to the time capsule. After the stamping of the envelopes, a small celebration was held at Frontier with the help of Marie Thomas, Friends of Deerfield, in which all of those who submitted a drawing for the pictorial postmark contest were celebrated with a certificate.

350th Anniversary Parade

This report was submitted by Parade Co-Chairs – Kelly Charest and Holly Lankowski.

Participating Work Group Members were Lori Baronas, Pam Hodgkins, Denise Schwartz, Cindy Von Flatern, Rocky Foley, Mike Ruggles.

As we all know, 2023 was the year of rain. But the rain paused just long enough for our town to celebrate in grand style on June 17, 2023. At the review stand were Ben Clark and Cindy Von Flatern announcing the units as they passed by and adding personal commentary about the participants.



Deerfield Police kicked off the order just ahead of the colors being presented by Veterans of Foreign Wars, Hale-Clapp Post 3295. We were fortunate to have two parade Marshalls, Tom Clark and Robert Decker, who grew up in town and have served our community on numerous boards and committees.



Our two town fire departments under the leadership of Chief William Swasey and Chief Darren Melnik proudly displayed their crews and apparatus with lights and sirens to get the excitement started.

Deerfield resident and State Trooper TJ Tudryn drove his cruiser just ahead of the Selectboard float. Aboard the float or walking were local and state dignitaries including our Selectboard members Trevor McDaniel, Carolyn Ness, and Tim Hilchey. Joining them were State Senator Jo Comerford; State Representative Natalie Blais; US Senator Jim McGovern; Agricultural Resources Commissioner Ashley Randle; District Attorney David Sullivan; Western MA Director for the Office of Governor Maura Healey - Kristen Elechko; Planning Board Chair Denise Mason; and Senior Housing Committee Chair Lili Dwight. Also aboard were Deerfield 350th Pictorial Postmark Contest Winners Brooke Charest (Old Deerfield) and Ainsley Southergill (South Deerfield).



MA Swedlund carried a banner acknowledging and thanking the scores of residents who have served Deerfield over the years!

Deerfield Gold Star Mother, Kathy Belanger, was driven by Old Deerfield native and 17-year veteran of the US Army, 101st Airborne Division SGT Robert Hodgkins.



We had two historical fife and drum marching bands, a brass band, a military band, and an American Legion band. And we had the Shriners complete with their mini cars.



We had beautiful floats presented by the Tilton Library, the First Church of Deerfield, the Sunderland Congregational Church, Sunderland Men’s Club, Whately Snowmobile Club, Holy Name of Jesus Church and Friends of Deerfield. Several businesses also participated, and some entered floats including Coldwell Banker Community Realtors, RCW Plumbing & Heating, Kocot & Sons, All States Materials Group, Magic Wings, Grybko Bus Company and Yankee Candle.

As a nod to our agricultural roots, we had a horse drawn wagon presented by the Three County Fair complete with bottle fed lambs. We were lucky to have two of our town’s family run farms celebrate with us. Both Bar-Way Farm and Antonellis Farm/Ciesluk Farm Stand marched proudly.



The Deerfield Lions Club showcased many aspects of their community involvement including past recipients of Lions Club scholarships and a few classic cars reflecting their 25 years of hosting Antique and Classic Car shows. In addition, two of the Eye Mobile vans used by Lions Clubs across the state to hold eye tests & hearing screenings joined in including “Gerry the Lion,” who rode atop one of the vans. Peter James & Steve Mizula, both long-time members of the Club’s Board of Directors and Car Show Chairs rode in Peter’s 1964 Ford Thunderbird cutely named “Brenda Lee”. Chartered in 1946, the Deerfield Lions Club extends its mission of service in the community where needs are great, such as sight, health, youth, elderly, the environment, and disaster relief. Lions International is the largest volunteer humanitarian organization in the world. All Lions, from Deerfield to around the globe, volunteer their service carrying out its mission, “We Serve.”

We had many of our local towns and our Sheriff's Office participate in our parade. Some sent fire trucks, some sent police cruisers and we had a comfort dog too. Deerfield native, Phil Gilmore, from Mass DCR, Forest Fire Control, District 9, Franklin County joined us and brought along "Smokey the Bear".



The South Deerfield Women's Club adorned in vintage costumes marched and rode in antique cars handing out pinwheels to lucky children along the route. Organized in 1897, the South Deerfield Women's Club has recently celebrated 125 years of women meeting in Deerfield to promote the intellectual and social lives of its members and to contribute to the welfare of the community.

We had many vintage cars and trucks and three vintage firetrucks as well. Our thanks to Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit 33 for their service and participation.



Historic Deerfield as well as Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association joined us to celebrate our town's history. Jeanne Sojka, PVMA Business Manager, was dressed in an authentic Polish costume, reflecting the many Eastern European immigrants who settled in Deerfield.



Friends of Deerfield jumped off their float to honor Mrs. June Rosenthal on her 98th birthday. She is the widow of the long-time Chief of Police, Mr. James Rosenthal.



Our parade ended with a horse drawn historic funeral hearse sponsored by Wrisley Funeral Home. Larry Wrisley was incredibly happy to be a part of our historic event. We were honored to have him participate.

We owe thanks to many but especially to the South Deerfield Water Supply District and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MA DOT) for allowing the use of their facilities for our staging areas. Water Commissioners Shawn Bowman, Gary Stokarski and David Wells and MA DOT supervisor Jeff Ashman were accommodating and helpful. And, both departments also put an entry into the parade.

During our parade planning, we were fortunate to hear about the experiences of our neighboring towns. They shared their parade line-ups, entry documents, and time to meet with us. Thanks to Heidi Flanders (Conway), Tom Zimnowski, Brenda Wozniakewicz, Mike Wozniakewicz (Sunderland) and John Hannum (Whately).

A big thank you to our friends, neighbors, and family who pitched in the week of the parade and during the parade with a myriad of tasks. We could not have done it without them. Thanks go to Grybko's Bus Garage for providing shuttle service for parade participants. Thanks also to Jeff Burniske - JRB Disposal, for setting up a trailer for our review stand and providing trash receptacles at our parade staging and completion areas. We appreciate FCAT's coverage of the parade both via live stream and later viewing. We appreciate the help with the review stand from Greg Franceschi & Lisa Middents loaning us the use of their yard, Yankee Candle for loaning tents, Sugarloaf Nursery who loaned plants and electrical support from Morin Electric. Thanks to PVMA who loaned no-parking signs, Nutrien Ag who provided lime for the staging lines and Brett Gewanter of Deerfield Academy who shared their athletic field marker. And thank you to Greenfield Savings Bank, Tilton Library, Deerfield Elementary, Frontier Regional and Kelly Bowman (Trademark Real Estate) who allowed use of their parking lots or property.

Special thanks to our town public safety (Police, Fire and EMS) and highway departments who were a tremendous help with our planning and execution of this fun filled parade. Specifically, we need to acknowledge Adam Sokoloski, Deerfield Police, and Kevin Scarborough, Highway Department, who provided enormous support and direction with logistics and communications. Thanks Adam & Kevin!

We received much support from the staff in our Town Administrator’s Office as well as our Town Accountant’s Office. Thank you to Kayce Warren, Chris Nolan, Pat Kroll & Brenda Hill!

We had a small but very energetic work group who were passionate about making our town’s 350th celebration parade a fun-filled afternoon and that it was! Congratulations Deerfield!

Post-Parade Show

The Friends of Deerfield, the Town of Deerfield, JJ&T, Grybko Bus Company and Nupro LLC sponsored the famous Philadelphia Mummers Joseph A. Ferko String Band to participate in the 350th Parade. Due to the threat of inclement weather, their performances were moved indoors to Frontier Regional School. Attendees enjoyed the wonderful costumes, classic Mummers music, and interactive dancing.



Photos Courtesy of Chris Harris and Peter Thomas

Chicken Barbecue

On Sunday, June 18, some 700 residents and visitors, many from out of the state, enjoyed a traditional New England chicken BBQ at Deerfield Academy’s tennis pavilion. Several Deerfield High School/Frontier Regional School classes reunited. Attendees enjoyed music by Decades Band and Frontier Regional School DJ Killian Stewart, food by Kathleen Tomaus Catering, and historical displays. Friends of Deerfield organized the event with special thanks to the Polish American Citizens Club of South Deerfield for grilling the chicken and baking potatoes.

350th Celebration Weekend Fireworks

Postponed from Saturday to Sunday, June 18, due to inclement weather, residents and visitors were wowed by a 20-minute fireworks spectacular sponsored by Friends of Deerfield and produced by Norstar Fireworks of East Montpelier, Vermont. Special thanks to Tree House Brewing Company for allowing the display to be launched from their property.



Photos Courtesy of FCAT and Peter Thomas

The **Deerfield-Northfield Challenge Softball Game** was held on August 12. Both Deerfield and Northfield celebrated their 350th anniversaries during 2023. In addition to a joint Speaker Program, Northfield challenged Deerfield to meet them on the playing field. With no blood or tears, but with lots of sweat, both teams slugged it out, with Deerfield coming in one run ahead. FCAT filmed the game, and a young announcer may have made history with his ability to call the game play. Meanwhile, Friends of Deerfield provided shirts and hats.



Photos Courtesy of Peter Thomas

The **Tree House Brewing Company Half Marathon** was run on September 17 with the support of Deerfield residents and Friends of Deerfield. There were almost 2,000 runners that followed a course down North Main Street to Sugarloaf Street to River Road and over Hillside Road on the final leg.



Photo Courtesy of Peter Thomas

Eastern European Heritage Festival - Jeanne Sojka, Festival Coordinator

Nearly 600 children and adults attended the Eastern European Heritage Festival, October 14 & 15, in Old Deerfield and South Deerfield. Planned and hosted by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, the Friends of Deerfield, Inc., and the Deerfield 350th Steering Committee, the weekend was organized to recognize the important contributions of Eastern European immigrants to our community who first arrived in 1885 to work on area farms. All events were free and open to the public.



Saturday, October 14 events were held at the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association in Old Deerfield. The rain held off and the afternoon began with lively polka music by the Eddie Forman Orchestra for visitors' dancing and listening pleasure under the red and white striped tent.

Photo Courtesy of Jeanne Sojka

A special catered Polish plate lunch from Bernat's Polish Deli was served with golumpki, potato and cheese pierogis, kielbasa, kapusta, and rye bread; and a special vegetarian meal. Other refreshments included Polish and Jewish cookies such as Chrusciki, Kolachy, and Rugelach, with only crumbs remaining at the end of the day.

The Friends of Deerfield, Inc. sold Deerfield 350th celebration hats and mugs, and had a raffle to raise funds for the festival.

Father Charles Jan Dimascola, retired parish priest from Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Turners Falls, gave a talk about the history of the Polish people in the valley and highlighted their contributions to our shared heritage.

Nearly thirty people learned how to make Kurpie Kwiaty, Polish crepe paper flowers, with Wieslawa Bogdańska. From Poland, Bogdańska enjoyed sharing her knowledge of Kurpie Folk Art. She participates in educational events organized by museums, cultural centers, and schools, and is a multi-talented artist and expert in Kurpie traditions. Since 1998, Bogdańska has been working in Zagroda Kurpiowska as a museum guide and folk-art instructor.

Susan Urban, Polish Craft and Culture specialist, taught visitors the art of Wycinanki, Polish paper cutting. Her original compositions of dancing couples, flowers, birds, etc., are based on two centuries of the traditional Polish folk craft. Urban displayed and sold her designs of traditional Polish paper eggs, stars, ornaments, etc.



Indoors, the festively decorated Blue & White Hall was the location of three heritage groups. The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts' board members assisted visitors with research efforts and shared knowledge about family history with their display of maps, reference books, and other genealogical materials.

The Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee displayed cultural items that celebrate the many contributions, both past and present, made to the economy, arts, and sciences of our nation by Polish people and their descendants.

The Polish American Foundation of Connecticut exhibited materials to cultivate and promote Polish culture and our immigrant heritage. They offer Polish language classes on Zoom and guided trips to Poland.

PVMA museum educators, with community outreach about their education programs, hosted children's activities including designing Pysanki eggs, creating Eastern European paper dolls in traditional costumes, and a photo booth option to dress up in period immigrant clothing with a backdrop of Eastern European artifacts.

Throughout the hall were displays of Eastern European immigrant photos and artifacts, dolls, pysanki eggs, and a miniature display of a typical Polish-American family celebrating Wigilia, Christmas Eve. Memorial Hall Museum was open during the festival and offered a self-guided tour of immigrant items in the museum collection.

Sunday, October 15th Events held at Frontier Regional School in South Deerfield

The afternoon began on Zoom with Dr. James Pula speaking about the Kosciuszko Squadron, its creation after World War I and its role in helping to win the Battle of Britain. Dr. Pula is Professor of History *Emeritus* at Purdue University and the author and editor of more than twenty books on the Polish diaspora and the American Civil War.

Next, the Polish traditional folk-dance group called Piast charmed audiences with their energetic numbers. Based out of St. Joseph's Basilica in Webster MA, these dancers, ranging in age from 3 to 18, are proud of their Polish heritage and aspire to keep ongoing Polish traditions alive in our community.



Then the Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Hartford, Connecticut, took the stage and was delighted to perform at Deerfield's 350th Birthday Celebration. The 70 dancers, ranging in age from 9 to 19, dedicated their performance to the memory and sacrifices of the Ukrainian people currently fighting for freedom and democracy. Their uplifting and high energy acrobatic dances amazed the audience, and they received a standing ovation at their grand finale of "Hopak."



The weekend concluded with delicious Polish food prepared and served by Kathleen Tomaus Catering.

Deerfield 350th Speaker Series

The speaker series consisted of ten talks by five well-versed historians about the Native American communities and European colonists who lived in the areas we now refer to as Deerfield and Northfield. Some of the advertising posters are presented below. The talks were well attended. It was a real treat to be able to meet afterwards for discussions and to indulge in a buffet of delicious foods provided by Kathleen Tomaus Catering and Friends of Deerfield.

February 19	Peter Thomas, <i>The Sokoki and Their World in 1663</i> , Deerfield 350 th & Northfield 350 th Speaker Series, Northfield
March 3	Peter Thomas, <i>Squakheag Material Culture in 1663 – Tradition, Adoption, Adaptation & Spirit</i> , given at the Dublin Seminar, Historic Deerfield
March 26	Peter Thomas, <i>The Founding of Deerfield, and Its Initial Settlement</i>
April 23	Barbara Mathews, <i>“Help Us Soon or We Shall Suffer”, Recovering Community History of Poor Residents in the Early 18th and 19th Centuries</i>
May 7	Gary Sanderson, <i>New Interpretation of the Bloody Brook Neighborhood</i>
July 6	Peter Thomas, <i>World of the Pocumtucks</i>
September 17	Peter Thomas, <i>The Tale of Muddy Brook: An Early Event during King Philip’s War, September 18, 1675</i>
October 22	Kevin Sweeney, <i>The French and Indian Wars: Writ Large and Small, 1688-1763</i>
November 12	Peter Thomas, Gary Sanderson & Barbara Mathews, <i>And That’s the Way It Was: A Photo Essay and Reflections about Deerfield’s People, Places and Ways of Life</i>
December 3	Kevin McBride, <i>King Philip’s War: The Battle of Great Falls/Peskeompskut (May 19, 1676)</i>

THE SOKOKI: Their Response to Colonization and Their Role in Northfield's Beginning.

THE FOUNDING OF DEERFIELD & ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT
A Talk by Dr. Peter Thomas, with Discussion & Refreshments
March 26, 2-3:30 Frontier Regional High School Auditorium

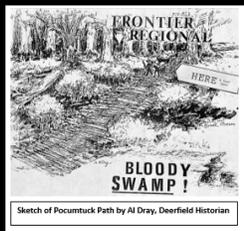
Inside Palisade, 1703

Early Land Divisions

Dr. Barbara Mathews: “Help us soon or we shall suffer”: *Recovering Community Histories of Poor Residents in 18th-and early 19th-century Massachusetts.* Discover how the town addressed the needs of Deerfield’s poor in days gone by. **Deerfield’s 350th Lecture Series,** Frontier Regional High School, Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2 pm. Discussion and refreshments to follow.

Deerfield, May 11, 1764
To the Select men of Deerfield, Gentlemen, This is to give Notice to You that there came to my House April 29th 1764 Zebulon Tufts, his wife Esther Tufts & two children (viz Thelvel & Esther), where they now are. Their circumstances being something low in worldly things, having no other Estate that I know of, but one Horse & two Cows.
John Henry.

Gary Sanderson: “A New Interpretation of the Bloody Brook Neighborhood” Beginning in 1757, a cluster of houses and the Frary Tavern sprang up near where the old Pocumtuck Path crossed Muddy/Bloody Brook. Join Gary as he uncovers well hidden clues. **Deerfield’s 350th Lecture Series,** Frontier Regional High School, Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2 pm. Discussion and refreshments to follow.



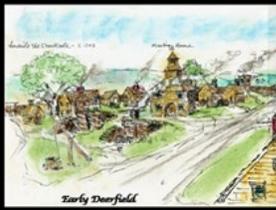
FRONTIER REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
HERE
BLOODY SWAMP!

Sketch of Pocumtuck Path by Al Dray, Deerfield Historian



Re-enactment of Bloody Brook Ambush, silent movie, 1910

The Tale of Bloody Brook: An Early Event during King Philip's War, Sept. 18, 1675
A Talk by Dr. Peter Thomas, with Discussion and Refreshments
Sunday, 2-3:30 pm, September 17, 2023
Frontier Regional High School Auditorium

Early Deerfield



Wars of Empire: English, French, & Native Allies

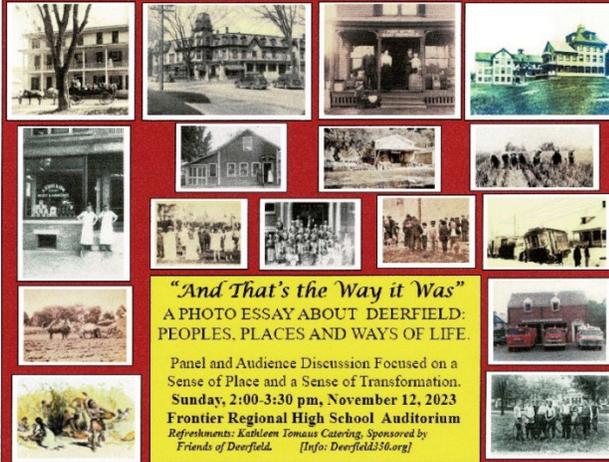
Wars of Frontier Survival

French and Indian Wars: Writ Large and Small, 1688-1763
A Talk by Kevin Sweeney
Sunday, 2:00-3:30 pm, October 22, 2023
Frontier Regional High School Auditorium

Refreshments: Kathleen Tomaus Catering, Sponsored by Friends of Deerfield [Info: Deerfield350.org]



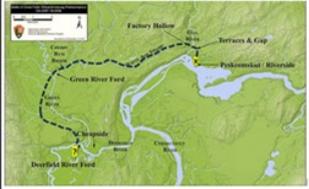
Deerfield's Old Indian House, c. 1698

"And That's the Way it Was"
A PHOTO ESSAY ABOUT DEERFIELD: PEOPLES, PLACES AND WAYS OF LIFE.

Panel and Audience Discussion Focused on a Sense of Place and a Sense of Transformation.
Sunday, 2:00-3:30 pm, November 12, 2023
Frontier Regional High School Auditorium
Refreshments: Kathleen Tomaus Catering, Sponsored by Friends of Deerfield. [Info: Deerfield350.org]





THE BATTLEFIELD PROJECT: X – NATIVE ENCAMPMENT.
--- ? --- TRACING THE ENGLISH RETREAT

"King Philip's War, the Battle of Great Falls/Peskeompskut (May 19, 1676): A




PROCLAMATION

*Be it known to all,
by order of the General Court of the
Massachusetts Bay Colony.*

*In answer to the petition of the
inhabitants of Paucumtucke,
Samuel Hinsdale, Sampson
Frary, & company, the Court
judgeth it fitting to allow the
petitioners the liberty of a
township...*

*Given this day, May 7, 1673, in the 13th year of the
reign of Charles 2nd, King of England, Scotland and
Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.*

**Let Us Join Together to Celebrate the
350th Birthday of the Town of Deerfield**

Open Houses of Deerfield's Four Active Historic Churches, December 10

The Deerfield Selectboard and many other residents toured and learned the history of the First Church of Deerfield (Reverend Liza Knapp), Holy Family Roman Catholic Church (Father David Aufiero), Descent of the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church (Father Andriy Krip), and Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church (Father Robert Koerber). Frontier Community Access Television (FCAT) interviewed church leaders and filmed the day. The day was organized by Friends of Deerfield who also sponsored a wonderful lunch meet-and-greet buffet prepared by Kathleen Tomaus Catering at Holy Family's Pope John Paul II Center. In conjunction with the event, Peter Thomas published an impressive manuscript titled "The Churches of Deerfield – Then and Now." Thank you, Peter, for taking the initiative on this aspect of Town history!



**Open House at First
Congregational Church of
Deerfield in Old Deerfield**

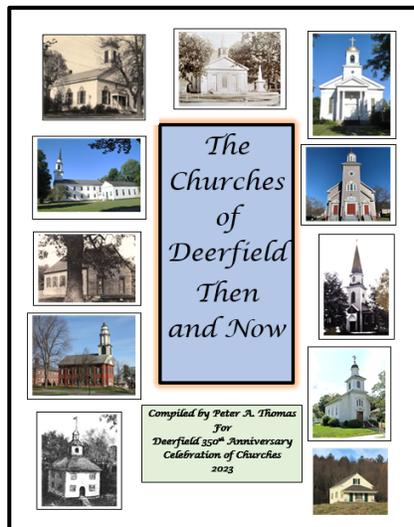
**Open House at
Holy Family Roman
Catholic Church in
South Deerfield**



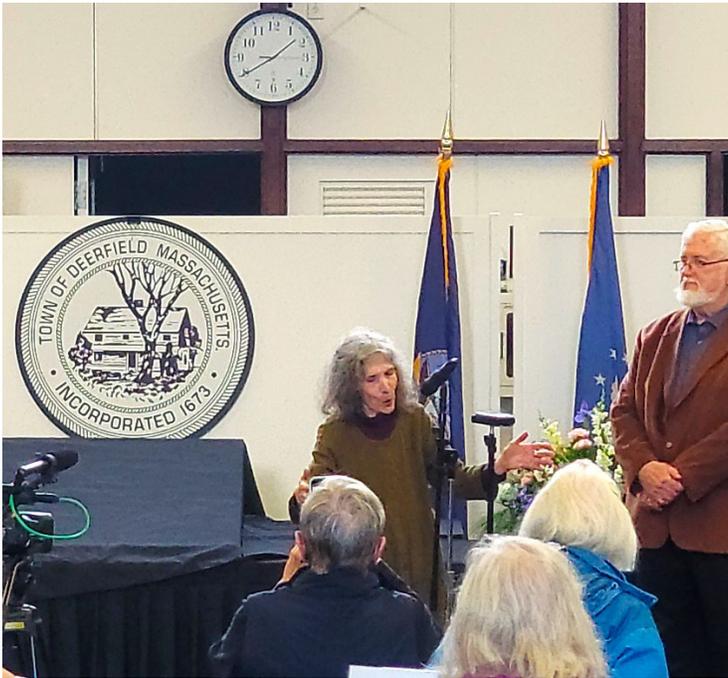


Open House at the Holy Name of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church in South Deerfield

Open House at Descent of the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church in South Deerfield



**Unveiling of Judith Inglese’s 350th Ceramic Mural “History Flows Like A River”, December 30, 2023.
(Large photo and transcript of artist’s description appear on pages 160 and 161)**



Judith Inglese, Artist of the Mural speaking to the audience just prior to the unveiling.

Mural as mounted by entrance of Municipal Town Offices with accompanying plaque.



Acknowledgments from *Friends of Deerfield*

The Friends of Deerfield is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization incorporated in 2020. In support of our mission to fund, plan and help execute events and projects for the enjoyment and education of residents of Deerfield and surrounding communities, we initially focused on Deerfield's 350th Anniversary celebrations and commemorations.

We are proud to have raised nearly \$150,000 to fund a wide range of events highlighted in this report, and we are most thankful to 46 businesses, institutions and individuals who donated \$120,000.

We also thank our major in-kind contributors, especially Berkshire Brewing Company and Kathleen Tomaus Catering whose principals (Gary Bogoff and Kathy Tomaus, respectively) contributed enormous hours of free planning/management/coordination time along with at-cost food and beverage supplies.

Along the way, we benefited from great collaboration with the 350th Steering Committee, the Town of Deerfield Selectboard, the Deerfield Police Department, the Town's two Fire Districts, the Town's Highway Department, Frontier Regional School, and Deerfield Academy. Thank you!

Finally, with sincere gratitude, we acknowledge the hundreds of hours enthusiastically given by our volunteers. Beyond the efforts of past and current Board Members listed at the outset of this report, we thank Peter Thomas, Diane and Gerry Martin, and Robyn Harris.





Gary Bogoff
BERKSHIRE BREWING COMPANY

Kathy Tomaus
KATHLEEN TOMAUS CATERING

AD HOC SENIOR HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Ad Hoc Senior Housing Committee meets on almost a *weekly* basis and is making considerable progress towards creating affordable housing for Deerfield seniors. Also in our priorities, we have worked diligently to be collaborative with other Boards and committees (e.g., Connecting Communities Initiative/CCI) to achieve Deerfield-wide goals.

Members:

Lili Dwight (Chair)
Carolyn Ness
Pam Predmore
Kathy Sylvester

Specifically, we have:

- ★ Met 32 times.
- ★ Worked with VHB and Christine Madore AICP, Senior Development Manager at the Massachusetts Housing Partnership to develop multiple concepts to spark conversation in public meetings.
- ★ Held 3 public outreach sessions.
- ★ Met with residents at the Senior Center to update them.
- ★ Met with South Deerfield Women’s Club to update them.
- ★ Applied for and been approved by the Community Preservation Committee and 2 Town Meeting votes to acquire the property at 85 North Main Street for the purpose of siting senior housing.
- ★ Surveyed the property at 85 North Main
- ★ Worked with the Conservation Commission to receive their approval for an ANRAD (Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation) for the property and the campus.
- ★ Continue to work with CCI to support the Municipal Campus
- ★ Worked with the Planning Board in support of Accessory Dwelling Units

Upcoming:

- Working with Berkshire Design Group and their architects to develop 3 additional concepts.
- Reviewing the Housing Production Plan
- Developing the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Developers
- Contract with FRCOG for review of RFP and assistance with the process.
- More public meetings
- Working with existing subsidized and affordable properties to retain our good standing to qualify for State and Federal money.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members:

Mark Brennan, Chair, Recommended by Finance Committee
Carey Etchells, Recommended by School Committee
Denise Mason, Recommended by Planning Board
Charles Shattuck, III, Recommended by Board of Assessors
Carolyn Shores Ness, Selectboard Representative

The Deerfield Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) is composed of Deerfield residents and is charged with organizing and considering capital requests from the Town's departments. These requests may be for equipment purchases, vehicles, building upgrades, or feasibility studies. We research, consider, and debate the merit of these requests. Our recommendations on the merits of capital requests are made to the Finance Committee, the Selectboard, and ultimately the Town Meeting. We are an advisory body only. We have no authority to spend taxpayer dollars.

The CIPC held numerous meetings throughout 2022 and 2023 in preparation for the 2024 Fiscal Year Capital Budget.

The committee considered and recommended:

\$80,000 for Deerfield Elementary School Front Entry Repairs
\$45,000 for Deerfield Elementary School Air Conditioners
\$37,880 for Municipal Offices Building and Inspection Software
\$70,975 for Highway Department Ford F350
\$325,000 for Highway Department Freightliner Truck
\$255,000 for Highway Department John Deere Loader
\$55,000 for Highway Department Sander Dump Body Replacement
\$375,000 for South County EMS Ambulance (\$142,343 for Deerfield)
\$150,000 for South County EMS Cardiac Monitor Replacements
\$85,860 for Senior Housing Site Feasibility Study
\$100,000 for Frontier Regional Tennis Courts Reconstruction Project (\$48,693.38 for Deerfield)
\$572,000 for Subsidized Senior Housing Feasibility Study and Land Acquisition
\$250,000 for Police HVAC Design and Construction
\$5,000,000 for Road Repairs Due to July 2023 Flooding
\$420,000.00 for Senior Housing Land Acquisition of the former St. James Church

The following items were approved by the voters at the Annual Town meeting of April 24, 2023:

\$80,000 for Deerfield Elementary School Front Entry Repairs
\$45,000 for Deerfield Elementary School Air Conditioners
\$37,880 for Municipal Offices Permitting Software
\$325,000 for Highway Department Freightliner Truck
\$375,000 for South County EMS Ambulance (\$142,343 for Deerfield)
\$150,000 for South County EMS Cardiac Monitor Replacements
\$100,000 for Frontier Regional Tennis Courts Reconstruction Project (\$48,693.38 for Deerfield)
\$572,000 for Subsidized Senior Housing Feasibility Study and Land Acquisition

The following items were approved by the voters at the Special Town meeting of October 23, 2023:
\$250,000 for Police HVAC Design and Construction
\$5,000,000 for Road Repairs Due to July 2023 Flooding
\$420,000 for Senior Housing Land Acquisition of the former St. James Church

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Brennan, Chair
Capital Improvement Planning Committee

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Members:

Name - Appointing Authority

Alan Swedlund, Chair until May, Open Space Committee
Frank Leone, Vice Chair, Board of Assessors
Ben Bensen, Clerk Historical Commission
David Lawless, Planning Board
Sean Libbey, Conservation Committee
Lili Dwight, Moderator Appointee
Kathy Sylvester, Selectboard Appointee
Sun Antonellis, Recreation Committee
Vacant Regional Housing Authority

Last year, the CPC received the following applications, and we recommended that Town Meeting vote on these projects:

1. For the Senior Housing Ad Hoc Committee, we voted to grant \$572,000 from the Senior Housing Fund for the subsidized senior housing feasibility study.
2. From the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, we voted to grant \$700 from the Historic fund for the preservation of the 18th-20th Century Deerfield account books.
3. We voted to grant \$20,000 from the Open Space and Recreation fund for the feasibility study of the Greenfield Bikeway. This application was withdrawn after Greenfield voted not to support this effort.
4. For the Frontier Regional School Committee, we voted to grant \$48,693 for the Frontier Regional Tennis Court Reconstruction Project. While this was a late request, we did vote to support this since we had the funds after the other project was withdrawn. We decided to then draw up a document about late applications since there was no prior precedent set.

It was after the acceptance of the final application that Chairperson Alan Swedlund resigned from this committee, and Kathy Sylvester was appointed Chair.

CONNECTING COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Board Members:

James Cambias
Julie Chalfant
Annie Curtis
Lili Dwight – Tech Support
Tim Hilchey

Pete Law
Andrea Leibson
Denise Mason - Chair
Trevor McDaniel
Carolyn Shores Ness
M.A. Swedlund



The purpose of Connecting Community Initiative is to ensure better collaboration, communication, and innovation among our 20 boards and committees in town. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated residents who are devoting countless time and energy into continuing to make Deerfield a great place to live. We are working on designing a vibrant downtown that links our civic buildings and community services while breathing new life into our architectural treasures.

OUR VISION:

A centralized municipal campus as a dynamic gathering place for all town residents

- Housing for older adults - safe, affordable, subsidized, near civic and business resources
- Senior/Community center for all ages
- Library with expanded space and programs
- Town Hall in a renovated historical building
- Town Common with attractive footpaths, benches, fountain, and plantings
- Improved parking, bikeways and walkways that support businesses and activities

OUR MISSION:

- Shared energy-efficient infrastructure that serves all downtown municipal and commercial buildings
- Zoning to encourage development in the heart of the community and preserve forests and farms
- Structures designed for accessibility, energy efficiency and anticipated impacts of climate change

We are working on multiple concurrent projects on our municipal campus, one of which is a Geothermal Exchange system that will serve municipal buildings and senior housing. By doing so, it will substantially lower our energy costs. The potential addition of solar panels on some of the buildings will also help to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

The former Church (1821 building) on North Main Street is going to serve as a temporary home for the library while our current Library is under construction. Afterwards, it will be used for Community events and Senior Services. We thank Eaglebrook School for their generosity in providing help to do much needed renovations. Fellowship Hall received a new roof, two electric circuit breaker panels, complete electrical rewiring, sanded and refinished floors, three new bathrooms (one of which is ADA compliant), a new ADA compliant ramp, a new fire detection system, and fully repainted ceilings and walls.

Another project is the plan to move our town administration to the former schoolhouse/senior center (1888 building). After numerous conversations and meetings, it was determined that residents wanted to preserve this building which is one of the few remaining historic buildings in our town center (the 1821 church is the other). Although we do have some funding allocated for the building, it isn't enough to complete rehabilitating and repurposing it. We are working with state and federal agencies to secure earmarks.

See Ad Hoc Senior Housing report for details on Senior Housing Progress.

See Selectboard report for progress on the Leary lot that will increase parking for downtown.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2023 was another very active year for the Deerfield Conservation Commission. In May 2023, the Commission returned to a full membership of five commissioners welcoming the appointment of Ms. Ann Mary Cloutier to the team. Current Commission members are:

Members:

Peter Law – Chair

Ben Byrne

Ann Mary Cloutier

Kate Devlin

Sean Libbey

Our regularly scheduled meetings continued to be held remotely. Fieldwork consisted of completing well over 30 site visits throughout the year at various projects located throughout the town. The Commission reviewed, discussed, and acted upon a variety of applications regarding “Request for Determination” (RDA), “Notice of Intent” (NOI) and “Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation” (ANRAD) filings submitted pursuant to the MassDEP Wetlands Protection Act, 310 CMR 10.00. A few examples of the projects reviewed:

- Completed review and approval for SunnyDayz Inc., ANRAD and NOI for proposed marijuana cultivation, distribution and analytical facilities located off Greenfield Road.
- Eaglebrook Track and upcoming Dining Hall NOIs.
- Deerfield Academy Tennis Pavilion renovations NOI.
- Town of Deerfield Senior Housing Committee ANRAD review and approval.

The Commission responded to numerous requests from property owners throughout the town regarding plans to build or expand homes and home projects in areas located near streams and wetlands.

As well as the expected application reviews, 2023 became a remarkably busy year for site visits and emergency response activities following the extremely heavy rains which occurred in July and resulted in extensive damage to roads and infrastructure. Commission members spent a tremendous amount of time responding to a substantial number and variety of these incidents. The Commission was called upon to issue more than a dozen emergency certificates for work in protected wetlands to alleviate dangerous flooding and/or road deterioration in several locations including Pine Nook Road, Wapping Road, Greenfield Road, Hoosac Road and Lower Road, among others. This response continues into 2024

with additional areas of concern still to be addressed. The Commission would like to thank the Town's Emergency Management Director, Chief John Paciorek, the Town DPW staff, notably Kevin Scarborough and the MA DEP for working closely with the Commission members to address these pressing needs.

The Commission has also been utilizing the standardized list of Special Orders of Conditions completed last year which are applied to various RDA's and NOI's submitted. This helps to streamline the work completed by the Commission and provides a consistent approach to the application of these Orders.

Upcoming initiatives include:

- Development of conservation related educational signage to be used at selected projects to notify and inform visitors of the environmentally related importance of key project aspects.
- Continued educational seminars for the Commissioners to keep all members current with applicable regulations. A variety of training courses offered by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions were completed by Commission members in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Law, Chair
Ann Mary Cloutier
Ben Byrne
Kate Devlin
Sean Libbey

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Members:

Emily Gaylord, Chair Term Ending 2023
Olivia Leone, Member Term Ending 2024
Emily Luker, Member Term Ending 2024
Denise Schwartz, Member Term Ending 2023
Laura Pontani, Member Term Ending 2025
Patricia Ryan, Member Term Ending 2024
Max Sherrill, Member Term Ending 2024

The Deerfield Local Cultural Council was **allocated \$6,000** this year by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Council received 36 applications and funded (in full or partial) 22 of them.

Funded Programming

Applicant	Project Title	Grant Amount
Pioneer Valley Symphony, Inc.	“Oliver Towne” - 2024 Education Concert	\$200
Frontier Regional High School	International Night: Celebrating Global Diversity and Unity	700
Tincknell, Roger L.	Under One Sky: A Cerebration of Diversity	250
Dear Ella	Dear Ella Concert	250
Elkus, Eli	Musical Storytelling Summer Reading Concert	250
Franklin County Pride, Inc.	Franklin County Pride	375
Snyder, Sara	Joy of Song Singalongs	375
Human Agenda Theater	Human Agenda Theater 2024 Season	250
The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.	Full Snow Moon Gathering & Eastern Woodlands Social Dance	250
Local Access to Valley Arts	On the Boards '24	100
York, Matt	Matt York - Songs & Stories: The Highwaymen	250
Franklin Land Trust, Inc.	Mushroom Workshop	250
Piti Theatre Company	The Princes of Deerfield	300
Happier Valley Comedy, Inc.	Happier Valley Comedy Short Form Improv Show	250
Kline, Carrie	Music of Appalachia and Small Town America	200
Tilton Library	Playful Engineers	250
Stockwell, Bernadette	Deerfield: Do Your Art!	250
The Nolumbeka Project, Inc.	Pocumtuck Homelands Festival: A Celebration of Native American Art, Music and Cultures	250
Tilton Library	Community Building Dance Workshop	100
Tilton Library	Pop-Up Watercolor Class for Adults	100
Inglese, Judith	History Flows Like a River, A Ceramic Mural Installation for the Town Offices/Police Complex	700
MUSIC Dance.edu	Hip Hop Chair Dance for Seniors!	100
	Total Amount	\$6,000

Funding Priorities

The priority of the Deerfield Cultural Council is to bring new and varied programs to all ages of our population. We award the funds to the applicant in each category that will reach the most residents.

1. We try to allocate intergenerationally, events that are accessible to all ages will be prioritized.
2. We give preference to events that take place in town or have free or reduced ticket prices for our residents.

3. We give preference to applicants that have a plan for COVID-19 in the event that it's necessary. Events can be offered online (ex. Via Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, etc.) and/or outdoors, or have an established rescheduling plan with the venue.
4. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that persons with disabilities have access to public programs or services on an equal basis with the rest of the general public. Furthermore, federal law mandates that any programs or service that receives federal or state funding must be accessible to persons with disabilities and reasonable accommodation be made to provide an accessible environment. Therefore, all events and programs funded by the LCCs must consider access for persons with disabilities, including the facility or event location as well as the content of the program. To ensure equitable access, an applicant's first step is a candid assessment and identification of barriers (physical, virtual, cultural, communication) followed by a bold and innovative plan for improvement. If an applicant puts forward a proposal for a project with strong potential for public benefit, but the Local Cultural Council has concerns about access for persons with disabilities, the council may choose to award a conditional approval. This would allow the applicant the opportunity to address the concerns and improve access as a condition of receiving the grant.
5. If the event is to be held in person, you, as the applicant, must provide the venue and indicate that you have received permission to use that venue.
6. Generally smaller grants are more likely to be funded. (We are splitting up a very small pie.) We cannot stress enough the need for the applicant to have an approved plan with a venue and a budget in place before applying. This confirms that our community is invested in the event and will work towards its success.
7. We give priority to projects that increase awareness of cultural diversity and/or elevate the voices of historically marginalized groups. Projects should create opportunities for artists and community members who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQX, refugee, immigrant, or persons living with a disability. Projects may include coalition building, research, leadership, and youth development.

FY24 Local Guidelines

1. The application must be filled in correctly – the most common error that applicants make is in the financial details (the total expenses should not be the same as the amount that you request).
2. Proposal is submitted on time.
3. The applicant has read and understands the priorities of the Deerfield Local Cultural Council.
4. Venue (in-person or virtual) has been established at the time of application.

How Grant Recipients Are Paid:

Direct Grants

Visit massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/Deerfield for comprehensive information.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Members:

David Gilbert-Keith, Chair
Laurie Boosahda, Member
Greg Francheschi, Member
MA Swedlund, Member
Steven Svoboda, Member

The Deerfield Energy Committee has, over the years, won over \$475,000 in "Green Communities" state grants for energy-saving projects. In saving energy, Deerfield also gets ongoing savings on energy bills. The committee also worked to bring utility aggregation, through which we joined with other towns in the region to find the best possible combination of greener energy supplies at good prices. In the previous contract period, aggregation protected ratepayers from unexpectedly high-rate hikes from our local utility. We are also still anticipating income for the town from a planned solar array at the landfill that we helped negotiate.

For us, though, 2023 was what sports teams might call "a building year". While that usually is a sideways way to say the team got clobbered, for us it actually was a year of getting things in place to be able to apply not just for more Green Communities funding, but a growing field of both state and federal incentive programs. For instance, we have:

1. overseen an **energy audit of municipal buildings**, including Frontier Regional High School, to apply for grants and Eversource's incentives to carry out the auditors' recommendations, including especially new building controls for the schools.
2. begun formulating an **energy reduction plan** for the schools and other town buildings.
3. begun consideration of the state's new "**Climate Leadership Program**," which has also been called "Green Communities 2.0". This program would not only open the way toward more grant funding but differs from Green Communities for being less directly aimed at energy saving than at reducing our carbon footprint. While these two goals are usually linked, there are important differences that may help us achieve some immediate goals.
4. worked with other town committees (Conservation Commission, Connecting Community Initiative, Planning Board, and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) to seek grants toward a **shared geothermal heat pump** system for a municipal campus.
5. completed a "**Solar Plan**", working with planners at the University of Massachusetts to best utilize our alternative energy resources, especially in planning and optimizing photovoltaic siting, particularly on town buildings.
6. involved local students in **planting trees**. As we told local reporters, planting trees is not only good for the climate, it shows we believe in the future. As one of the participating students put it, "I think it will be really cool a few years down the line to see our work."

Respectfully Submitted for the Deerfield Energy Committee,

David Gilbert Keith, Chair

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Name	Title	Term Expiration
Julie Chalfant	Chair	2025
James Cambias	Secretary	2026
John Paresky	Member	2026
Elizabeth Brown	Member	2026
Margaret Nartowicz	Member	2024
Mark Brennan	Member	2025
David Sharp	Member	2025

The Finance Committee provides an independent review of the municipal budget and makes recommendations to the people of the town. Further, the Committee is required by state law to consider every municipal question (warrant article) presented to the town for the purpose of making reports or recommendations to the town residents. The Committee's primary role is the fiscal watchdog of the town, which is the lens through which the municipal questions are considered.

The Committee achieves this by meeting with the department head or committee responsible for each line item in the municipal budget and discussing the budget recommendation with them during open meetings. The Committee then assesses the full budget along with warrant article expenditures and compares this to expected revenues, reserves, and other funding sources. The Selectboard has been invited to join in these meetings to provide input on town priorities. The meetings for the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and warrant articles are still ongoing at the time of writing this report, so the Committee will issue a set of recommendations at the Annual Town Meeting.

In addition to the review of the budget and warrant articles, the Finance Committee performed a review of residential property taxes, discussed below. We also provided an overview of municipal borrowing that describes the process that the town follows to fund major projects; this overview is available on the Finance Committee page of the town website – deerfieldma.us.

Property Tax Review:

How much did property taxes increase last year?

Short answer: the average single family tax bill, including the fire and water districts, increased 5.1% from 2023 to 2024. If your property taxes increased more than 5.1% from 2023 to 2024, this means that your property's assessed value increased more rapidly than the average in town. If your property taxes increased less than 5.1% from 2023 to 2024, your assessed value increased less than the average.

A more complete discussion:

The total property taxes levied by the Deerfield municipal government increased from \$13,465,616 in fiscal year 2023 to \$13,935,424 in fiscal year 2024, which is a 3.5% increase.

There are also separate property taxes levied by the South Deerfield Fire District, the Deerfield Fire District, and the South Deerfield Water District. These taxes are not controlled by the municipal government (Selectboard/town meeting); they are levied (and voted on) by their respective districts. If you add these values to the municipal taxes, the total property tax increased from \$14,924,441 in fiscal year 2023 to \$15,480,547 in 2024, or a 3.7% increase.

In Deerfield, the property tax rate is the same for all classes of property (residential, commercial, industrial, and personal property), meaning everyone pays the same percentage of assessed value. The ratio of assessed values between these categories changed slightly: in 2023, 75.4% of assessed property value was residential, and in 2024, 76.3% of assessed property value was residential. Thus, the average single family home tax bill increased 5.1%.

I thought Prop 2½ limited tax increases to 2.5% - why is this more than 2.5%?

Proposition 2½ does limit total tax levy increases to 2.5% from one year to the next, plus allowed additions for new growth (new buildings and property coming onto the tax rolls) and for excluded debt. To exclude debt from the limits of Prop 2½, the exclusion must pass town meeting with a 2/3 majority and must pass a separate ballot vote at the polls by a simple majority.

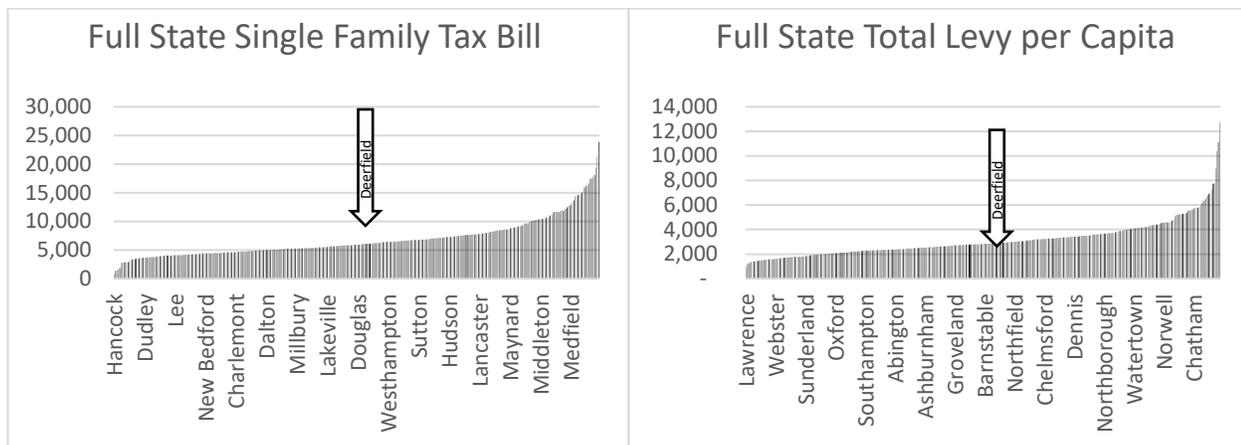
Prop 2½ only applies to municipal taxes (those voted at town meeting), so the fire and water district taxes are not limited by this law. Prop 2½ applies to the total tax taken by the town but does not limit the tax increase on any single piece of property. Further, the total allowed tax is not decreased for property removed from tax rolls or for depreciated personal property.

Our excluded debt in the 2024 taxes includes the wastewater treatment plant, the highway garage, and Frontier school projects. Frontier school projects will be paid off in 2025 and the highway garage will be completely paid off in 2034. The library debt will begin in the fiscal year 2026.

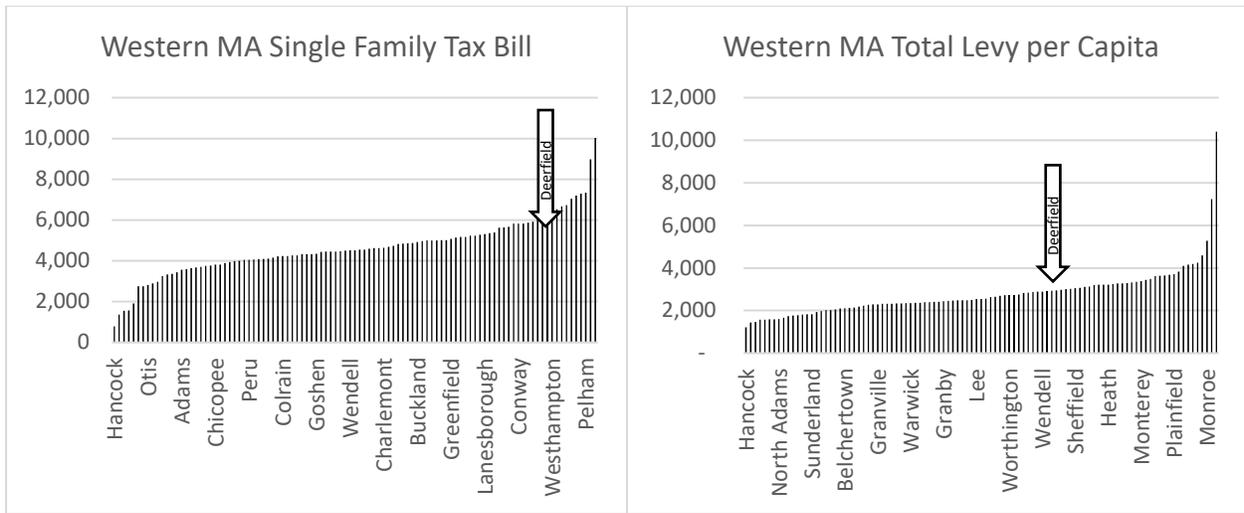
How do Deerfield’s taxes compare to other towns in Massachusetts?

Here are two values for comparison: the average single family tax bill, and the total tax levy per capita (that is, the total property tax divided by the total town population). Using 2023 data (2024 is not available yet), we made several comparisons:

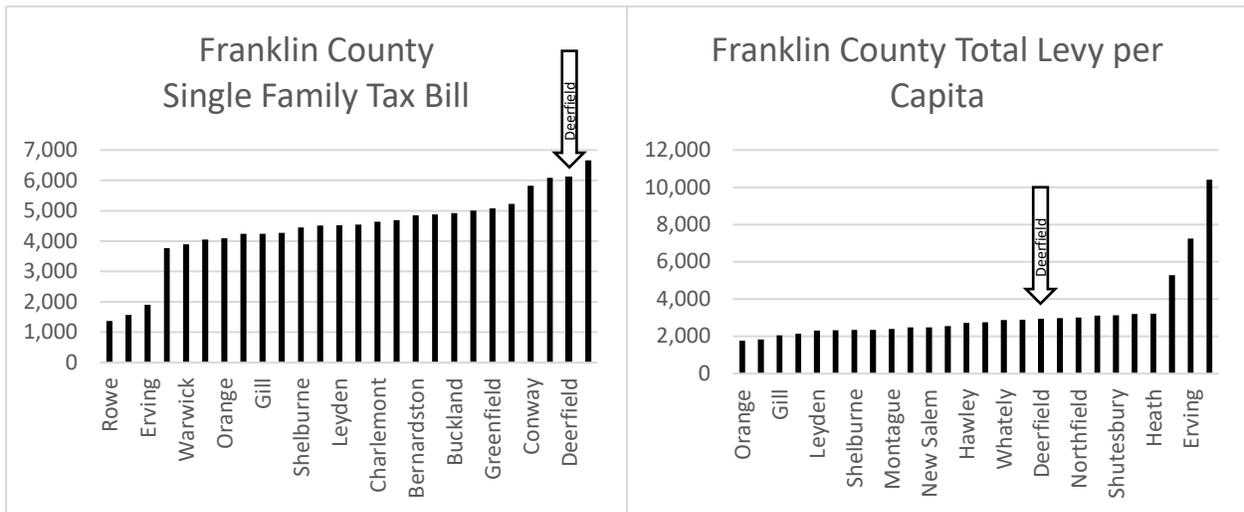
Compared to the entire state, our single-family tax bill is 166th of 351 towns, or about in the middle. Our total tax levy per capita is 161st of 351 towns. Arrows point to Deerfield.



In Western Massachusetts (Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Berkshire counties), our single-family tax bill is 11th of 101 towns and our total tax levy per capita is 37th.



In Franklin County, our single-family tax bill is 2nd of 26 towns, while our total tax levy per capita is 10th. Rowe, Monroe, and Erving have very large commercial/industrial bases which skews both their single-family tax bill (very low) and total levy (very high).

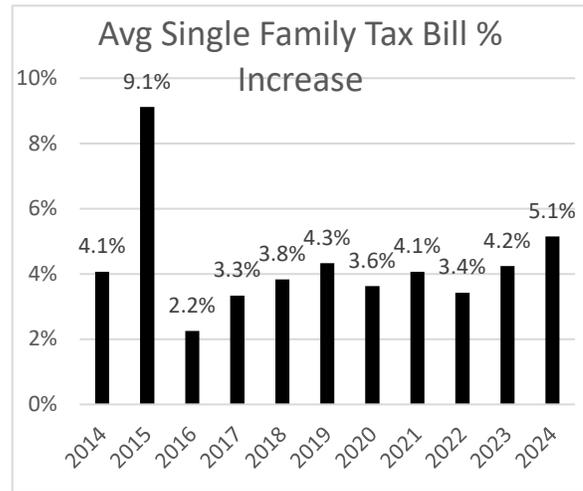


If you compare our taxes to the five counties right around Boston, our single-family tax bill would be 131st out of 148 towns (or bottom 11%), and our total levy per capita would be 93rd (bottom 37%).

A couple of caveats: first, since most towns include their fire and water service in their total municipal tax levy, we have added those values to the Deerfield numbers in this comparison; second, the fiscal year 2024 data is not available yet, so these comparisons all use 2023 data.

How much have taxes increased over the past 10 years?

Growth in Deerfield’s single-family parcel average tax bill has averaged about 4% per year for the past five years, on top of a large jump in 2015 caused mainly by the highway garage debt exclusion. The average single family tax bill has increased 53% between 2013 and 2024; during the same time period, single family home values increased 52% and DOR income per capita increased 49%. This indicates that the tax bill is increasing at the same pace as other indicators. Average single-family tax bill as a percent of per capita income has remained constant for several years.



Where do we get the data? The state publishes loads of data about all the towns in Massachusetts – you can check it out: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-databank-data-analytics>

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Members:

John Nove (Chair)

Ben Bensen (Clerk and Representative to the Community Preservation Committee)

Bonita Conlon

Henrietta Kocot

(currently three vacancies)

The Deerfield 350th Committee - and especially Peter and Marie Thomas - are to be commended for all the work they did during the year spotlighting the Town’s history. Their series of Sunday afternoon presentations at the Frontier Regional High School involved a wide variety of experts speaking on a broad array of subjects all related to the Town’s past extending from its pre-history through to the 21st Century.

Town Records/Conservation

Local historian and retired professor/archaeologist, Peter Thomas, continued his ‘mining’, rescue and digitizing of town records from the vaults in both the basement of the 1888 Building and the Town Clerk’s Office. The Selectboard approved the transfer and deposition of the most important documents from the basement site where the dangers of high humidity and mold lurked. They were moved to a climate-controlled space in the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association Library (PVMA) and re-housed in conservation-quality boxes provided by the Deerfield Historical Commission (DHC). They will be made available there to scholars and interested individuals.

Historic Deerfield Magazine giveaway

Through the generosity of Historic Deerfield, Inc., 350 copies of their annual magazine (with Deerfield 350 as its theme) were made available for free through their Museum Shop for town residents. By year's end, just over 300 were claimed. Additional copies, a great 350th Anniversary keepsake, are still available for sale at the Shop.

Archaeology

A three-site survey was completed at Deerfield Academy in conjunction with renovations to their Dining Hall under permits issued by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. To expand and renovate the existing Dining Hall and surrounding land (site #1), it was necessary to construct an interim facility across Albany Road, in what was the baseball outfield (site #2). That, in turn, required the construction of a new synthetic turf playing field on Routes 5/10 to the north of the market/gas station (site #3). Even though this last site, until recently an agricultural field, required only regrading and the installation of a drainage system, it became the most problematic, requiring many days of test-pit excavation by archaeologists from Heritage Consultants in the presence of a Native American monitor. Clearance to complete the site #3 portion of the project was finally given in the Fall and the turf laid down just before the coming of winter. Analysis of the material uncovered will take place in the coming months.

Battlefield Protection Grant

Spring of 2024 will mark the end of field research on this 10-year+ project coordinated by the Town of Montague and involving local Historical Commissioners as well as representatives from four Massachusetts Native American tribes. The project seeks to trace, using document research, oral tradition and archaeology, the 1676 Falls Fight in the Riverside neighborhood of Gill (then Deerfield) in which hundreds of Native Americans, primarily women, the elderly and children were killed. The massacre was followed by the pursuit of the attackers by Native warriors across current-day Greenfield to fords across the Green and Deerfield Rivers. After a final report is written, funding focusing on education will disseminate the results of the research to the public.

Indian House Museum renovation

The DHC holds the historical restriction on the Indian House Museum on Old Main St., owned by the PVMA. Approval was given for roof and chimney work using materials identical to the existing ones. The work was privately funded by the PVMA and will be completed in the spring of 2024.

Interpretive Signage

Although nothing was completed in 2023, work continued on interpretive signage for the Mount Sugarloaf summit and the Sugarloaf Street Cemetery.

On-going Community Preservation Act Projects

There were no Commission-administered CPA projects undertaken during 2023.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Members:

Julie Caswell, Chair
Susan Haff
Andrea Leibson
Lynn Rose
Alan Swedlund

The Committee's work has been aided by the attendance at meetings and research conducted by its dedicated volunteers: Greg Henricks, Emily Johnson, Denise Schwartz, and Deborah Yaffe.

Voted that the Town establish an Open Space Committee to coordinate the implementation of and the timely revision of the Open Space and Recreation Plan of 2006, the Conservation Vision Statement of 2007, and the conservation tools contained therein, specifically including the following powers and duties:

1. To make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and to Town Meeting, including sponsorship of warrant articles, regarding the acquisition and use of lands for conservation, recreation, and open space.
2. To determine and review priority target parcels for protection with the Board of Selectmen, and other committees and boards as warranted.
3. To work with funding organizations, other Town committees, and private land trusts for the common interest of acquiring or preserving open space; and
4. To participate as a member of the Community Preservation Committee under the provision of the Community Preservation Act, [1] at such time as said act is accepted by the Town.

There shall be five (5) members of the committee who shall be residents of the Town and who shall serve for three (3) year terms. The Selectboard shall appoint three of said five members and the Moderator shall appoint two of said five members. Said members may be reappointed by said appointing authority for one or more additional three-year terms, without limitation.

Committee Report

The Committee completed the new Deerfield Open Space and Recreation Plan 2023-2030 in early 2023. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved the plan in June 2023. Having an approved plan makes Deerfield eligible for several grant programs offered by the state focused on land protection, recreation, and parks. The Deerfield plan includes analysis of the community setting and all aspects of the Town's environment and resources, including environmental challenges. A detailed inventory of lands identifies levels of open space protection across the Town. The last sections outline the community vision for open space and recreation, goals, and objectives, and a seven-year action plan. The full plan and links to maps are available at: <https://www.deerfieldma.us/557/Deerfield-Open-Space-Recreation-Plan-202>.

The top priorities of the Action Plan for 2023-2030 are:

- Increasing land under permanent protection in the town.
- Making Deerfield more walkable and hikeable through development of and publicizing trails and town walking loops.

In 2023, the Committee developed an initial project focused on the priority to increase protected land in the Town of Deerfield. The Committee researched the protection status of parcels of land owned by Deerfield along the Pocumtuck Ridge and Deerfield River that are of recreational interest but are currently in limited use. The Committee investigated the legal status of these parcels and their ecological characteristics, finding that the parcels currently do not have permanent protection. This research was published as part of the minutes of the August 22, 2023, Committee Meeting. The Committee decided to focus on four parcels along the Ridge: Steam Mill Forest (Map 79, Lot 39, 31 acres), Pocumtuck Rock (Map 80, Lot 1, 63 acres), Pine Nook Memorial Forest (Map 81, Lot 3, 18 acres), and Birchwood Nature Refuge (Map 138, Lot 5, 36 acres).

The Committee engaged in discussions with the Franklin Land Trust on its interest in collaborating with the Town in establishing Conservation Restrictions on these four town-owned parcels to provide them with permanent protection. It also met with staff of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to discuss protection efforts along the Pocumtuck Ridge. Coming out of this work, the Committee is planning to submit a grant proposal to the Deerfield Community Preservation Committee in March 2024 to fund the establishment of two Conservation Restrictions covering the four parcels of land.

Another major focus of the Committee in 2023 has been outreach to include Indigenous Peoples, town residents, and others in the planning for increased protection for open space and the development of a network of trails and walking loops in the town.

In 2024, the Committee plans to begin addressing the second major priority identified by the Open Space & Recreation Plan 2023-2030 to make Deerfield more walkable and hikeable. The Committee plans to prepare a MassTrails grant application to fund an initial phase of making trails on town-owned parcels and roads on the Pocumtuck Ridge into a recognizable and known Pocumtuck Ridge Trails Network through on-site signage, trail head definition, and online communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Caswell, Chair

PERSONNEL BOARD

Members:

Raloon Bialek, Chair	Term expires: 2027
Eric J. Farrell, Member	Term expires: 2025
G. David Sharp (Finance Committee Representative)	Term expires: 2027
Kayce D. Warren, Town Administrator (ex-officio, non-voting member)	

Serving on the five-member Personnel Board is a vital part of town government. Through policy recommendations and evaluation of positions and wages, the Personnel Board supports a fair and equitable workplace for employees working for the Town of Deerfield. The Personnel Board currently has two (2) vacancies. The Board welcomes interested residents willing to share their ideas and experience. Residents with human resources experience would be a great addition to the group.

Meeting date and time:

3rd Monday of each month at 6 pm or as needed.

Recommendations made to Selectboard this year:

- FY2024 Classification-Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment of 3%.
- Review and approval of re-classification of Senior Center Outreach Coordinator position.
- Review and approval of position descriptions:
 - Assistant Treasurer/Collector
 - Police Department Administrative Assistant
 - Accountant Administrative Assistant
 - Assistant Town Clerk
 - South County EMS Chief
- Review and approval of Planning/Economic Development Coordinator position; placement of position on Classification-Compensation Plan; approval of pay range and hire rate.
- Review and approve re-organization of Town Clerk Department to full-time Town Clerk and part-time Assistant Town Clerk.
- Review and approval of updated FY2024 Classification-Compensation Plan with placement of Planning/Economic Development Coordinator at the October Special Town Meeting.
- FY2025 Cost of Living Adjustment of 2%, commensurate with adjustments in both Police Department and Highway Department Collective Bargaining Agreements.

Projects under discussion in 2023:

- Comments on Human Rights Committee development.
- On-going review of policies and wages for positions placed on the Classification-Compensation Plan.
- Continue to work with the Town Administrator to develop a policy manual containing rights/obligations/benefits for town employees that could be updated regularly to bring the town into compliance with legal requirements.

We look forward to continuing to support the Selectboard in establishing a personnel policy manual that meets the needs of staff and management to effectively serve the Town of Deerfield.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deerfield Personnel Board

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Members:

Adam Sokoloski, Chair	Term Expiration: 2024
Laura Pontani, Member	Term Expiration: 2026
David Potter, Member	Term Expiration: 2024
Gaby Richard-Harrington, Member	Term Expiration: 2025
G. David Sharp, Member	Term Expiration: 2025

During the past year, the Deerfield ZBA has received applications for and held hearings for zoning variances and special permits and made decisions in compliance with the Deerfield Zoning Bylaws.

Thank you to the residents of Deerfield for their engagement and support throughout the year. Thank you to the members who currently volunteer and members who have volunteered in the past. It has been an honor to serve the Town of Deerfield as both a member and as the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Adam Sokoloski
ZBA Chair



The Deerfield Time Capsule (Photo Courtesy of Alex Herchenreder)

TOWN DEPARTMENTS

ACCOUNTANT

Brenda K. Hill Town Accountant

Free Cash was certified on August 21, 2023 for \$1,557,692. The calculation of Free Cash is the result of a combination of many factors, including unspent Free Cash from the previous certification year, receipts in excess of estimated for the year just ended, and unspent appropriation balances for the year just ended. In Deerfield, Free Cash has historically been used to finance capital purchases. In some years, it has also been used to cover budget shortages due to tax levy limitations.

The South County EMS Enterprise Fund completed its ninth full year of operations as of June 30, 2023. Retained Earnings were certified at \$133,404.

The Sewer Enterprise Fund finished its fifth full year of operations as an “Enterprise Fund” and had Retained Earnings certified at \$1,254,719.

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Expenditure Report

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Amt Unspent</u>
Moderator	400.00	350.00	50.00
Selectboard's Salaries	16,000.00	16,000.00	-
Selectboard's Staff Salaries	256,124.00	245,603.81	10,520.19
Selectboard /Administrator Expense	15,750.00	15,568.59	181.41
Finance Committee Expense	500.00	188.00	312.00
Reserve Fund	16,251.27	-	16,251.27
Accountant Salary	78,094.00	78,093.69	0.31
Accountant/Audit Expense	17,025.00	16,215.00	810.00
Assessor's Salaries	11,000.00	11,000.00	-
Assessor's Admin Assistant Salary	69,007.00	69,007.00	-
Assessor's Expense	18,875.00	13,792.19	5,082.81
Quinquennial Recertification	41,087.47	24,700.00	16,387.47
Clerk/Treas/Collector Staff Salaries	191,507.00	139,290.23	52,216.77
Treasurer/Collector Expense	40,710.00	38,693.19	2,016.81
Legal Expense	130,500.00	125,957.66	4,542.34
Personnel Board Expense	750.00	197.51	552.49
IT Hardware	5,000.00	4,881.06	118.94
PEG Access Capital	67,184.73	15,318.70	51,866.03
Office Contracted Services	331,435.00	240,412.78	91,022.22
Town Clerk Salaries	33,560.00	24,703.20	8,856.80
Town Clerk Expense	26,768.00	25,752.55	1,015.45
Conservation Commission Expense	1,850.00	1,749.70	100.30
Open Space Committee Expense	250.00	0.01	249.99
Encumbered Open Space Exp FY21 & FY22	7,552.75	7,552.75	-
Planning Board Expense	2,000.00	1,391.66	608.34
Encumbered Planning Board Expense FY22	494.55	494.55	-
Zoning Board of Appeals Expense	1,000.00	965.37	34.63
Agriculture Commission Expense	100.00	-	100.00

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Expenditure Report

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Amt Unspent</u>
Capital - Streetscape Planning	8,738.61	-	8,738.61
Energy Committee Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Encumbered Energy Committee Exp	-	(1,000.00)	1,000.00
Town Office Building Maintenance	89,500.00	88,360.30	1,139.70
Town Office Expense	14,100.00	14,019.89	80.11
Capital - Church Feasibility Study	15,000.00	7,000.00	8,000.00
Capital - Senior Center Needs Assess/Feas	32,500.00	-	32,500.00
Capital - Municipal Office Repairs	52,118.00	-	52,118.00
Capital - SCEMS Building Exhaust System	30,000.00	-	30,000.00
Capital - Church Building Repairs	300,000.00	4,860.00	295,140.00
General Insurance	65,000.00	64,717.75	282.25
Police Department Payroll	994,014.00	963,227.45	30,786.55
Police Department Expense	114,300.00	114,247.65	52.35
Capital - Police Cruiser	110,000.00	109,833.38	166.62
Capital - Police Data Migration	23,000.00		23,000.00
SCEMS Expense	345,693.00	345,693.00	-
Inspections Department Salaries	169,177.00	157,150.24	12,026.76
Inspections Department Expense	4,950.00	3,637.49	1,312.51
Emergency Management	2,800.00	2,600.00	200.00
Canine Control Program	20,954.00	20,954.00	-
Elementary School Expense	5,098,948.00	5,098,885.00	63.00
Encumbered Elementary School Exp FY22	135,581.40	125,178.57	10,402.83
Encumbered Elementary School Exp FY23	-	(113,904.31)	113,904.31
Frontier Regional School Expense	4,100,475.00	4,092,909.13	7,565.87
Frontier - Dickinson Trust	1,501.49	-	1,501.49
Frontier - Debt Payment	1,385.00	1,384.14	0.86
Frontier - Transportation	79,511.00	79,511.00	-
Franklin County Tech Expense	541,163.00	541,163.00	-
Out of District Placement Exp	74,500.00	69,394.78	5,105.22
Franklin County Tech Capital	18,561.00	18,560.02	0.98

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Expenditure Report

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Amt Unspent</u>
Capital - DES Generator	27,000.00	-	27,000.00
Capital - DES Replace Flooring	22,200.00	22,181.00	19.00
Capital - DES Restroom Renovations	15,500.00	15,500.00	-
Capital - DES Air Conditioning	16,000.00	16,000.00	-
Capital - DES Commercial Dishwasher	30,000.00	27,255.06	2,744.94
Capital - FRS Walk-in Cooler	36,727.47	36,727.47	-
General Highway Payroll	563,345.00	563,282.08	62.92
General Highway Expense	304,550.00	304,483.15	66.85
Capital - Complete Streets	40,000.00	-	40,000.00
Capital - Asphalt Sidewalk Repairs	250,000.00	8,600.00	241,400.00
Capital - Brush Woodchipper	59,000.00	59,000.00	-
Snow and Ice Removal	192,594.73	192,594.73	-
Street Lighting	18,000.00	12,834.38	5,165.62
Transfer Station Expense	224,900.00	223,558.02	1,341.98
Capital - Shed Replacement	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
Landfill Monitoring	44,100.00	44,100.00	-
Board of Health Salaries	96,584.00	83,712.74	12,871.26
Board of Health Expense	15,275.00	15,066.24	208.76
Council on Aging Expense	500.00	-	500.00
Senior Center Expense	64,993.00	64,993.00	-
Veterans Services Assessment	13,743.00	13,742.09	0.91
Veterans Benefits	21,000.00	18,549.81	2,450.19
War Memorial Maintenance	375.02	-	375.02
ADA Coordinator	250.00	-	250.00
Tilton Library Expenses	202,983.00	202,970.40	12.60
Tilton Library - Dickinson Trust	4,332.44	3,243.00	1,089.44
Capital - Carpet	12,603.00	-	12,603.00
Capital - Air Conditioner	15,500.00	-	15,500.00
Summer Swim Program	6,310.00	6,219.64	90.36
Tri-Town Beach Expense	27,220.00	27,220.00	-
Encumbered Tri-Town Beach Exp FY22	7,520.46	5,424.38	2,096.08
Recreation Director Salary	53,167.00	53,166.98	0.02
Capital - Town Common Design	21,700.00	-	21,700.00

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Expenditure Report

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expense</u>	<u>Amt Unspent</u>
Historic Commission Expense	1,175.00	923.90	251.10
350th Anniversary Celebration Expense	40,000.00	40,000.00	-
Vet/Memorial Day Expense	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Principal - Maturing Debt	803,780.00	790,965.00	12,815.00
Interest - Maturing Debt	196,545.00	180,961.36	15,583.64
Interest - Temporary Loans	5,000.00	2.87	4,997.13
Air Pollution District	1,641.00	1,641.00	-
RMV Marking Surcharge	3,420.00	2,740.00	680.00
Regional Transit Authority	32,430.00	32,430.00	-
Charter School Assessment	159,047.00	193,467.00	(34,420.00)
School Choice Assessment	204,336.00	174,956.00	29,380.00
Franklin Regional Council of Governments	45,091.00	42,272.00	2,819.00
Sick Leave/Vacation Reserve	10,000.00	-	10,000.00
Franklin County Retirement	623,521.00	623,521.00	-
Workers Compensation	40,928.00	34,462.25	6,465.75
Workers Compensation 2000	42,956.93	-	42,956.93
Unemployment Insurance	47,000.00	21,978.88	25,021.12
Group Insurance - Town	309,439.00	302,390.83	7,048.17
Group Insurance - Deerfield Elementary	635,418.00	603,776.41	31,641.59
Medicare Expense	104,886.00	104,787.85	98.15
Transfer to OPEB Trust	39,760.00	39,760.00	-
Total Expenditures Fiscal Year 2023	19,591,593.32	18,150,722.20	1,440,871.12

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Revenue Report

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Personal Property Taxes	826,576.18	824,774.25	(1,801.93)
Real Estate Taxes	12,639,040.37	12,506,917.42	(132,122.95)
Tax Liens Redeemed	-	16,156.48	16,156.48
Other Taxes	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Excise	635,000.00	773,635.86	138,635.86
Abated MV Taxes Recovered	-	1,714.22	1,714.22
Pen & Int on Prop Taxes	22,000.00	20,920.62	(1,079.38)
Pen & Int on Excise Taxes	13,000.00	19,068.39	6,068.39
Pmts in Lieu of Taxes	65,000.00	192,346.01	127,346.01
Room Occupancy Tax	180,000.00	258,653.65	78,653.65
Local Meals Tax	75,000.00	133,442.52	58,442.52
Total Tax Revenue	14,455,616.55	14,747,629.42	292,012.87
Rentals	45,000.00	52,526.39	7,526.39
Fees-Assessors	100.00	180.00	80.00
Fees-Collector	3,000.00	3,250.00	250.00
Fees-Registry Markings	2,000.00	2,700.00	700.00
Fees-Comcast Subscriber	500.00	718.50	218.50
Fees-PEG Access	88,000.00	99,663.08	11,663.08
Fees-Town Clerk	11,000.00	11,884.10	884.10
Fees-Conservation Comm	-	468.90	468.90
Fees-Zoning Board	1,000.00	1,899.40	899.40
Fees-Police	27,000.00	27,977.14	977.14
Fees-Canine Control	2,400.00	4,490.50	2,090.50
Fees-Dump Stickers	65,000.00	80,950.00	15,950.00
Fees-Bulky Items	10,000.00	10,619.00	619.00
Fees-Mattress Disposal	-	6,645.05	6,645.05
Fees-Trash Bag Receipts	85,000.00	88,919.00	3,919.00
Fees-Health Board-Septic	17,000.00	14,100.00	(2,900.00)
Fees-Health Board-Other	12,000.00	28,070.00	16,070.00
I & E Delinquent Charges Rev	11,000.00	15,500.00	4,500.00
Total Fee Revenue	335,000.00	398,034.67	63,034.67
Licenses-Liquor	26,000.00	32,217.00	6,217.00
Licenses-Other	1,800.00	19,863.02	18,063.02
Total License Revenue	27,800.00	52,080.02	24,280.02

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Revenue Report

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Permits-Trench	200.00	300.00	100.00
Permits-Police Dept	1,000.00	2,237.50	1,237.50
Permits-Building Insp	125,000.00	486,994.79	361,994.79
Permits-Plumbing Insp	23,000.00	12,525.00	(10,475.00)
Permits-Electrical Insp	33,000.00	72,016.00	39,016.00
Total Permit Revenue	182,200.00	574,073.29	391,873.29
Medicaid Reimbursement	15,000.00	29,198.74	14,198.74
Reimb for State Owned Land	131,233.00	131,233.00	-
Veterans Abatements	-	25,349.00	25,349.00
Elderly Abatements	24,054.00	5,522.00	(18,532.00)
School Aid Chapter 70	1,140,193.00	1,140,193.00	-
Charter Tuition Reimb	31,807.00	55,312.00	23,505.00
Unrestricted Govt Aid	556,376.00	556,376.00	-
Veterans Benefits	14,103.00	12,755.00	(1,348.00)
Other State Revenue	-	6.00	6.00
Total State Revenue	1,912,766.00	1,955,944.74	43,178.74
Fines-Court	38,100.00	39,049.21	949.21
Fines-Parking	400.00	875.00	475.00
Fines-District Court	1,500.00	1,287.50	(212.50)
Total Fine Revenue	40,000.00	41,211.71	1,211.71
Earnings on Investments	20,000.00	69,740.63	49,740.63
Sale of Fixed Assets	-	4,200.00	4,200.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	6,000.00	51,147.05	45,147.05
Refunds & Reimbursements	2,000.00	2,541.86	541.86
Tr From Special Revenue Funds	361,165.00	361,165.00	-
Tr from Stabilization Funds	150,000.00	150,000.00	-
Tr From Trust Funds	2,709.00	2,709.00	-
Tr From Enterprise Funds	134,000.00	134,000.00	-
Total Other Revenue	675,874.00	775,503.54	99,629.54
Total Revenue Fiscal Year 2023	17,674,256.55	18,597,003.78	922,747.23

Special Revenue Funds Fiscal Year 2023

	Opening Balance	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expense / Transfers Out	Ending Balance
Highway Funds				
Mass Highway Funds	(494,407.80)	992,260.26	497,852.46	-
Winter Recovery Assistance	-	257,894.41	257,894.41	-
Revolving Funds				
Recycling Program Revolving Fund	29,388.52	5,971.27	8,998.73	26,361.06
Police Detail Revolving Fund	(48,556.00)	334,079.00	329,497.00	(43,974.00)
Wetlands Protection Fund	30,534.77	6,387.50	1,038.32	35,883.95
Recreation Revolving Fund	17,749.22	41,263.41	48,536.33	10,476.30
Swim Program Revolving Fund	11,794.15	-	-	11,794.15
Planning Board Revolving Fund	12,819.93	5,083.82	-	17,903.75
Plan Bd/ConsComm Peer Review Funds	-	34,050.00	34,050.00	-
350th Celebration Fund	29,784.00	40,000.00	35,274.98	34,509.02
Receipts Reserved For Appropriation				
Sale of Cemetery Lots	33,382.82	350.00	8,500.00	25,232.82
Sales of Real Estate	-	471,025.00	345,965.00	125,060.00
Insurance Claims	7,757.49	-	6,796.79	960.70
TNC Surcharge Distribution	548.70	78.50	-	627.20
Other Special Revenue Funds				
School Resource Officer Fund	20,736.22	47,888.00	54,341.08	14,283.14
Veterans Street Sign Fund	884.21	-	65.00	819.21
Sadoski Memorial Day/Vets Fund	63.20	-	63.20	-
Police Donations Fund	2,347.05	4,050.00	42.80	6,354.25
Deerfield Academy WWTP Donation Fund	52,547.92	-	50,192.95	2,354.97
Senior Center Gift Fund	12,242.45	10,567.75	13,928.68	8,881.52
Recreation Dept Gift Fund	10,077.24	-	1,095.80	8,981.44
Roadside Mower Fund	8,559.31	-	2,925.34	5,633.97
Sci Fri Library Grant	493.91	-	-	493.91
Memorial Day Gift Fund	3,234.08	650.00	1,155.54	2,728.54
350th Anniversary Celebration Gifts	44.00	-	-	44.00
Tri Town Beach District		50,544.59	49,628.77	915.82
SCEMS Gift Fund	3,704.57	5,025.00	768.00	7,961.57
Fred Wells Health Grant	-	5,475.00	4,375.00	1,100.00
EWP Donations	28,263.27	-	-	28,263.27
LifePath Church St Home Grant	-	2,742.00	1,175.80	1,566.20
Albany Road Cemetery Donation Fund	1,640.57	-	-	1,640.57
Senior Center Operations Fund	20,591.76	130,918.87	125,236.74	26,273.89
Senior Center EOE A Grant Fund	8,665.45	39,756.00	40,086.39	8,335.06
Title 3D 6K Senior Fitness Grant	-	2,397.50	3,745.00	(1,347.50)
Title 3D 3K Senior Fitness Grant	-	1,875.00	2,850.00	(975.00)
Public Works Donation Fund	11,066.13	1,000.00	-	12,066.13
EV Charging Donation Fund	500.00	-	500.00	-
Community Preservation Act				
	2,266,906.22	2,352,679.06	262,270.77	4,357,314.51

Special Revenue Funds Fiscal Year 2023

	Opening Balance	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expense / Transfers Out	Ending Balance
State & Federal Grants				
Community Policing Grant	901.71	-	-	901.71
Drug Forfeiture Grant	10,648.73	191,443.72	149,865.46	52,226.99
Gov Highway Safety Grant	(7,657.00)	8,865.76	1,208.76	-
Council on Aging Grant	-	22,236.00	22,236.00	-
Library State Aid	9,921.21	12,060.31	13,252.73	8,728.79
Cultural Council Grant	7,495.07	6,053.76	5,660.00	7,888.83
Mass RDP Small Scale Grant	10,221.97	5,950.00	12,897.96	3,274.01
MEMA EMPG Grant	-	-	2,800.00	(2,800.00)
Green Community Grant	1,803.19	-	-	1,803.19
COA Service Incentive Grant	(13,135.05)	26,270.10	13,135.05	-
DEP Grant	-	5,990.78	5,990.78	-
Extended Polling Fund	-	7,883.00	2,591.72	5,291.28
CC Employee Policies Grant	-	10,000.00	-	10,000.00
EOAF Mosquito Control Grant	17,086.45	-	-	17,086.45
Green Community Grant	(140,157.63)	166,065.53	20,788.40	5,119.50
MVP Action Grant #4	18,850.69	-	-	18,850.69
SHRAB Veterans Records Grant	5,600.00	-	1,360.00	4,240.00
ARPA Grant	643,746.99	745,921.99	36,918.66	1,352,750.32
FEMA-Vaccination Clinic Costs	(1,866.91)	10,981.69	-	9,114.78
MVP Action Grant #6	(37,832.70)	40,951.00	428.00	2,690.30
Bridge Academy Grant	(1,595.32)	9,000.00	-	7,404.68
DMH Jail Diversion CIT Grant	(10,164.08)	26,935.73	49,378.83	(32,607.18)
2021 Storm Damage Grant	306,039.57	-	42,990.07	263,049.50
MCOA Walk MA Challenge Grant	-	500.00	225.00	275.00
NACCHO Grant	-	35,000.00	11,157.08	23,842.92
CC Employee DEI Grant	-	30,000.00	-	30,000.00
CC Regional & Efficiencies Grant	-	75,000.00	-	75,000.00
Mass in Motion Grant	-	-	8,920.92	(8,920.92)
Education Funds				
School Lunch	211,561.84	212,211.26	162,387.80	261,385.30
School Choice	1,216,195.05	345,214.00	451,103.37	1,110,305.68
Grant Funded Stipends	-	8,296.02	9,868.52	(1,572.50)
Title I Grant	-	25,468.35	27,776.05	(2,307.70)
REAP Grant	(100.00)	13,503.78	29,109.90	(15,706.12)
Circuit Breaker Rev Fund	15,325.75	48,578.00	56,825.75	7,078.00
SPED Assistance Grant	(3,072.64)	75,216.93	79,050.42	(6,906.13)
Dionne Mem Music Award	40.00	-	-	40.00
School Building Use Fund	8,811.21	700.00	-	9,511.21
Fall Daybreak Program	73,420.62	7,000.00	40,492.50	39,928.12
Summer Daybreak Program	14,898.97	-	-	14,898.97
Community Partnership (EC) Program	109,626.19	67,756.21	127,699.27	49,683.13
After School Program	79,283.85	148,419.72	99,242.76	128,460.81
Retail Store Gift Fund	6,146.26	-	-	6,146.26
River Valley Day Camp Fund	72,056.32	131,126.42	94,567.46	108,615.28
Wm Benoni DES Library Fund	90.14	-	-	90.14
School Health Services Grant	-	1,910.00	1,910.00	-
DES Yankee Candle Gift Fund	3,725.00	4,000.00	2,844.42	4,880.58

Special Revenue Funds Fiscal Year 2023

	Opening Balance	Revenue/ Transfers In	Expense / Transfers Out	Ending Balance
Rural School Aid Grant	10,667.15	38,525.31	33,499.57	15,692.89
ESSER II Grant	(1,649.80)	1,999.80	350.00	0.00
DESE Mask Reimbursement	-	3,560.21	3,560.21	-
LFJ Educator Grant	-	2,500.00	-	2,500.00
South County EMS Enterprise Fund	715,310.30	1,418,319.81	1,458,172.70	675,457.41
WWTP Enterprise Fund	1,472,896.17	1,588,444.65	1,556,622.07	1,504,718.75
Capital Project Funds				
Oxford Land Purchase	(345,965.00)	345,965.00	-	-
School Roof Project	(158,486.21)	120,000.00	-	(38,486.21)
Albany Road Gravestones Project	1,006.25	-	-	1,006.25
Sewer Upgrade Phase 1	(8,414,647.20)	8,969,000.00	8,447,148.41	(7,892,795.61)
Recreation Fields	1,697,266.83	-	1,697,266.83	-
Sewer Upgrade Phase 1 Finance Costs	36,954.01	37,754.66	66,772.26	7,936.41
Sewer Upgrade Phase 2	(427,423.83)	-	179,108.77	(606,532.60)
Library Expansion	-	792,160.45	149,685.00	642,475.45
Trust Funds				
Dickinson Library Trust	111,648.89	3,679.28	2,709.00	112,619.17
Dickinson/Billings Fund	3,022.02	1.41	-	3,023.43
Cemetery/Brookside Fund	33,260.16	1,122.54	-	34,382.70
Fr Wells/Pine Nook Fund	60,375.09	1,983.54	-	62,358.63
May Topp Cemetery Fund	13,761.04	68.49	-	13,829.53
Surp War Bonds/Conway Forest	18,656.71	8.69	-	18,665.40
Deerfield/Whately Veterans	2,146.69	0.99	-	2,147.68
Stabilization Fund	1,396,878.89	46,234.96	-	1,443,113.85
Capital Stabilization Fund	720,710.93	3,463.82	150,000.00	574,174.75
OPEB Trust Fund	161,665.23	53,348.14	-	215,013.37
SCEMS Rent Stabilization Fund	52,964.75	29,250.96	-	82,215.71
Agency Funds				
Firearm ID Cards	1,500.00	6,187.50	5,950.00	1,737.50
S Mill Village Development Escrow	26,468.49	28.74	-	26,497.23
Deputy Collector Fees	-	9,409.00	9,409.00	-
Districts	-	1,453,075.54	1,453,075.54	-
Student Activities Fund	11,513.94	28,812.50	15,807.28	24,519.16
Total Activity	\$ 1,911,780.31	\$ 22,325,427.99	\$ 19,002,671.16	\$ 5,234,537.14

Town of Deerfield							
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Account Groups							
as of June 30, 2023							
(Unaudited)							
	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Types	Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups	
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Trust and Agency	Long-term Debt	Totals
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	4,269,347.73	8,464,644.36	3,125,907.38	2,296,407.30	2,619,946.88		20,776,253.65
Receivables:							
Personal property taxes	2,885.26						2,885.26
Real estate taxes	168,279.42	3,583.27					171,862.69
Allowance for abatements / exemptions	(115,137.65)						(115,137.65)
Tax liens	103,629.64	1,441.64		423.62	7,979.34		113,474.24
Motor vehicle excise	34,383.12						34,383.12
User fees				2,007,759.96			2,007,759.96
Due from other governments		167,314.56					167,314.56
Foreclosures/Possessions	41,711.81						41,711.81
Amounts to be provided - pmt of bonds						11,264,000.00	11,264,000.00
Total Assets	<u>4,505,099.33</u>	<u>8,636,983.83</u>	<u>3,125,907.38</u>	<u>4,304,590.88</u>	<u>2,627,926.22</u>	<u>11,264,000.00</u>	<u>34,464,507.64</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY							
Liabilities:							
Warrants payable	259,007.00	65,743.02	420,107.34	54,401.14	5,648.77		804,907.27
Accounts payable	8,194.51	1,860.56		3,364.04			13,419.11
Accrued payroll	476,413.70	70,581.60		58,465.96			605,461.26
Withholdings	77,858.45						77,858.45
Other liabilities			772,710.35				772,710.35
Deferred revenue:							
Real and personal property taxes	56,027.03	3,583.27					59,610.30
Tax liens	103,629.64	1,441.64		423.62	7,979.34		113,474.24
Foreclosures/Possessions	41,711.81						41,711.81
Motor vehicle excise	34,383.12						34,383.12
User fees				2,007,759.96			2,007,759.96
Due from other governments		167,314.56					167,314.56
Notes payable			9,819,486.00				9,819,486.00
Bonds payable						11,264,000.00	11,264,000.00
Total Liabilities	<u>1,057,225.26</u>	<u>310,524.65</u>	<u>11,012,303.69</u>	<u>2,124,414.72</u>	<u>13,628.11</u>	<u>11,264,000.00</u>	<u>25,782,096.43</u>
Fund Equity:							
Reserved for encumbrances	134,483.83						134,483.83
Reserved for expenditures	718,364.00	529,000.00		792,054.00			2,039,418.00
Reserved for continuing appropriations	873,517.93	633,879.23					1,507,397.16
Reserved for premiums	33,732.93						33,732.93
Reserved for working deposit		101,980.00					101,980.00
Undesignated fund balance	1,687,775.38	7,061,599.95	(7,886,396.31)		2,614,298.11		3,477,277.13
Unreserved retained earnings				1,388,122.16			1,388,122.16
Total Fund Equity	<u>3,447,874.07</u>	<u>8,326,459.18</u>	<u>(7,886,396.31)</u>	<u>2,180,176.16</u>	<u>2,614,298.11</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8,682,411.21</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	<u>4,505,099.33</u>	<u>8,636,983.83</u>	<u>3,125,907.38</u>	<u>4,304,590.88</u>	<u>2,627,926.22</u>	<u>11,264,000.00</u>	<u>34,464,507.64</u>

ASSESSORS

Board of Assessors as of May 2023 Elections

Charles Shattuck III, Chair
Frank Leone
Francis (Skip) Sobieski

Term Expires: 2024
Term Expires: 2025
Term Expires: 2026

Administrative Assistant to the Board of Assessors: Karen S. Menard, M.A.A.

How the Assessors Determine Value

Real property valuation in Massachusetts is based on “full and fair cash value,” the amount a willing buyer would pay a willing seller on the open market. Assessors must collect, record, and analyze a great deal of information about property and market characteristics to estimate the fair market value of all taxable properties in their communities. All properties, including churches, educational institutions, State and Town-owned land, are also valued, even though they may be exempt from taxation.

Personal property valuation in Massachusetts (property not considered real estate and, generally, not part of one’s home) is based on a combination of market value and utility value. Personal property located within the Town as of January 1st preceding the next fiscal year is required to be reported to the Town on a Form of List by March 1st.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that the assessed values be reviewed annually with sales statistics from the previous calendar year and that all properties be recertified every five years, starting fiscal year 2018. Deerfield has completed interim updates for fiscal year 2024. The Town of Deerfield uses an independent appraisal service to inspect properties and to analyze sales.

Why Assessments Go Up When a Property Hasn’t Changed

Since assessments reflect market value, rising/falling real estate prices in the community will result in generally higher/lower assessments. As several factors influence market value, the changes to assessments may not be uniform. One such factor is the style of the building. For example, one year, colonials will be in demand, thus raising their market value more than other styles and, another year, capes will be more popular. Another factor is location. For various reasons, certain neighborhoods are more attractive to buyers (in-town one year, rural the next...). Again, the resulting demand raises the price for homes in the preferred neighborhood. In addition, the condition of the property will affect its value. For two homes comparable in style, grade, and location, the better maintained home would have a higher value. While changes made to a property can affect value, these other factors must also be considered.

If You Disagree with the Assessed Value of Your Property

If, in your opinion, the assessment of your property is incorrect, discuss it with the Board of Assessors. At the meeting, you will need to specify the items about which you disagree such as misinformation on the property record card or values of comparable properties lower or higher than yours. Cite specific examples. Information on all properties is available in the Assessors’ Office and on-line at www.deerfieldma.us.

Abatements and Appeals

Once the tax bills have been mailed, an aggrieved taxpayer must go through the more formal process of filing for an abatement. These forms may be picked up at the Assessors' Office. They must be filed with the Assessors on or before the due date of the first installment of the actual tax bill.

If the Assessors do not grant the desired abatement, the taxpayer then has the right to appeal to the State's Appellate Tax Board. The appeal must be filed within three months of the denial from the Board of Assessors. Information and applications are available from:

The Appellate Tax Board
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 200
Boston, MA 02114
Phone: (617)727-3100
<http://www.mass.gov/atb/>

How Property Taxes Are Computed

Before Proposition 2½ went into effect in Massachusetts in Fiscal Year 1982, the amount to be raised by the property tax in each community was determined by what the community decided to spend in the coming year, either through its Annual Town Meeting, or its City and Town Council. Budgets were so determined and, then the tax rates were set to raise that amount. With Proposition 2½ in effect, the process is reversed. The tax limitation law sets the maximum amount a community may collect, or levy, from the property tax to "...2.5 percent of the total full and fair cash value of all real and personal property in the community" based on the previous year's valuation plus new growth. At the Annual Town Meeting, a budget is adopted. Budgets must be made to fit within that limit (except for any override(s) or debt exclusion(s) passed by the voters). The budget total less the monies anticipated from other sources, such as state aid and local receipts from fees, etc., is the amount that needs to be raised through property taxes.

Determining the Tax Rate

Before the tax rate can be set, the Town must decide if they want all property to be taxed at the same rate, or if they prefer separate rates for a certain class of property, such as commercial/industrial. The Assessors prepare a Tax Rate Recapitulation sheet showing the total value for each class of property and its percentage of the town total. Using this information, the Selectboard holds a Classification Hearing to decide if there will be a single or multiple tax rate(s).

What Assessors Do Not Do

Assessors do not make laws that affect property owners. Tax laws are enacted by the Massachusetts Legislature. Various guidelines and regulations to implement the legislation are established by the Department of Revenue. The Assessors must follow these procedures and act in accordance with the law.

**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS FISCAL
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023
TOWN APPROPRIATIONS VOTED APRIL 25, 2022**

Appropriations To Be Raised:			
From Raise and Appropriate	\$16,648,937.00		
From Free Cash	979,432.47		
From Other Available Funds	519,858.00		
From CPA Funds	894,800.00		
From Enterprise Funds	<u>2,750,664.00</u>	<u>\$21,793,691.47</u>	
Other Amounts To Be Raised:			
Amounts Certified for Tax Title	3,000.00		
Overlay Deficits	0.00		
Cherry Sheet Offsets	352,221.00		
State and County Cherry Sheets Charges	400,874.00		
Overlay Reserve	<u>107,571.55</u>	<u>\$863,666.55</u>	
Total Amount To Be Raised:			<u>\$22,657,358.02</u>

Estimated Receipts & Other Revenue Sources:

Estimated Receipts from State:

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$2,249,987.00		
Mass. School Building Authority Payment	0.00	<u>\$2,249,987.00</u>	

Local Estimated Receipts:

Motor Vehicle Excise	\$635,000.00		
Other Excise	0.00		
Room Occupancy Tax	180,000.00		
Meals Tax	75,000.00		
Cannabis Tax	0.00		
Penalties & Interest	35,000.00		
Payment In Lieu Of taxes	65,000.00		
Trash Disposal	160,000.00		
Fees	175,000.00		
Rentals	45,000.00		
Departmental Revenue - Cemeteries	0.00		
Other Departmental Revenue	0.00		
Licenses & Permits	210,000.00		
Fines & Forfeits	40,000.00		
Investment Income	20,000.00		
Medicaid Reimbursement	15,000.00		
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	<u>8,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,663,000.00</u>	

Free Cash	<u>\$979,432.47</u>		
Free Cash to reduce tax rate	<u>0.00</u>		
Enterprise Funds	<u>\$2,884,664.00</u>		
Community Preservation Act Surcharge	<u>\$894,800.00</u>		
Other Available Funds	<u>\$519,858.00</u>		

Total Estimated Receipts & Revenue **\$9,191,741.47**

Total Tax Levy **\$13,465,616.55**

Total Assessed Value of Real & Personal Property **\$899,506,784.00**

Total Levy ÷ Total Value x 1,000 = Tax Rate **13,465,616.55 ÷ 899,506,784.00 x 1,000 = \$14.97**

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health collected \$42,170 during FY2023.

Board of Health Activity	No.
Title 5 Inspections	38
Percolation Tests	20
Housing Complaints/Inspections	24
Well Permits	4
Food Establishment Permits	46
Food Inspections	106
Temporary Food/Mobile Food Inspections	171
Hotel Permits	2
Tobacco Sales Permits	6
Title 5/Septic Installers, Pumpers	24
Offal Permits	7
Recreational Camp for Children Permits	8
Semi-/Public Pool Permits	6

I can be reached at **413-665-1400 ext. 109** or emailed at: AssistantHealthAgent@town.deerfield.ma.us

Sincerely,

Valerie Bird
Board of Health Agent

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Robert Walden Building Commissioner
 Wayne Shaw Wiring Inspector
 Eric Henderson Alternate Wiring Inspector
 Steven Baranoski Plumbing & Gas Fittings Inspector
 Mark Wendolowski Alternate Plumbing & Gas Fittings Inspector
 Amy Hahn Administrative Assistant

The Building Inspections office ensures safety and code compliance.

Detailed below are new permits issued by the Building Department in 2023, and Annual Inspection Certificates issued in 2023.

PERMIT TYPE	RESIDENTIAL PERMITS	COMMERCIAL PERMITS	TOTAL PERMITS
Building	325	38	363
Electrical	162	33	195
Gas Fittings	42	22	64
Plumbing	48	6	54

Church Lecture Hall	Educational, Daycare	Hotel, Motel, Lodging	Recreation Center	Restaurant, Bar	Grand Total
12	86	8	3	17	126

Building permits may be required when work on a home or business is being done either by the homeowner or a contractor. If you are unsure if you need a building permit, please contact the Building Inspections office.

Work Requiring a Permit (examples)

- New homes, additions, garages, or storage sheds (over 200 sq. ft.)
- Interior renovations, involving the cutting away of any wall or structural member.
- Decks and ramps.
- Roofing (when re-roofing more than 25% of existing roof).
- Siding (when re-siding more than 25% of existing house)
- Windows or exterior door replacement.
- Fences over 7ft high.
- Retaining walls over 4ft high.
- Wood stoves, fireplace inserts, fireplaces, or chimneys, outdoor wood furnace.
- Demolition of any existing structure.
- Signs-new or alterations of existing signs.
- Changes of use (e.g. from storage to living space).

Why Should I Get a Permit?

It's the law. Massachusetts Building Code (780 CMR 5110.1.0) states: It shall be unlawful to construct, reconstruct, alter, repair, remove or demolish a building or structure...without first filing a written application with the building official and obtaining the required permit therefore." In addition, a building permit is for your own protection. The building official will require the work performed to meet the standards of the Mass Building Code, which translates into your security. Insurance companies may require a Certificate of Occupancy or approval of the building official for certain work.

TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Kayce D. Warren, Town Administrator
Chris Nolan, Assistant Town Administrator
Patricia A. Kroll, Administrative Assistant
Christopher Dunne, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator

**From left to right
Brian Goodridge, Fred Beckta, Aaron Clark, Tim Hilchey, Michael Phillips, David Dacyczyn, Jason Clark**



Photo Courtesy of Peter Thomas

TOWN CLERK

2023 was a year of transition in the Clerk’s office. With the legislative separation of the Clerk and Tax Collector Treasurer Offices complete, much time went into the practical functioning aspects of the separation. Residents will notice a change at the window in Town Hall – Clerk business such as dog licensing, vital records requests, voter registration, business certificate acquisition, etc. will be conducted via one workstation and all Tax Collector Treasurer transactions will be managed by another. Staff is working diligently to ensure that the impact on residents will be minimal.

According to the State Voting Registration Information System, Deerfield retained 3998 registered voters, with a 2020 Federally declared population of 5090.

The Annual Town Meeting was held on April 24th, consisting of 19 Articles, and the Annual Election was held on May 1st – a relatively quiet event with only incumbents on the ballot and no questions; 186 ballots were cast, roughly 6% of registered voters.

A Special Town Meeting was held on October 23, 2023, consisting of 11 Articles. The Town Clerk’s Office executed a subsequent Special Election due to Article 10 – debt exclusion, which was held on December 5, 2023 and saw 364 ballots cast, roughly 10% of registered voters. (A second Special Election was held on January 16, 2024 and saw 1008 ballots cast, roughly 25% of voters.) All Town Meeting Minutes, and Election Results can be found on the Town Clerk’s page on the Town Website: deerfieldma.us or by request.

A multi-step process took place over the course of the year where dog licensing fees and subsequent bylaws were evaluated with proposed updates to reflect the current cost of materials, a more feasible late-fee structure, and the formal adoption of \$0 fees for resident dog owners over 70 years and the licensing of Service Dogs. These changes will be implemented in January of 2024 after much research, approval from the Selectboard, approval from the majority of the voting public during the October Special Town Meeting (Article 5,) and ultimately approval from the Attorney General’s Office. The Town Clerk’s Office processed 974 dog license applications in the calendar year which yielded \$11,357.50.

VITAL RECORDS

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Births	31	25	25	19	34	18	36	31	40
Deaths	44	35	48	44	39	51	48	38	31
Marriages	10	17	23	30	20	29	25	35	26

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathlene A. Sanderell, Town Clerk

Town of Deerfield, Massachusetts
Annual Town Meeting
April 24, 2023

I, Wendy Houle, having been duly elected by town meeting members to act as Town Clerk for the Town of Deerfield for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. I hereby verify that the following votes were taken at the Deerfield Annual Town Meeting held on Monday, April 24, 2023, in the Frontier Regional School Auditorium, 113 North Main Street in the Village of South Deerfield.

Moderator, Daniel Graves Esq., convened the town meeting at 7:04 pm, declaring that the meeting warrant was properly posted, and the quorum requirement was met.

Moderator led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Trevor McDaniel and seconded by Carolyn Shore Ness to nominate Wendy Houle to serve as Town Clerk for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Town meeting members voted by ballot and Moderator Daniel Graves Esq., declared Wendy Houle the winner.

Election Notification to Town Meeting by Trevor McDaniel

Notice is hereby given that a scrivener's error occurred in the Annual Election Warrant indicating there were TWO Deerfield School Committee seats to be elected. There is ONLY ONE SEAT for election, as noted in the posted specimen ballots.

Motions were made by the Selectboard and other town officials and seconded by John Paciorek, Jr. There were 167 voters in attendance.

Moderator's Motions:

Voted that the reading of all articles be waived and that prior to the reading of a motion under the article, the Moderator briefly summarize the content of the article to be considered; and, further, that unless an objection is raised, the reading of detailed motions be waived where the article as printed can, in the opinion of the Moderator, be incorporated by reference in any motion presented.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Voted the following people be allowed to address the audience during the Town Meeting:

- Attorney Lisa Mead, Town Counsel
- Brenda Hill, Town Accountant
- Kayce Warren, Town Administrator
- Darius Modestow, Superintendent, Frontier Regional/Union 38 Schools
- Shelly Poreda, Director of Business Administration, Frontier Regional/Union 38 Schools
- Tina Gemme, Principal, Deerfield Elementary School
- Richard Martin, Superintendent, Franklin County Technical School
- Russell Kaubris, Business Manager, Franklin County Technical School

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 1: Voted that the Town approve Article 1 on the following matters: A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

A. Reports of Officers

Voted that the Town hear the reports of the Selectboard, the Deerfield School Committee, and all other Town officers, boards, committees, and commissions;

B. Elected Officials Compensation

Voted that the Town vote to establish the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as contained within the omnibus budget of the Town, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023;

OFFICIAL	REQUESTED	RECOMMENDED
<i>Moderator, Annual Town Meeting</i>	\$300.00	\$300.00
<i>Moderator, Special Town Meeting (\$50/mtg.)</i>	\$100.00	\$100.00
<i>Selectboard, Chair</i>	\$6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
<i>Selectboard, Associate Members (2)</i>	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<i>Assessors, Chair</i>	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
<i>Assessors, Associate Members (2)</i>	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
<i>School Committee, Chair</i>	\$150.00	\$150.00
<i>School Committee, Assoc. Members (4)</i>	\$100.00	\$100.00

C. Acknowledgement of Gifts

Voted that the Town acknowledge the following monetary gifts made to the Town in appreciation of services rendered, that have been deposited by the Treasurer in the General or related Special Funds of the Town; and to acknowledge countless non-monetary gifts made to the Town by our non-profit partners;

Monetary Gifts in appreciation for services rendered

Deerfield Academy	\$139,712
Eaglebrook School	\$52,000
Bement School	\$10,000
Woolman Hill	\$4,543

Monetary pledges toward replacement of the Deerfield Elementary School Roof completed in 2016, paid over a 5 -to- 10-year period.

Deerfield Academy	\$105,000
Eaglebrook School	\$75,000
Historic Deerfield	\$25,000
Bement School	\$20,000

Pledges received in the last 12 months

Deerfield Academy	\$10,500
Eaglebrook School	\$15,000
Bement School	\$2,000

Monetary donation towards School Resource Officer Program the past 12 months

Deerfield Academy \$30,000

The Town of Deerfield gratefully acknowledges countless non-monetary gifts made by all our non-profit partners during the last 12 months.

D. Library Interest

Voted that the Town transfer the interest earned for the preceding year from the Dickinson Library Trust fund to the Tilton Library, and to Frontier Regional School for Library use, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023;

Dickinson Library Trust Interest

Tilton Library for Library Use (85%)	\$1,278
Frontier Regional School for Library use (15%)	\$225
Total	\$1,503

E. Acceptance of Grants

Voted the Town authorize the Selectboard to apply for, accept and expend for specific purposes any monies provided by any Federal or State Grants or Programs which may be awarded to the Town;

F. Selectboard Contract Authority

Voted that the Town, in accordance with G.L c. 30B §12(b) authorize the Selectboard to negotiate and enter into contracts with vendors as they deem necessary or beneficial, for a term of no more than five (5) years;

G. Assessors Contract Authority

Voted that the Town, in accordance with G.L c. 30B §12(b) authorize the Board of Assessors to negotiate and enter into contracts with vendors as they deem necessary or beneficial, for a term of no more than five (5) years.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 2: Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash for the following items A, B, and C, as set forth in the Warrant:

A. Reserve Fund Appropriation

The sum of **\$120,000** for the Reserve Fund of the Town in accordance with G.L. c.40 §6 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023;

B. OPEB Liability Trust Fund Appropriation

The sum of **\$39,308** for the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023;

C. Out of District Placement (Vocational Education) Appropriation

The sum of **\$160,000** for the tuition and transportation expenses of students to the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 3: Voted that the Town approve the maximum amounts for the revolving funds established in the Deerfield General Bylaws c. 20 §20-3, Departmental Revolving Funds, pursuant to G.L. c.44 §53E½. (for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023)

FUND	SPENDING LIMIT
Recycling	\$20,000.00
Parks and Recreation	\$75,000.00
Planning	\$25,000.00

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 4: Voted that the Town adopt the Classification-Compensation Plan in accordance with the Deerfield General Bylaws Chapter 35-Personnel, Article III, Classification-Compensation Plan for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023.

Grade	Position	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10	Step 11	Step 12
A													
	Landfill Attendants	17.51	17.95	18.40	18.86	19.33	19.81	20.31	20.82	21.34	21.87	22.42	22.98
	Library Assistant(s)	17.51	17.95	18.40	18.86	19.33	19.81	20.31	20.82	21.34	21.87	22.42	22.98
B													
	Adult Circulation	20.14	20.64	21.16	21.69	22.23	22.79	23.36	23.94	24.54	25.15	25.78	26.42
	Circulation & Technical Services Assistant(s)	20.14	20.64	21.16	21.69	22.23	22.79	23.36	23.94	24.54	25.15	25.78	26.42
	Program Coordinator ☒	20.14	20.64	21.16	21.69	22.23	22.79	23.36	23.94	24.54	25.15	25.78	26.42
C													
	Head of Adult Services	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	Head of Young Adult Services	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	Operator-in-Training	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	Outreach Coordinator ☒	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	Administrative Assistant(s)	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	EMT-Basic(s) ☒	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	Assistant Town Clerk	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
D													
	Children's Librarian	26.63	27.30	27.98	28.68	29.40	30.14	30.89	31.66	32.45	33.26	34.09	34.94
	Advanced EMT ☒	26.63	27.30	27.98	28.68	29.40	30.14	30.89	31.66	32.45	33.26	34.09	34.94
	Operator(s) - Sewer	26.63	27.30	27.98	28.68	29.40	30.14	30.89	31.66	32.45	33.26	34.09	34.94
E													
	Paramedic(s) ☒	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17
	Senior Center Director ☒	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17
	Assistant to Board of Assessors	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17

	Assistant Treasurer/Collector	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17
	Recreation Director	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17
F													
	Health Agent	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.90	43.97	45.07	46.20
	EMS Deputy Chief ☒	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.90	43.97	45.07	46.20
	Asst Town Administrator	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.90	43.97	45.07	46.20
	Chief WWTP Operator	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.90	43.97	45.07	46.20
	Library Director	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.90	43.97	45.07	46.20
	Planning/Econ Develop Coordinator	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.90	43.97	45.07	46.20
	Asst Public Works Supt	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.90	43.97	45.07	46.20
G													
	Public Works Superintendent	38.73	39.70	40.69	41.71	42.75	43.82	44.92	46.04	47.19	48.37	49.58	50.82
	Town Clerk	38.73	39.70	40.69	41.71	42.75	43.82	44.92	46.04	47.19	48.37	49.58	50.82
	Treasurer/Collector	38.73	39.70	40.69	41.71	42.75	43.82	44.92	46.04	47.19	48.37	49.58	50.82
	Building Commissioner	38.73	39.70	40.69	41.71	42.75	43.82	44.92	46.04	47.19	48.37	49.58	50.82
	EMS Chief	38.73	39.70	40.69	41.71	42.75	43.82	44.92	46.04	47.19	48.37	49.58	50.82

LONGEVITY	10-14 Yrs \$200	15-19 Yrs \$300	20-24 Yrs \$400	25+ Yrs \$500
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☒ South County Emergency Medical Services employees

☒ South County Senior Center employees

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 5: Voted that the Town transfer from Free Cash the amount of \$87,296 to fund a Fiscal Year 2023 shortfall for snow and ice removal expenses.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 6: Move that the Moderator read amounts recommended to be appropriated under this article as referenced in the Guide and unless objection is made, each item recommended in the report of the Finance Committee shall be tentatively accepted as appropriated for the purpose stated. If an objection is made to any recommendation, such appropriation shall be taken separately and the amount thereof and the manner of taking the same shall be determined by vote of the meeting and tentatively accepted. One vote shall be taken appropriating each amount so accepted as a single appropriation not to be exceeded.

Seconded

The FY2024 Omnibus Budget

	FY2023	FY2024	FY2024
100 SERIES - GENERAL GOVERNMENT	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
114-5100 - MODERATOR	\$400	\$400	\$400
122-5100 - SELECTBOARD SALARIES	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000
122-5110 - SELECTBOARD STAFF SALARIES	\$259,724	\$349,168	\$349,168
122-5400 - SELECTBOARD/ADMINISTRATOR EXP	\$12,250	\$15,950	\$15,950
131-5400 - FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$500	\$500	\$500
135-5110 - ACCOUNTANT SALARY	\$78,094	\$91,613	\$91,613
135-5400 - ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE	\$17,025	\$17,350	\$17,350
141-5100 - ASSESSORS SALARIES	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000
141-5110 - ASSESSORS ADMIN ASSISTANT	\$69,007	\$74,322	\$74,322
141-5400 - ASSESSORS EXPENSE	\$18,875	\$18,525	\$18,525
142-5400 - ASSESSORS QUINQUENNIAL RECERT	\$25,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
145-5110 - CLERK / TREAS / COLLECTOR SALARIES	\$191,507	\$157,648	\$157,648
145-5410 - TREASURER / COLLECTOR EXPENSE	\$37,710	\$31,540	\$31,540
151-5110 - LEGAL EXPENSE	\$75,500	\$96,000	\$96,000
152-5400 - PERSONNEL BOARD	\$750	\$750	\$750
155-5400 - IT HARDWARE	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
155-5800 - PEG ACCESS CAPITAL EXPENSE	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
159-5410 - CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$331,435	\$260,375	\$260,375
161-5110 - TOWN CLERK SALARY	\$34,760	\$101,880	\$101,880
161-5400 - TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	\$25,568	\$22,850	\$22,850
171-5400 - CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
172-5400 - OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE	\$250	\$250	\$250
175-5400 - PLANNING BOARD	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
176-5400 - ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
179-5400 - AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION	\$100	\$100	\$100
182-5400 - ENERGY COMMITTEE	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
192-5400 - TOWN OFFICE BLDG MAINTENANCE	\$85,500	\$92,900	\$92,900
192-5430 - TOWN OFFICE EXPENSE	\$14,000	\$16,500	\$16,500
196-5400 - GENERAL INSURANCE	\$63,000	\$65,520	\$65,520
TOTAL - GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$1,381,955	\$1,478,141	\$1,478,141
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2024
200 SERIES - PUBLIC SAFETY	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
210-5110 - POLICE PAYROLL	\$994,014	\$1,083,917	\$1,083,917
210-5400 - POLICE DEPT EXPENSE	\$114,300	\$115,100	\$115,100
210-5800 - POLICE DEPT - CRUISER	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000
241-5110 - INSPECTIONS DEPT PAYROLL	\$169,177	\$175,292	\$175,292
241-5400 - INSPECTIONS DEPT EXPENSE	\$4,950	\$4,950	\$4,950
291-5400 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,800
292-5400 - CANINE CONTROL	\$20,954	\$21,527	\$21,527
TOTAL - PUBLIC SAFETY	\$1,361,195	\$1,458,586	\$1,458,586

	FY2023	FY2024	FY2024
300 SERIES - EDUCATION	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
300-5400 - DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	\$5,098,948	\$5,265,247	\$5,265,247
310-5400 - FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL	\$4,100,475	\$4,306,795	\$4,306,795
310-5800 - FRONTIER REGIONAL - CAPITAL	\$1,385	\$11,290	\$11,290
315-5800 - FRONTIER REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION	\$79,511	\$96,311	\$96,311
320-5410 - FRANKLIN TECH ASSESSMENT	\$541,163	\$471,415	\$471,415
320-5800 - FRANKLIN TECH - CAPITAL	\$18,561	\$17,827	\$17,827
TOTAL - EDUCATION	\$9,840,043	\$10,168,885	\$10,168,885
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2024
400 SERIES - PUBLIC WORKS	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
422-5110 - GEN HIGHWAY PAYROLL	\$557,845	\$588,676	\$588,676
422-5400 - GEN HIGHWAY EXPENSE	\$304,550	\$321,900	\$321,900
423-5400 - WINTER SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000
424-5400 - STREET LIGHTING	\$23,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
433-5400 - TRANSFER STATION EXPENSE	\$219,900	\$244,200	\$244,200
439-5400 - TEST WELL MONITORING / MAINT	\$38,000	\$41,000	\$41,000
TOTAL - PUBLIC WORKS	\$1,238,295	\$1,310,776	\$1,310,776
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2024
500 SERIES - HUMAN SERVICES	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
512-5110 - BOARD OF HEALTH PAYROLL	\$97,884	\$88,369	\$88,369
512-5400 - BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSE	\$13,975	\$14,975	\$14,975
512-5500 - EMERGENCY COVID-19 EXP	\$0	\$0	
541-5400 - COUNCIL ON AGING	\$500	\$500	\$500
541-5420 - SENIOR CENTER EXPENSE	\$64,993	\$75,822	\$75,822
543-5400 - VETERANS DISTRICT ASSESSMENT	\$13,743	\$14,195	\$14,195
543-5410 - VETERANS BENEFITS	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000
549-5400 - ADA COORDINATOR	\$250	\$250	\$250
TOTAL - HUMAN SERVICES	\$212,345	\$215,111	\$215,111
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2024
600 SERIES - CULTURE AND RECREATION	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
610-5400 - TILTON LIBRARY	\$202,983	\$210,068	\$210,068
630-5400 - SUMMER SWIM PROGRAM	\$6,310	\$6,310	\$6,310
630-5410 - TRI-TOWN BEACH EXPENSE	\$27,220	\$41,022	\$41,022
634-5110 - RECREATION DEPT DIRECTOR SALARY	\$53,167	\$63,108	\$63,108
691-5400 - HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$1,175	\$1,175	\$1,175
692-5800 - VETERANS DAY / MEMORIAL DAY EXP	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
TOTAL - CULTURE AND RECREATION	\$292,855	\$323,683	\$323,683
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2024
700 SERIES - DEBT SERVICE	Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
710-5900 - MATURING DEBT	\$457,815	\$422,051	\$422,051
751-5900 - INTEREST ON MATURING DEBT	\$196,545	\$234,941	\$234,941
752-5900 - INTEREST ON TEMPORARY LOANS	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000

	TOTAL - DEBT SERVICE	\$659,360	\$661,992	\$661,992
		FY2023	FY2024	FY2024
800 & 900 SERIES - BENEFITS		Appropriated	Requested	Recommended
830-5400 - FRCOG CORE ASSESSMENT		\$45,091	\$42,264	\$42,264
910-5800 - UNFUNDED SICK LEAVE AND VACATION		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
911-5400 - FRANKLIN CTY REGIONAL RETIREMENT		\$623,521	\$640,352	\$640,352
912-5400 - WORKERS COMPENSATION		\$40,928	\$48,901	\$48,901
913-5400 - UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE		\$47,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
914-5400 - GROUP INSURANCE - TOWN		\$310,939	\$338,070	\$338,070
914-5410 - GROUP INSURANCE - SCHOOL		\$635,418	\$652,739	\$652,739
916-5400 - MEDICARE INSURANCE		\$103,386	\$111,159	\$111,159
	TOTAL - BENEFITS	\$1,816,283	\$1,865,485	\$1,865,485
	TOTAL - OMNIBUS BUDGET	\$16,802,331	\$17,482,659	\$17,482,659

Voted that the town appropriate \$17,482,659 to fund the accepted amounts voted, and to meet this appropriation, transfer:

- \$62,400 From SCEMS Enterprise Fund
- \$8,400 From SCSC Fund
- \$77,600 From Sewer Enterprise Fund
- \$5,535 From Receipts Reserved for Debt
- \$4,700 From the Wetlands Protection Fund
- \$10,000 From the Cemetery RRA Fund
- \$52,158 From Free Cash

and raise and appropriate \$17,261,866.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 7: Voted that Article 7 be moved to be considered after Article 11, Community Preservation Act funding.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Voted that the Town approve the sum of \$48,693.38 which is the amount equal to the Town's Share of the total project cost of \$100,000 to replace the tennis courts for the Frontier Regional School District under the Regional School Agreement, as such amount is approved in Article 11 of this warrant for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Allocated Costs	
Conway	\$16,463.41
Deerfield	\$48,693.38
Sunderland	\$23,432.06
Whately	\$11,411.15
Total	\$100,000.00

Article 8: Voted that the Town appropriate \$2,142,731 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, to fund the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Revenues

<i>User and Hookup Fees</i>	\$ 1,890,731
<i>Retained Earnings</i>	\$ 250,000
<i>Investment Income</i>	\$ 2,000
Total Revenues	\$2,142,731

Expenses

<i>Salaries/Wages</i>	\$ 435,366
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	\$ 742,700
<i>Debt Service</i>	\$ 846,065
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	\$ 77,600
<i>Operational Reserve</i>	\$ 41,000
Total Enterprise Fund Expenses	\$2,142,731

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 9: Voted that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,587,242 and to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$346,898 to fund the South County Emergency Medical Service Enterprise Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023, and to meet the Town of Deerfield's allocated share of costs as follows:

Revenues

<i>Medical Service Fees</i>	\$ 625,000
<i>Grants</i>	\$ 0
<i>Retained Earnings</i>	\$ 292,054
<i>Deerfield Assessment (from Free Cash)</i>	\$ 346,898
<i>Sunderland Assessment</i>	\$ 210,953
<i>Whately Assessment</i>	\$ 112,337
<i>Other</i>	\$ 0
Total Revenues	\$ 1,587,242

Expenses

<i>Salaries/Wages</i>	<i>\$ 1,288,093</i>
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 236,749</i>
<i>Indirect Costs</i>	<i>\$ 62,400</i>
<hr/>	
<i>Total Enterprise Fund Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 1,587,242</i>
<u>Town of Deerfield's Allocated Share of Total Enterprise Fund Expenses:</u>	
<i>FY2024 Subsidy from Free Cash</i>	<i>\$ 346,898</i>

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 10: Voted the Town transfer \$125,000 from the Sale of Real Estate Fund to fund \$80,000 for the Deerfield Elementary School Front Entry Repairs and \$45,000 for the Air Conditioning Phase 2 project;

Voted that the Town transfer \$325,000 from Capital Stabilization for the purchase of a Freightliner Truck;

Voted that the Town transfer \$150,000 from SCEMS Retained Earnings to purchase three (3) Cardiac Heart Monitors;

Voted that the Town transfer \$100,000 from SCEMS Retained Earnings and \$142,343 from Capital Stabilization to meet the Town's share of allocated costs to purchase a new ambulance as follows:

Deerfield	51.76%	\$142,343
Sunderland	31.48%	\$86,561
Whately	16.76%	\$46,096
SCEMS Retained Earnings		<u>\$100,000</u>
Total Equipment Cost		\$375,000

Quantum 2/3 Vote Required

Motion carried by 2/3 vote, so declared the Moderator.

Article 11: Voted that the Town appropriate \$572,000 for the "Subsidized Senior Housing Feasibility Study and Land Acquisition" request, and to meet said appropriation, transfer \$43,000 from the Community Preservation Fund 2024 estimated revenues and \$529,000 from the Reserve for Community Housing all in a manner consistent with the proposal submitted by the Ad Hoc Senior Housing Committee and approved by the Community Preservation Committee subject to approval by Capital Improvements Planning Committee, said funds to be expended within three years under the direction of the Selectboard and any unused funds to be returned to the Community Preservation Fund as required by statute.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Voted that the Town appropriate \$48,693.38 from the Community Preservation Fund 2024 Estimated Revenues for the Town's share of the "Frontier Regional Tennis Courts Reconstruction Project" request all in a manner consistent with the proposal submitted by the FRS Capital Committee and the Selectboard and approved by the Community Preservation Committee, said funds to be expended within three years under the direction of the Selectboard and any unused funds to be returned to the Community Preservation Fund as required by statute.

Allocated Costs by Town

Conway	\$16,463.41
Deerfield	\$48,693.38
Sunderland	\$23,432.06
Whately	<u>\$11,411.15</u>
Total	\$100,000.00

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Voted that the Town appropriate \$700 from the Community Preservation Fund 2024 Estimated Revenues for the "Preservation of 45 Account Books Kept by Deerfield Residents over a period of nearly 300 years" all in a manner consistent with the proposal submitted by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and approved by the Community Preservation Committee, said funds to be expended within three years under the direction of the Selectboard and any unused funds to be returned to the Community Preservation Fund as required by statute.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Voted that the Town transfer \$42,300 of the Community Preservation Fund 2024 Estimated Revenues to the Reserve for Historic Resources. General Law Chapter 44B requires that a minimum of 10% of estimated revenues be set aside for Historic Resources.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Voted that the Town appropriate \$15,000 from the Community Preservation Fund 2024 Estimated Revenues for Community Preservation Committee administrative expenses.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Voted that the Town transfer \$280,306.62, the balance of the Community Preservation Fund 2024 Estimated Revenues, to the Community Preservation Budgeted Reserve.

Community Preservation Reserve Balances as of June 30, 2022:

Reserve for Open Space	\$25,000
Reserve for Historic Resources	\$33,525
Reserve for Community Housing	\$559,455
Undesignated Fund Balance	\$1,144,297

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 12: Voted the that the Town amend the Town Meeting vote of April 29, 2019, Article 16 by deleting the words “Any appropriation shall be contingent upon a permanent deed restriction in compliance with the Massachusetts Historical Commission recommendations on said property for present and future owners being recorded at the Massachusetts Registry of Deeds.” and replacing them with “Any appropriation shall be contingent upon a historical preservation deed restriction on said property for present and future owners being recorded at the Franklin County, Massachusetts Registry of Deeds and which may be done in two steps and when finalized will be perpetual. The release of funds may be made following the initial recording of the restriction.”

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 13: Voted that the Town vote to approve establishment of a Capital Stabilization Fund for the Frontier Regional School District.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 14: Voted that the Town accept the fourth paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, and create an Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, stabilization fund to be established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, effective for fiscal year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023 for the purposes of using Opioid Settlement money received by the Town for Opioid Use Disorder (“OUD”) Treatment; Support Programs for People with OUD in Treatment and Recovery; Connects to Care for People with or at risk of developing OUD; Harm Reduction efforts to prevent overdoses deaths or other opioid related harms; Support of diversion and deflection programs and strategies for criminal-justice-involved persons with OUD; Support of Pregnant or Parenting Women And Their Families, Including Babies With Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome; To Prevent Misuse of Opioids And Implement Prevention Education; and dedicate without further appropriation all of the particular fees, charges or receipts to established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, to be effective for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 15: To see if the Town will dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the Opioid Settlements to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund established under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, effective for fiscal year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023; or take any other action relative thereto.

Quantum 2/3 Vote Required

Voted that the Town Passover his article.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to amend Deerfield General Bylaw, c.48, §48-1, as follows (cross through deletion and underline and bold new):

The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the ~~last Monday of April~~ **third Saturday of May** in each year. The Meeting will be at ~~7:00 p.m.~~ **9:00 a.m.** for the consideration of all lawful business and Town affairs that may properly come before the Meeting. The Meeting will then adjourn to **no earlier than** the ~~first Monday in May~~ **following Tuesday** at 10:00 a.m. with the polls to close at 8:00 p.m. for the election of such officers and the determination of such matters as by law are required to be elected or determined by ballot.

No recommendation by Finance Committee

Voted that the Town Passover of this article.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to amend chapter 48 of the Town of Deerfield General Bylaws as follows:

Section 48-1 shall be amended by adding the following paragraph at the end of the current language (cross through deletion and underline and bold new):

A Special Town Meeting shall be held at 9:00 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of October each year. The Selectboard may vote at least fourteen days before the Special Town Meeting to cancel the meeting if no business requires consideration.

Voted that the Town Passover of this article.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to accept G.L. c. 41 §110A, to authorize the Town Clerk's office to remain closed on all Saturdays and to treat Saturdays as a legal holiday for the purpose of calculating the time frame for filing matters in that office.

Voted that the Town Passover of this article.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

ARTICLE 19: Moved and seconded that the Town amend the Deerfield Zoning Bylaws, c.179 by deleting Section 2244 in its entirety, adding a new Section 3900, amend Section 2230, Use Regulation Schedule; and amend Section 3100 Town wide Parking and Loading Requirements, as required in the Warrant.

Planning Board member Kathy Sylvester gave an oral report

Amendment to the main motion:

Moved and seconded to strike section 3960. Termination of Accessory Apartment Use. 2.

~~iii. Any additional exterior entrance constructed to provide access to the Accessory Apartment shall be permanently closed unless the Building Commission provides a waiver. The owner shall permit an inspection by the Building Commission without a warrant.~~

Moderator declared that the amendment carries.

Moderator declared that main motion with amendment carries, with a 2/3 vote.

3900. ACCESSORY APARTMENTS

3910. Purpose. The purpose of the Accessory Apartment bylaw is to:

1. Provide homeowners with a means of obtaining, through tenants in Accessory Apartments, rental income, companionship, security, and services, and thereby to enable them to stay more comfortably in homes and neighborhoods they might otherwise be forced to leave.
2. Make rental housing units available to households who might otherwise have difficulty finding homes within the town, and to meet the needs of smaller households, both young and old.

3. Protect stability, property values, and the residential character of a neighborhood by ensuring that Accessory Apartments are installed only in owner-occupied houses and under such additional conditions as may be appropriate to further the purposes of this bylaw.

3920. Definitions. The words and phrases below shall be defined, for purposes of this bylaw, Section 3900, as follows:

Accessory Dwelling Unit or Accessory Apartment: a self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same lot as a principal dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional and parking requirements, that: (i) maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the principal dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress; (ii) is not larger in floor area than 900 square feet, excluding unfinished attic and basement, garage and porch; and (iii) is subject to such additional restrictions as may be imposed herein. In no case will the ADU be larger than the principal dwelling.

Building, Attached: A building having any portion of one or more walls in common with an adjacent building.

Building, Detached: A free standing structure on a permanent foundation with no walls in common with the principal dwelling.

Floor Area: The finished area of above grade floors in a residential structure, excluding unfinished areas with ceiling heights less than seven (7) feet and attics, unfinished areas of unheated space and attached or detached garages. As used in these by-laws, the term "finished area" shall mean the heated enclosed area within a Dwelling Unit that is suitable for year-round use, embodying walls, floors, and ceilings that are similar to the rest of the area within the Dwelling Unit.

Principal dwelling: A building providing the principal residential use for the lot on which it is located. For residentially zoned lots, such a building would be a dwelling.

3930. Accessory Apartment Standards.

3931. Owner Occupied dwellings with Accessory Apartments Allowed By Right.

Accessory Apartments that are contained within the existing structure of the primary single-family dwelling unit shall be allowed by-right.

3932. Accessory Apartments Allowed by Special Permit.

The Planning Board may authorize a Special Permit for the following:

1. Accessory Apartments that are attached to the existing primary single-family dwelling unit, but that require structural modifications larger than the existing footprint of the primary single-family dwelling unit, in all districts.
2. Accessory Apartments in a detached structure on a permanent foundation on the same lot as a primary single-family dwelling unit.

3933. All Accessory Apartments allowed by Special Permit must meet the standards in Sections 3934-3940.

3934. Standards for All Accessory Apartments. Any Accessory Apartment in an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, whether allowed by-right or by Special Permit, shall meet the following standards and criteria:

1. The apartment will be a complete, separate housekeeping unit that functions as a separate unit from the original unit.
2. Only one apartment will be created on a single-family lot.
3. When expansion of the principal dwelling is required to accommodate the Accessory Apartment, the principal dwelling and addition must comply with set back and maximum lot coverage requirements for its district. Accessory Apartments in detached structures (new or existing) must comply with set back and maximum lot coverage requirements for its district.
4. In a residence with an Accessory Apartment, only one unit can be rented.
5. The Accessory Apartment shall be designed so that the appearance of the building remains that of a one-family residence as much as feasibly possible. The Accessory Apartment shall maintain a separate entrance, which shall be located on the side or rear of the building, or shall be combined into single front entryway, leading to an entry hall or corridor shared with the principal dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress. Any exterior changes made must conform with the single-family character of the neighborhood.
6. An Accessory Apartment addition to the original building is permitted provided that the addition does not increase the floor area or volume of the original building by more than 900 square feet, (excluding unfinished attic and basement, garage, and porch). The Accessory Apartment, whether within a single-family dwelling or in a detached structure, shall be clearly a subordinate part of the principal-family dwelling.
7. The Accessory Apartment shall have no more than 2 bedrooms.
8. At least three off-street parking spaces are required, for use by the owner-occupant(s) and renters. Parking spaces shall be located to the side or the rear of the structure, to the extent feasible. No parking within side or rear setbacks.
9. For dwellings to be served by on-site septic system, the owner must obtain written approval from the Board of Health before a building permit can be obtained. This is to ensure that the existing sewage disposal system is adequate for the proposed Accessory Apartment.
10. The construction of any Accessory Apartment must be in conformity with the State Building Code requirements.
11. The Accessory Apartment is not to be used for short term rentals (rentals for less than thirty (30) days).
12. The Building Commissioner shall administer and enforce the provisions of this section.

3940. Special Permit Application Procedure.

3941. Special Permit Procedures. The procedure for the submission and approval of a Special Permit for an Accessory Apartment shall be the same as prescribed in the Section 5300. Special Permits, except it shall include a notarized letter of application from the owner(s) stating that he/she will occupy one of the dwelling units on the premises. A non-refundable fee shall be included with the application for an Accessory Apartment to cover the cost of processing the application and code inspections. The applicant shall also be responsible for the cost of legal notices. As part of the public hearing process, parties of interest, as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Sec. 11 must be notified.

3942. Accessible Units. To provide for the development of accessible housing units, the Planning Board will allow reasonable deviation from the stated conditions where necessary to install features that facilitate access and mobility, for example, in the creation of a separate entrance.

3950. Transfer of Ownership of a Principal Dwelling with an Accessory Apartment Approved by Special Permit.

When a property with an Accessory Apartment is sold, the new owner(s), if they wish to continue operations of the Accessory Apartment, they must, within thirty (30) days of the sale, submit a notarized letter to the Building Commissioner stating that they wish to continue to exercise the permit in compliance with this bylaw. This statement shall be listed as a condition on any Permits which are issued under this Section. Notarized letters must be recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, with documentation of the recording provided to the Building Commissioner, prior to occupancy of the Accessory Apartment.

3960. Termination of Accessory Apartment Use.

1. The Accessory Apartment unit use shall terminate immediately upon any violation of any term or condition of this bylaw that the owner fails to cure, upon thirty (30) days written notice from the date the notice is mailed to the applicant/owner and to the occupants at the dwelling address by certified mail, return receipt requested.
2. Duty of Owner Upon Termination:
 - i. The owner shall discontinue the use of the Accessory Apartment as a separate dwelling unit.
 - ii. The kitchen facilities of the Accessory Apartment shall be removed unless determined by the Building Commissioner to be incidental and subordinate as an accessory use of the principal dwelling.
 - ~~iii. Any additional exterior entrance constructed to provide access to the Accessory Apartment shall be permanently closed unless the Building Commission provides a waiver. The owner shall permit an inspection by the Building Commission without a warrant.~~

The following changes shall be made to the shall be made to the existing Section 2230. Use Regulation Schedule. The additions and deletions shown below are the only changes to the Use Regulation Schedule proposed, and the remainder of the schedule will remain as it currently is:

2230. Use Regulation Schedule.

Principal Use	RA	CVRD	C-I	C-II	I	PI	EPD
A. RESIDENTIAL							
Accessory Apartments that are contained within the existing structure of the owner-occupied single-family dwelling unit.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Accessory Apartments that are attached to the existing owner-occupied single-family dwelling unit, but that require structural modifications larger than the existing footprint of the primary single-family dwelling unit, in all districts.	SP	SP	N	N	N	N	N
Accessory Apartments in a detached structure on a permanent foundation on the same lot as an owner-occupied single-family dwelling unit.	SP	SP	N	N	N	N	N

The following changes shall be made to the existing Section 3100. Town wide Parking and Loading Requirements, Dwellings. The additions and deletions shown below are the only changes to the Use Regulation Schedule proposed, and the remainder of the schedule will remain as it currently is:

3100. Town wide Parking and Loading Requirements.

Principal Use Minimum Number of Parking Spaces

Dwellings 2 spaces per dwelling unit for single family

2 spaces per dwelling unit for multi-family plus 0.5 spaces per unit for visitors

3 spaces for single family with Accessory Apartment

The Moderator entertained discussions on articles 16 and 17 that were passed over by-laws regarding town meeting.

Moderator moved the meeting adjourn to meet in the polling places at the MEETING ROOM at the TOWN OFFICES, 8 Conway Street in the Village of South Deerfield on MONDAY the 1st day of May, 2023, next at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following article:

To choose all necessary Town Officers, including:

- One (1) Selectboard for a term of three (3) years
- One (1) Assessor for a term of three (3) years
- One (1) Constable for a term of three (3) years
- Two (2) Deerfield School Committee member for a term of three (3) years each
- One (1) Elector Under Oliver Smith Will for a term of one (1) year
- One (1) Frontier Regional School Committee member for a term of three (3) years
- Two (2) Planning Board members for terms of three (3) years each
- One (1) Planning Board member for a term of two (2) years
- One (1) Tilton Library Trustee for a term of three (3) years
- One (1) Moderator for a term of three (3) years

And upon closure of the polls, to dissolve.

Motion Carried, so declared the Moderator.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Houle, MMC, CMMC

Town of Deerfield, Temporary Town Clerk

**Special Town Meeting
Monday October 23, 2023**

I, Kathlene A. Sanderell, having been duly elected by town meeting members to act as Town Clerk for the Town of Deerfield for the 2023 Special Town Meeting hereby verify that the following votes were taken at the Deerfield Special Town Meeting held on Monday, October 23, 2023, in the Frontier Regional School Auditorium, 113 North Main Street in the Village of South Deerfield. True and attested copies of the warrant were posted by Constable Raymond Burniske in five of the town's posting locations. All additional local by-law requirements were met prior to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by Town Moderator, Daniel F. Graves with a declared quorum of 234 voters present.

Motion made by Trevor McDaniel and seconded by Carolyn Shores Ness to nominate Kathlene (Cassie) Sanderell to serve as Town Clerk for the 2023 Special Town Meeting. Town meeting members voted by ballot and Moderator Daniel Graves Esq., declared Kathlene Sanderell the winner.

Moderator led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moderator's Motions:

Voted that the reading of all articles be waived and that prior to the reading of a motion under the article, the Moderator briefly summarize the content of the article to be considered; and, further, that unless an objection is raised, the reading of detailed motions be waived where the article as printed can, in the opinion of the Moderator, be incorporated by reference in any motion presented.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Voted the following people be allowed to address the audience during the Town Meeting:

- Attorney Lisa Mead, Town Counsel
- Brenda Hill, Town Accountant
- Kayce Warren, Town Administrator

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

The following business was transacted:

ARTICLE 1: The Town voted to transfer \$2,240 from Free Cash to support a prior year bill for Out of District Placement Transportation.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

ARTICLE 2: The Town voted to transfer \$92,176 from Free Cash to fund a cash match for a Municipal Vulnerability Grant awarded to the Town.

Motion carried unanimously, so declared the Moderator.

ARTICLE 3: The Town Voted to transfer \$250,000 from Free Cash to fund design and installation of a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system for the Police Department building.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

ARTICLE 4: The town voted to amend the FY2024 Classification-Compensation Plan in accordance with the Deerfield General Bylaws Chapter 35, Personnel, Article III, Classification-Compensation Plan for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 as printed in the Warrant.

Grade	Position	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10	Step 11	Step 12
A													
	Landfill Attendants	17.51	17.95	18.40	18.86	19.33	19.81	20.31	20.82	21.34	21.87	22.42	22.98
	Library Assistant(s)	17.51	17.95	18.40	18.86	19.33	19.81	20.31	20.82	21.34	21.87	22.42	22.98
B													
	Adult Circulation	20.14	20.64	21.16	21.69	22.23	22.79	23.36	23.94	24.54	25.15	25.78	26.42
	Circulation & Technical Services Assistant(s)	20.14	20.64	21.16	21.69	22.23	22.79	23.36	23.94	24.54	25.15	25.78	26.42
	Program Coordinator	20.14	20.64	21.16	21.69	22.23	22.79	23.36	23.94	24.54	25.15	25.78	26.42
C													
	Head of Adult Services	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	Head of Young Adult Services	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	Operator-in-Training	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	Outreach Coordinator	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	Administrative Assistant(s)	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
	EMT-Basic(s)	23.16	23.74	24.33	24.94	25.56	26.20	26.86	27.53	28.22	28.93	29.65	30.39
D													
	Children's Librarian	26.63	27.30	27.98	28.68	29.40	30.14	30.89	31.66	32.45	33.26	34.09	34.94
	Advanced EMT	26.63	27.30	27.98	28.68	29.40	30.14	30.89	31.66	32.45	33.26	34.09	34.94
	Operator(s) - Sewer	26.63	27.30	27.98	28.68	29.40	30.14	30.89	31.66	32.45	33.26	34.09	34.94
E													
	Paramedic(s)	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17
	Senior Center Director	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17
	Assistant to Board of Assessors	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17
	Assistant Town Clerk	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17
	Assistant Treasurer/Collector	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17
	Recreation Director	30.62	31.39	32.17	32.97	33.79	34.63	35.50	36.39	37.30	38.23	39.19	40.17
F													
	Health Agent	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.9	43.97	45.07	46.20
	EMS Deputy Chief	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.9	43.97	45.07	46.20
	Asst Town Administrator	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.9	43.97	45.07	46.20
	Chief WWTP Operator	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.9	43.97	45.07	46.20
	Library Director	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.9	43.97	45.07	46.20

	Planning/Econ Develop Coordinator	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.9	43.97	45.07	46.20
	Asst Public Works Supt	35.21	36.09	36.99	37.91	38.86	39.83	40.83	41.85	42.90	43.97	45.07	46.20
G													
	Public Works Superintendent	38.73	39.70	40.69	41.71	42.75	43.82	44.92	46.04	47.19	48.37	49.58	50.82
	Town Clerk	38.73	39.70	40.69	41.71	42.75	43.82	44.92	46.04	47.19	48.37	49.58	50.82
	Treasurer/Collector	38.73	39.70	40.69	41.71	42.75	43.82	44.92	46.04	47.19	48.37	49.58	50.82
	Building Commissioner	38.73	39.70	40.69	41.71	42.75	43.82	44.92	46.04	47.19	48.37	49.58	50.82
	EMS Chief	38.73	39.70	40.69	41.71	42.75	43.82	44.92	46.04	47.19	48.37	49.58	50.82

LONGEVITY	10-14 Yrs \$200	15-19 Yrs \$300	20-24 Yrs \$400	25+ Yrs \$500
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Motion carried, so declared the Moderator.

Article 5: The Town voted to amend the Town of Deerfield General Bylaws as presented in the Warrant with the following amendment to section 186-1(F) which was inadvertently omitted from the warrant:

“F. Whosoever fails to license their dog(s) in violation of this § 60-5 shall be punished **as follows: Failure to license: penalty of \$10.**”

A: Licensing fees in Article I. Chapter 186 Fees, Dogs, of the Town of Deerfield By-Laws as follows (**Bold and underline** new ~~cross-out~~ removed):

Article I -Dogs

§ 186-1 Fees established.

The following charges are hereby adopted:

- A. Dog pickup: \$9.
- B. Call, no dog: \$5.
- C. Daily keep: \$2 (~~cost of dog food shared with Sunderland~~).
- D. A fine would also be levied as follows:
 - 1. \$15, first offense.
 - 2. \$30, each subsequent offense.
- E. Licenses.
 - 1. Male: ~~\$10~~ **15**.
 - 2. Female: ~~\$10~~ **15**.
 - 3. Neutered male: ~~\$5~~ **10**.
 - 4. Spayed female: ~~\$5~~ **10**.
 - 5. Transferred license: \$1.
 - 6. Substitute tag: \$1.
 - 7. Kennel licenses.
 - a. One to four dogs: \$30
 - b. Five to 10 dogs: \$40.
 - c. 11 or more dogs: \$50.
- F. Failure to license: penalty ~~of \$10~~.

1. **Between May 1st and July 1st: \$20**

2. **After July 1st: \$35**

And B Article II of Chapter 60, Animals, §60-5, Dogs, of the Town of Deerfield By-Laws, as follows (**Bold and underline** new ~~cross-out~~ removed):

§ 60-5 License requirements; fees.

- A. All dogs kept, harbored, or maintained by their owner or keepers in the Town of Deerfield shall be licensed and registered if over six months of age. Dog licenses shall be issued by the Town Clerk upon the payment of a license fee of ~~\$5~~**10** for a spayed or neutered dog or upon the payment of a license fee of ~~\$10~~**15** for an intact dog. The owner or keeper shall state at the time application is made for such license and upon printed forms provided for such purpose his or her name and address, and the name, breed, color and sex of each dog owned or kept by the applicant. For a spayed or neutered dog, a veterinarian's certificate shall be provided to the Town Clerk upon application for a license as proof that the dog is spayed or neutered; provided, however, that the Town Clerk, in his or her discretion, may accept such alternative forms of proof as are specified in MGL c. 140, § 139, if a veterinarian's certificate cannot be obtained.
- B. No dog license shall be issued unless the Town Clerk is presented with a veterinarian's certification that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies in accordance with MGL c. 140, § 145B. The Town Clerk may grant an exemption from this § 60-5B upon proof of certain enumerated conditions provided in said MGL c. 140, § 145B.
- C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a license shall be issued for any dog transferred from another municipality within the Commonwealth upon presentation to the Town Clerk of the original license and tag of such dog and payment of the license fee required by this bylaw.
- D. Upon the payment of the license fee, the Clerk shall issue to the applicant a license certificate and tag for each dog so licensed. The tag shall have stamped thereon the name of the Town, the year for which it was issued and the number corresponding with the number on the certificate. Every owner or keeper shall be required to provide each dog with a collar to which the license tag shall be affixed and shall see that the collar and tag are constantly worn. Dog tags shall not be transferable from one dog to another, and no refunds shall be made on any dog license fee because of death of the dog or the owner's leaving the Town before the expiration of the license period.
- E. The licensing period shall be from March 15 to April 30 of each calendar year.
- F. Notwithstanding the provisions of this bylaw, all other provisions of MGL Chapter 140, §§ 136A through 174E not inconsistent with this chapter shall be applicable.
- G. The fees collected shall be deposited into the general fund.
- H. **Notwithstanding any other provision hereof to the contrary, no fee shall be charged for a license issued under this section for a service animal as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or regulations promulgated thereunder. No fee shall be charged for a license for a dog owned by a person aged 70 years or over in a city or town that accepts this provision. No license fee or portion thereof shall be refunded because of the subsequent death, loss, spaying or removal from the commonwealth or other disposal of the dog,**

*Article 5 contains both a motion and an amendment

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator

ARTICLE 6: The Town voted to authorize the Selectboard to purchase, acquire, or take by eminent domain the parcel of land identified as approximately 2.1 acres +/- identified in the Assessors records as Map 169 Lot 14 and owned by Laurie Cuevas by deed recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Books 6474, Page 25, for the amount of \$420,000.00 and to fund said purchase using funds previously approved in Article 11 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting for land acquisition for purposes of Senior Housing; said acquisition of land having been determined to be necessary for the health and welfare of the inhabitants of Deerfield to be used for senior housing purposes with said land to be under the care, custody and control of the Selectboard.

Motion to call the question

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator

Motion carried by 2/3 vote, so declared the Moderator

Call to count

Count taken, 20% opposed, Motion carried by 2/3 vote, so declared the Moderator

ARTICLE 7: The Town voted to amend its Zoning Bylaws as set forth in the Town Meeting handout which was on file with the Town Clerk.

- Section 2100. Districts,
- Section 2200. Use Regulations,
- Section 2300. Dimensional Requirements,
- Section 2400. Rate of Development,
- Section 3100. Townwide Parking & Loading Requirements,
- Section 3200. Signs,
- Section 3300. General Landscaping Requirements,
- Section 3400. Driveway Regulations,
- Section 3600. Conservation Subdivision Design,
- Section 3700. Environmental Regulations,
- Section 3800. Solar Energy Systems,
- Section 4100. Planned Industrial District,
- Section 4200. Watershed Protection Districts,
- Section 4300. Floodplain District,
- Section 4400. Wireless Communications District,
- Section 4500. Earth Removal,
- Section 4600. Adult Use Overlay District,
- Section 4660. Marijuana Establishments,
- Section 4700. Expedited Permitting District,
- Section 4900. Performance Standards for Manufacturing, Processing, Assembly or Fabrication,
- Section 4950. Tourism Overlay District,
- Section 5300. Special Permits,
- Section 5400. Site Plan Review,
- Article VI. Definitions, and
- A new Official Zoning Map

Motion carried by 2/3 vote, so declared the Moderator

ARTICLE 8: The Town voted to amend the Zoning Bylaws to update Section 3600. Conservation Subdivision Design as set forth in the Town Meeting handout and which is on file with the Town Clerk.

Motion carried by 2/3 vote, so declared the Moderator

ARTICLE 9: The Town voted to amend its Zoning Bylaws to update Section 4300, Floodplain District Bylaw, as set forth in the Town Meeting handout and which is on file with the Town Clerk.

Motion carried by 2/3 vote, so declared the Moderator

ARTICLE 10: The Town voted to raise. and appropriate \$5,000,000 for extraordinary road and sidewalk re-construction repairs and for all of the costs related and incidental thereto, including engineering and design, and to meet said appropriation the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or any other enabling authority, and to issue the bonds or notes of the Town therefor and further that the approval hereof shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c. 59, §21C (Proposition 2½ override) the amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this article.

Motion carried by 2/3 vote, so declared the Moderator

ARTICLE 11: The Town voted to accept by gift, eminent domain or otherwise acquire the roads known as Snowberry Circle and Gray Lock Lane and to accept same as Public Ways, as more fully set forth on a plan entitled "Street Acceptance Plan, the Condominiums at Sugarloaf" by SVE Associates, October 5, 2023, and to accept any easements as shown thereon and to authorize the Selectboard to enter into any agreements or accept any deeds in order to effectuate same, with acceptance and designation as a Public Way effective upon approval of all final documents and recording of the same in the Registry of Deeds.

Motion carried, so declared the Moderator

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathlene A. Sanderell
Town of Deerfield, Temporary Town Clerk

TOWN COLLECTOR

FROM THE TOWN COLLECTOR							
TO THE SELECTBOARD AND THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF DEERFIELD							
REPORT OF RECEIPTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023							
	BALANCE AS OF 7/1/2022	COMMITMENTS	PAYMENTS	ABATEMENTS/ EXEMPTIONS	REFUNDS	MOVED TO TAX TITLE OR RE	BALANCE AS OF 6/30/2023
REAL ESTATE TAX							
FY2022	\$ 123,475.69	\$ -	\$ 113,550.25	\$ -	\$ 76.84	\$ 10,002.28	\$ -
FY2023	-	\$ 12,639,337.20	\$ 12,412,229.57	\$ 51,196.22	\$ 18,615.42	\$ 26,247.41	\$ 168,279.42
CPA							
FY2022	\$ 2,430.03	\$ -	\$ 2,229.68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.35	\$ 0.00
FY2023	\$ -	\$ 286,027.10	\$ 281,060.59	\$ 978.06	\$ 81.87	\$ 487.05	\$ 3,583.27
SEWER LIEN							
FY2023	\$ -	\$ 26,309.65	\$ 26,309.65	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
INCOME & EXP							
FY2022	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -
FY2023	\$ -	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PERSONAL PROP							
FY2020	\$ 343.14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 343.14
FY2021	\$ 124.98	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.51	\$ -	\$ 145.49
FY2022	\$ 1,380.83	\$ -	\$ 942.35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 438.48
FY2023	\$ -	\$ 826,576.23	\$ 824,261.26	\$ 765.67	\$ 408.85	\$ -	\$ 1,958.15
EXCISE TAX							
FY2020	\$ 2,003.64	\$ -	\$ 184.18	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,819.46
FY2021	\$ 3,717.82	\$ -	\$ 1,682.62	\$ 56.22	\$ 286.67	\$ -	\$ 2,265.65
FY2022	\$ 24,803.09	\$ 73,473.13	\$ 91,072.13	\$ 3,790.39	\$ 3,665.25	\$ -	\$ 7,078.95
FY2023	\$ -	\$ 718,370.71	\$ 689,437.04	\$ 10,611.55	\$ 4,896.94	\$ -	\$ 23,219.06
SEWER USAGE							
FY2023	\$ 524,125.48	\$ 1,812,594.46	\$ 1,540,951.12	\$ 118,451.57	\$ 9,164.45	\$ 23,722.90	\$ 662,758.80*
<i>* FY2023 Winter Commitment bills were mailed 1.5 weeks before the close of the fiscal year resulting in a large outstanding balance</i>							
TAX TITLE - REAL ESTATE TAX ONLY							
ALL YEARS	\$ 80,015.24	\$ 36,249.69	\$ 14,741.26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 101,523.67
	\$ 762,669.94	\$ 16,434,938.17	\$ 16,014,151.70	\$ 186,349.68	\$ 37,216.80	\$ 60,909.99	\$ 973,413.54
TOTAL INTEREST COLLECTED ON DELINQUENT TAXES			\$ 26,931.47				
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED ON DELINQUENT TAXES			\$ 24,002.89				
Respectfully submitted, Sarah Kimball - Tax Collector							

TOWN TREASURER

REPORT OF THE TREASURER			
TO THE SELECTBOARD AND THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF DEERFIELD			
REPORT OF FY2023 ACTUAL CASH BALANCES			
ACCOUNT TYPE	BALANCE AS OF 7/1/2022	BALANCE AS OF 6/30/2023	TOTAL INTEREST EARNED IN FY2023
General Cash Accounts:	\$ 17,528,073	\$ 13,168,901	\$ 77,679
Operational Accounts, Money Markets (14)			
Trust and Agency Accounts:			
Cemetery Trust Funds (4)	\$ 93,722	\$ 96,959	\$ 3,237
CPA Fund	\$ 3,886,211	\$ 4,309,814	\$ 143,830
Library Trust Funds (2)	\$ 111,754	\$ 112,877	\$ 3,832
OPEB	\$ 181,708	\$ 223,616	\$ 2,148
Other Town Trust Funds (7)	\$ 74,704	\$ 116,390	\$ 120
SCEMS Fund (added 6/30/22)	\$ 46,258	\$ 82,404	\$ 2,396
Stabilization (2)	\$ 2,118,909	\$ 2,020,592	\$ 51,683
Grant Accounts:			
Tilton Library (new as of March 2023)	\$ -	\$ 642,475	\$ 2,667
Total Funds held by Treasurer	\$ 24,041,340	\$ 20,774,029	\$ 287,592
<i>* All money amounts rounded to the nearest dollar</i>			
Respectfully submitted, Sarah Kimball - Treasurer			

PUBLIC SAFETY

DEERFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

"We, the members of the Deerfield Police Department, are committed to excellence in law enforcement and are dedicated to the people, traditions and diversity of Deerfield. In order to protect life and property, prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime, we will provide service with understanding, response with compassion, performance with integrity and law enforcement with vision."

I am pleased to present to you the 2023 Deerfield Police Department Annual Report. The officers, supervisors, and staff continue to deliver a superior product to the residents of Deerfield.

Staffing

The Deerfield Police Department is comprised of the Chief of Police, three (3) full-time Police Sergeants, six (6) additional full-time Officers, ten (10) part-time Officers and one (1) Administrative Assistant. Officers are organized into three shifts with two officers per shift who are accessible to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. On each shift, there is one officer assigned to the Old Deerfield area (District Two), and one officer assigned to South Deerfield (District One). This ensures that residents across town get equal response and patrol time.

The Police Department also employs a full-time administrative assistant who performs a variety of complex and highly confidential administrative and technical tasks, and general support to the police department, police chief and emergency management team. The Administrative Assistant is responsible for equipment acquisition, fleet maintenance, accounts receivable/payable, document review and assisting citizens in the lobby. This year, our Administrative Assistant, Deb Austin retired. We send Deb Austin well wishes on her retirement and thank her for the many dedicated years of service to the Town of Deerfield, and the police department.

With Deb's departure, we are pleased to have Cassandra Jerome join the Deerfield Police Department as the new Administrative Assistant. She brings with her ten years of knowledge and experience working at the Northwestern District Attorney's office as a Superior Court Paralegal and the Franklin County Office Supervisor. Her knowledge of the criminal justice system and day-to-day office operations will be a great asset to the police department. In her brief time here, she has streamlined processes to go paperless in some areas and assisted the Emergency Management Director with storm damage matters among other projects.

Officer James Fitzgerald moved from part-time to full-time within our agency. He has a passion for Health, Fitness, and Suicide Prevention. Officer Fitzgerald grew up in the Buffalo area of New York before moving to Deerfield eight years ago. He teaches Cultural Competency and Officer Wellness at the Crisis Intervention Training for Officers and works the overnight shift with the Department.

Our remaining part-time personnel completed the MPTC Bridge training academy which (along with their road experience and part-time certification) will keep them eligible to continue to maintain employment as a police officer under new legislation. In a normal year, there are three to four part-time appointments, however with the new POST police reform standards, that is no longer an option. We continue to navigate the challenges this creates within our agency with staffing shortages and difficulty

finding new officers. In the past years, we have been known as a reputable training ground for part-time personnel who would become exceptional full-time officers for our agency and others. However, with new POST standards there are no longer academies to train part-time personnel.

This year, three of our former part-time officers (Habel, Husted, and Walker) joined the Massachusetts State Police. Officer Bator, a former full-time officer, accepted employment with the Department of Homeland Security Investigations. As these exceptional officers move forward in their new careers, they will be greatly missed, and we wish them the best. We continue to search to find new officers to help fill these vacancies.

The Regional Co-Response Program continues to expand. Currently Kaitlin Richotte-Rock serves the Deerfield Community as well as Greenfield and Montague Police through this program. Kaitlin is the Assistant Program Director for the Co-Response programs through Clinical and Support Options (CSO) and helps in overseeing both the Franklin and Hampshire County Co-Response teams. Kaitlin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Substance Use as well as a Master of Arts with a focus in Forensic Mental Health Counseling. Kaitlin is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. She is an outstanding asset to our community.

In addition, Katherine Russell (LICSW) joined our co-response team this year. Katherine earned her Master's in Social Work at Savannah State University and holds her clinical license in South Carolina and Massachusetts. Katherine's previous clinical work with populations suffering from chronic mental illness, substance use disorders, and the incarcerated population has provided her the necessary experience to be an incredible asset in assisting police departments as they serve their community members in moments of crisis.

We are excited to see the Regional Co-Responder program grow through grant funding by The Department of Mental Health (DMH) jail diversion initiative. Sgt. Bartak has authored and oversees this grant which allows the department to offer officers 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and other mental health related training. These trainings allow officers to better understand and respond to people in a mental health crisis. This grant provides officers weekly opportunities to ride with the Co-Responder in the designated three communities to mental health emergencies. Follow-up services and options after a crisis are provided as well. We are proud to have been a part of the pilot Co-Responder program in Franklin County, which has now expanded to many other towns and police departments across Franklin County.

Our officers are also working with the Opioid Task Force CONNECT Program. This program connects people who have experienced or witnessed Opioid overdoses with free and confidential support programming with recovery coaches within 72-hours of an overdose. Statistics have shown the most successful time to get a person experiencing addiction into recovery is within 72 hours (about 3 days) of the overdose event. This program also includes a database that is statewide to identify high risk candidates who have overdosed in multiple jurisdictions and connect them with support services.

Equipment

The police department continues to replace one cruiser annually. This is due to the mileage driven, idle time, and wear and tear on an emergency vehicle. With two personnel on duty twenty-four hours a day, our annual mileage is around 140,000 miles. We continue to be conscious of our carbon footprint, and this year, we are excited to announce that our patrol fleet of vehicles are now all Hybrid. These Hybrid cars are proving to use about half the fuel as the fully gas-powered cruisers.

We have moved to using Electronic Citations, with in-car printers. In the past, we used handwritten carbon copy citations that required manual entry and mailing to the RMV. Electronic Citations are sent to the RMV at the time of issuance electronically and are printed out in the car, further lowering our carbon footprint.

We have upgraded our ballistic safety gear to include large and small ballistic shields, ballistic helmets, and officers have trained with both in various scenario-based training situations. Officers practiced quickly suiting up in safety gear and working on active-threat scenarios with live fire at the range.

Calls for Service

The Department is very active in responding to calls for service. Calls for service within this area are defined as requiring police action; this does not include mere directions, parties that come to our station to speak with officers, administrative duties such as LTC renewals, or questions. Officers also respond to all fire and ambulance calls. Officers are often first on scene and assist with rendering emergency medical aid and if needed, traffic control, and are authorized to drive the ambulance to a medical facility. The total number of assigned calls for service for the 2023 calendar year was 12,269. This is an average of 33.61 calls for service on the average day.

There were 132 arrests, 234 active investigations, 106 motor vehicle crashes, 1,125 motor vehicle stops, and 494 medical emergencies in 2023. Our officers also helped in responding to over 109 mental health related calls and worked diligently with Crisis Services to ensure that our residents received the best possible available care and follow-up treatments. With the new program, 6 people this year were diverted from being arrested and treatment options explored instead of criminal charges.

Our officers patrol all areas of the Town of Deerfield, watching for any unusual activity, while keeping all residents and visitors' safety in mind, making notifications to the utility companies as well as reporting any road hazards to the appropriate highway agency. We continue to have open communication with business owners and perform business checks daily. Officers continue to perform vacant house checks and provide target traffic enforcement in problem areas. We respond to areas of concern from citizen reports, and work to mitigate those problems through targeted enforcement.

A case investigated this year highlights the importance of proactive patrol work where officers can recognize normal, or more importantly, abnormal activity within the community. On October 28, 2023, Sgt. Bartak was on routine patrol and saw an unoccupied vehicle parked at a tree line in a suspicious manner at a business on Greenfield Road. She investigated the vehicle, which had the license plate obscured so she obtained the registration number from other means. Sgt. Bartak also checked the area surrounding and noted the suspicious car in a "call for service". The next day, Officer Puchalski and Officer Warger responded to a Breaking and Entering (B&E) report at another business on Greenfield Road which was close to the area where Sgt. Bartak noted the suspicious vehicle. Officer Puchalski

reported up to \$50,000 worth of items were stolen from this business. With excellent collaboration and investigative work between Officer Puchalski and Task Force Officer (TFO) Timothy Boland, who is assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney's Anti-Crime Task Force, a suspect was identified, and a warrant was applied for and granted authorizing a search of their residence in South Hadley. Upon execution of the warrant, many items from the Deerfield B&E were recovered. Also recovered was an illegal firearm, narcotics, US currency, as well as items from other B&Es in neighboring communities. The suspect was arrested. Due to the all-around excellent police work, the defendant accepted a guilty plea in Superior Court for a sentence of 5 to 7 years in State Prison.

As technology continues to advance, people with nefarious intentions continue to advance their methods of criminality. Our officers continue to receive training to combat these crimes and use the same technology to solve them. On May 5, 2023, a Greenfield Road business suffered a theft when a suspect broke into and entered the premises in middle of the night. Thinking of creative ways to solve this crime, TFO Boland obtained a search warrant for data related to cellular devices, which led TFO Boland to a suspect who was also a person of interest in a slew of similar crimes in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut. This person is currently awaiting trial for the multiple B&E's they committed, including the crime in Deerfield.

Our officers work diligently to solve fraud, crimes against property, as well as against persons, but due to the sensitive nature of some of these crimes, we cannot include them in this report to protect the privacy of the victims. Last year alone, the Deerfield Police Department investigated 234 incidents and had 132 arrests.

Officers on road patrol perform law enforcement patrol activities including, but not limited to, arresting violators of the law, checking on property and persons, conducting security checks of buildings, and dwellings, investigating traffic crashes, and enforcing traffic offenses, such as Operating Under the Influence (OUI) investigations. Aside from road patrol, these officers also assist with criminal investigations, including searching for missing persons, runaways, and wanted persons. Activity is documented in reports, logs, and calls for service as officers are responsible for presenting testimony and evidence in court. The Police Department daily logs are available on the Deerfield website <https://www.deerfieldma.us/> under the Police Department page "Police Logs". This allows the residents to view the day-to-day activities, as well as research events that may have transpired in your area.

Major Events

Unprecedented weather events caused much destruction around the town and proved to be a challenge for not only our Emergency Management Director but for all members of the police department. The first major weather event on July 10 caused flooding, culverts capacity being surpassed, and roads washed out. Stillwater Bridge was closed by MassDOT until inspection teams were able to get divers in the water and confirm the pillars were structurally sound.

Eleven days later, on July 21, a more devastating rainstorm hit the already stressed drainage system and over 5.5 inches of rain fell in just under one hour, and heavy rain continued for several more hours. Deerfield saw damage from this weather event which will go down in Deerfield history much like the flood of 1938. Major infrastructure damage was discovered on Pine Nook Road, Keets Road, Greenfield Road, Conway Road, Mathews Road, Wapping Road, County Road, Hoosac Road, Hawks Road, Stillwater Road, Upper, and Lower Roads.

Emergency personnel from all agencies including all available Deerfield Police Officers were out in the elements checking road safety, maintaining closures and detours, and assisting citizens. During the height of the storm, Deerfield Fire Department Assistant Chief Ben Clark was helping assess damage reported on Lower Road to report back to the DPW and Police. While checking Lower Road, he saw the vehicle travelling in front of him disappear when the road collapsed into rapidly rushing water headed towards the Deerfield River. Assistant Chief Clark selflessly rushed down the embankment to the vehicle which was submerged in water and rescued the driver. We are so thankful for Assistant Chief Clark's heroic actions that day and are honored to work beside some incredible first responder agencies in town.

Crews worked around the clock to get roads stabilized enough to open back up to the public. I cannot thank all the members of the Deerfield Police Department and Administrative Staff enough for rushing in during the emergency to help, as well as the days, weeks, and months that followed during the recovery efforts. There is no denying that storms are now more severe than in generations past. Efforts to replace infrastructure to accommodate new weather patterns are on-going.

Deerfield Celebrated its 350th anniversary this year, and there were many festivities. The weather was not as excited to celebrate as our citizens were, however, and we experienced heavy rain during the 350th celebration parade. That did not stop our officers, parade floats, or citizens from enjoying the event!

Throughout 2023, the Deerfield Police Department continued to have an officer assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney's Anti-Crime Task Force (NDATF) on a full-time basis however, due to staffing shortages our task force officer has been covering shifts as well.

The investigations, arrests, and search warrant executions conducted by NDATF personnel in 2023 resulted in multiple felony arrests, seizures of trafficking weight quantities of narcotics, seizures of large amounts of US Currency, seizures of stolen property, as well as the seizures of illegal firearms and ammunition.

During the course of 2023, investigators with the NDATF initiated 76 cases, conducted 93 controlled purchases of narcotics, and seized narcotics on an additional 93 occasions, resulting in 89 arrests in our area. The NDATF also applied for, and were granted, 108 search warrants. As a result, arrests and search warrant executions made by the NDATF produced the following (approximate) seizures:

- MDMA/Ecstasy- approximately 20 grams
- Cocaine/Crack cocaine- approximately 4.692 kilograms
- Heroin/Fentanyl- approximately 10,384 bags/dosage units & 12.5 grams
- Counterfeit/prescription pills- over 200 pills
- Firearms- 15
- Vehicles seized- 3
- Stolen vehicles recovered- 1
- US Currency seized- \$135,655.40

Of the cases, arrests, and seizures conducted/made by the NDATF during 2023, a notable amount involved residents or frequent visitors of the Town of Deerfield. These investigators continue to work diligently and conduct thorough investigations to keep illegal and dangerous narcotics out of our town.

In addition to the NDATE, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office and Deerfield Police Department have joined with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force. The NWDA received a grant to focus on more training in Human Trafficking and child exploitation crimes. This task force aims to keep children safe online and more effectively investigate and bring perpetrators to justice. Officer Marissa Smith works with this task force and has received specialized training in this subject and internet crimes. Officer Smith along with team members investigated and charged perpetrators of multiple ICAC crimes this year.

Training

December 31, 2020, Governor Charles Baker signed the Criminal Justice Reform Act into law. We continue to navigate the changes to our and other small agencies with the elimination of the part-time police academy - thereby eliminating the vast majority of part-time personnel in the State. In addition, there have been modifications of Use of Force Standards, as well as many additional requirements for Police Officer certification. These changes will have a large financial impact on most communities under ten thousand, and more especially Deerfield's size and smaller. Many of the small towns' police departments (population 500-3,000) will cease to exist.

This year, members of our department attended specialized training in:

Crisis Intervention including the CIT conference to learn advanced de-escalation methods and programs that are available through the mental health system.

Co-Responder Conference in Spokane Washington through our CIT Grant to learn more about what other Co-Response programs in the country are doing as well as other tools and skills to improve our co-response.

Cyber Crimes Conference to learn about ever-changing technology and how it is being used in criminal activity as well as how to use technology in investigations to solve and prove crimes.

All officers participated in hands-on scenario based Active Shooter Training at Frontier High School led by the Massachusetts State Police STOP team in which officers participated in live fire sim-munition (blank) scenarios.

All officers completed in-service training that includes Firearms, Use of Force, Legal Updates, CPR and First Responder, Taser, Duty to Intervene, Preventing Officer Crisis, Frontline Digital Evidence, Hate Crimes, Trauma-Informed Policing.

Grants

Grants continue to be scarce within law enforcement with the vast majority going to large cities with exceptionally high crime data statistics.

The Department of Mental Health grant covers the Co-Response program that we share with Greenfield and Montague. The grant covers a CIT trained officer to ride with the Co-Responder to respond to mental health related called in Deerfield, Greenfield, and Montague. The grant also covers training expenses to send officers to the 40-hour CIT training, as well as other relevant mental health response training for police.

School Safety

We are in constant partnership to make sure the schools are as safe. As most are aware this is challenging since Deerfield has five schools: Deerfield Elementary, Frontier Regional High School, Bement, Eaglebrook, and Deerfield Academy. In total there are over 2,500 students in Deerfield. The schools, including students and staff, bring in a daily influx of over 4,000 people.

As part of school safety, we have an active partnership and leadership role in the four-town safety committee which is comprised of EMS, Police, Fire, and School Officials from all Union 38 schools and towns. This includes quarterly meetings, active shooter training, lockdown drills, and shelter in place drills, as well as annual review of school safety documents and plans.

Focused Areas

On January 1, 2018, I started as the President of the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association. I am also the Franklin County appointed representative to the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Executive Board (since 2014). In addition, I serve as the police representative to the Western Mass. Homeland Security Council, which has been a Governor's appointment (since 2015). I continue to serve as the Statewide Law Enforcement Liaison on the State Child Fatality Review Team. There are eleven regional teams across the State that report their findings to the State Team.

As always, the Deerfield Police Department is dedicated to serving the community, residents, and visitors to the Town of Deerfield. As the days, months, and years continue to pass, please do not ever hesitate to contact us if you have a question or concern, we are available 24/7 365 days a year.

Sincerely,

John P. Paciorek, Jr.
Chief of Police
Emergency Management Director

"PROTECTING AND SERVING OUR COMMUNITY"

The Law Enforcement Oath of Honor

On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity,
my character, or the public trust. I will always have the courage
to hold myself and others accountable for our actions.

I will always uphold the Constitution, my
community and the agency I serve.

SOUTH COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

South County Emergency Medical Service’s mission is to provide progressive prehospital emergency care with an emphasis on safety, advocacy, and commitment to our community. We are honored to serve the towns of Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. As one of the premier Advanced Life Support services in Western Massachusetts, we are proud of our ability to promote best practices and quality across the region.

In 2023, our crews responded to 1,361 calls for service, an almost 12% increase from the prior year. We took delivery of new cardiac monitors and other lifesaving equipment. We are pleased to have been awarded an AFG grant to help offset the cost. An order was placed for a new ambulance which is meant to replace our oldest vehicle, maintaining our ability to respond in the upcoming years.

Long-time director Smith departed our organization to take a role with the Department of Public Health. We are grateful for the dedication and commitment to service they exercised in helping our department grow. Because of director Smith’s efforts, we are well positioned to face the growing challenges that all EMS organizations are facing across the country. We are thankful for director Smith’s accomplishments and wish them continued success for the future.

Following director Smith’s departure, paramedic Tim Drumgool was appointed as Interim Chief. Tim’s efforts were highly appreciated by town officers and our own Board of Oversight. Assisting Tim, paramedics Zach Battistoni, Laurie McComb, and Alicia Toia accepted additional administrative responsibilities to support department operations. The extraordinary efforts given by each of them speak volumes not only to their character, but to the commitment South County EMS offers our community. Collectively, we cannot express enough gratitude for their efforts.

2023 also saw the retirement of long-time provider David Zamojski. David spent a combined 23 years of service with South County EMS and its predecessor organization, Deerfield EMS. We appreciate his contributions over the years and wish him congratulations on his retirement.

CY2023 Call Volume

Total: 1,361	Mutual Aid Response: 231
Deerfield: 635	Advanced Life Support: 818
Sunderland: 320	Basic Life Support: 152
Whately: 175	Refusals, Cancellations, and Other: 160

Department Statistics

Command Staff: 1
Full Time Employees: 10
Per Diem Employees: 8
EMTs: 4
Paramedics: 15

Board of Oversight

Deerfield	Tim Hilchey Matt Russo Carolyn Shores Ness (non-voting FinCom)
Sunderland	Tom Fydenkevez (Chair) Crystal Drake Tremblay
Whately	Fred Baron Gary Stone

Medical Director

Matt Shapiro, DO

Over the last few years, providing emergency care has been difficult for many healthcare organizations. EMS agencies across the commonwealth and nation face staffing shortages, delayed response times and hospital turnaround times, and several communities face a reduction in accessible service. Many departments across the nation have shuttered, thus leaving populations vulnerable. In every state, longstanding public safety agreements between municipalities and privatized ambulance providers are being reevaluated, often leading to new public EMS models at exorbitant cost to their taxpayers. However, South County EMS is in a good position due to the forward-thinking efforts brought by the developers of our unique, regional public model. This year, we enter the department's 10th year of operation with the enviable opportunity to grow the operation from within towards a more sustainable future. Our commitment is to add value and constantly find ways to improve the care of our three towns. The EMTs and paramedics of South County EMS and I are proud to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Sparks
Chief of Department
South County EMS

www.SoCEMS.org



PUBLIC WORKS

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Kevin Scarborough	Superintendent of Public Works
Chris Miller	Asst. Superintendent of Public Works
Charles Willor III	Maintenance Foreman/HEO
Jason Miller	Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer
Brian Chyz	Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer
Michael Kolakoski	Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer
Kevin Kolakoski	Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer
Brandon Savigne	Truck Driver/Laborer
Dianne Cornwell	Administrative Assistant

Description of Services

The highway department primarily serves to maintain the Town’s “public works.” The Department helps to ensure public safety services through road maintenance (including snow removal), road drainage, flood mitigation, tree work, wastewater collection and treatment, special projects, maintenance projects etc. These services are provided on a 24/7/365 basis in cooperation with our public safety partners Police, Fire and EMS. The Highway Department is responsible for maintaining the town’s public road, ensuring safe travel by maintaining the roads as well as the infrastructure underneath such as sewer and drainage systems. During the winter, the Department focuses on keeping the roads free of snow and ice. In the summer, mowing is a weekly duty for roadsides, cemeteries, town buildings and commons.

Road Repairs

We are working with a pavement management program, to properly analyze and document the road conditions, and determine what roads need repair, Priority for repair is established by traffic counts, safety, and roadway conditions. Through a combination of \$257,894 in Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) and \$497,852 in Chapter 90 funds we were able to pave four miles of River Rd.

Culverts

To assist with culvert repairs we utilize contractors with larger equipment as needed. The Highway Department supervises and completes the culvert jobs, saving the town money. We continue to work with Mass DOT and Mass DEP to identify all our culverts within the town and to set priorities for repair, replacement, and/or upgrades. In 2012, The Massachusetts Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, along with Fish & Game Division of Ecological Restoration established strict “stream crossing” regulations which insures that in making culvert repairs we are making the proper ecological restorations. Over this past year, because of the 3 July rainstorms, we have had to replace/upsized culverts, multiple places within the Town boundaries.

Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance

The town is very fortunate to have a highly qualified mechanic and fabricator on the Highway Department Staff who time and time again has saved the town money, in addition to tracking repairs and performing preventive maintenance on highway vehicles and equipment, we have also been able to service the vehicles and equipment for the Recreation, Police Department, and Wastewater.

Building Maintenance Operations

The DPW maintains the Municipal Offices, Police Department, South County EMS, the 1888 Building, Tilton Library, the DPW, Transfer Station, Captain Lathrop Drive Lift Station, and the Church. During this past year we have upgraded the heating software for the DPW. The Church is undergoing a study for use as temporary Library/Senior Center, with repairs scheduled to begin in 2023. Town hall has needed a significant number of repairs. The library has undergone mold remediation and repainting in areas.

Cemeteries

The Town owns and maintains 10 Cemeteries. Maintenance is performed by the Highway Department including grass cutting, string trimming, bush/shrub pruning during the growing season.

Sewer Collection System

The Town has been looking at the entire sewer collection system. Every Manhole is being documented for the condition, size and materials of construction, all sewer pipe for condition and I&I to see if ground water is infiltrating into our system. The town sewer system infrastructure consists of two wastewater treatment plants, Old Deerfield, and Deerfield and 85,854 feet / 17 miles of pipe and 1 Lift Station. The South Deerfield plant has been undergoing upgrades and expansion construction. The Old Deerfield Plant needs upgrades. While the DPW maintains the distribution part of the system other licensed employees operate the treatment plants 7 days a week. In the past year, the new Chief Operator was able to have all employees upgraded in training and required licensure.

Asset Management

The Town, through our insurance company MIIA, received grants to purchase software which can track everything from culverts to light switches in the Town Hall to pumps at the wastewater plants. With the software we can manage workflow, track costs of projects and better project expenditures and services that impact the residents of the Town. Our future goal is for residents to report online issues and concerns and be able to produce a job ticket to make our departments' services more efficient. All departments have worked to provide services to the residents of this Town and have stepped up to meet the many challenges of this past year. It has been my pleasure to serve the residents over the past 14 years. This being my last year, I look forward to retirement and I wish all the best to the Town and all our dedicated employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin H Scarborough
Superintendent of Public Works Operations

July Storms

July 10, 2023

Heavy rainfall pushed the Deerfield River over flood stage, causing major crop damage in farmlands, inundating the north end of town and causing stormwater to back up across Greenfield Road in the Wapping Road area.

Stillwater Bridge closed Monday to Thursday for MassDOT to conduct a safety inspection.

July 16, 2023

Torrential rains caused extensive flooding along Bloody Brook, and roadways and infrastructure failed throughout north Deerfield.

Asphalt was severely damaged in many areas, including Stillwater Road, River Road and Pine Nook Road. Access to Conway was cut off along Route 116.

Significant washouts occurred on dirt roads throughout town.

July 21, 2023

Before July 16 damage could be fixed, the most severe storm hit, washing away partially completed repairs. The storm dropped 8 inches of rain in 53 minutes!

Huge washouts occurred on Hawks Road, Hoosac Road, Lower Road, Matthews Road, McClelland Farm Road, Pine Nook Road, River Road, Stillwater Road and elsewhere.



STILLWATER ROAD, July 22, 2023



MATTHEWS ROAD, July 22, 2023

Soil Supporting Road Washed Out



HOOSAC ROAD July 22, 2023

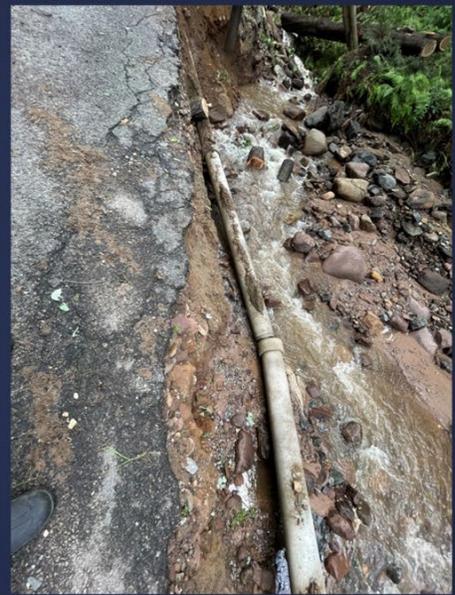
Undersized Metal Culverts Failed,
Washing Out Large Sections
Of the Dirt Roadway

LOWER ROAD, July 22, 2023



PINE NOOK ROAD, July 22, 2023

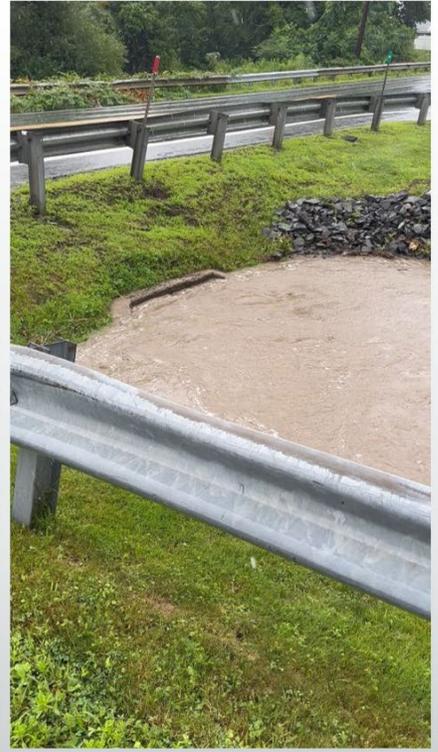
Public Drinking Water Pipes Under Repair



In the Area of Greenfield Road

(Vast amount of work completed by MassDOT)

- Keets Road area: Remove silt, repair erosion and cover exposed natural gas pipes, reinstall guardrails
- Bittersweet Café area: Remove sediment and debris east of culvert under highway to drain stormwater
- Mill Village Road to Richardson's Candy Kitchen: Remove silt, sediment, debris in culvert
- Reopen stream beds on west side of roadway by removing silt and storm debris to allow stormwater to flow properly through culverts



Area where Keets Road meets Route 5 / Greenfield Road



Hoosac Road



Pine Nook Road

TRANSFER STATION

James Schaefer	Transfer Station Attendant
Kyle Kabanice	Transfer Station Attendant
William Rotkiewicz	Transfer Station Attendant

The Deerfield Transfer Station is open to Town residents on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Over the past year, we have made changes in operations and sticker sales. Sticker enforcement has been a priority, as well as charging for the bulky items' dumpster. We introduced a regional Mattress recycling service. We continually look for ways to lower expenses at the Transfer Station by revising the hauling schedules and compacting more to reduce trucking & tipping costs. The Food Waste composting and the book recycling bin are well utilized. Through Mass DEP we receive funds from the Recycling Dividend Program (RDP). In FY23 we were able to purchase new recycling rolloffs, purchase recycled content paper, offset costs for recycling and disposal of fluorescent lamps, and add composting signage and upgraded the attendants building. We strongly encourage Deerfield residents to continue their recycling efforts, and to make every effort to curb their solid-waste generation and to be aware of those items that have special rules regarding disposal, such as:

- Appliances
- Automotive
- Batteries
- Cleaners
- Containers
- Electronics
- Furniture
- Glass
- Hazardous Waste
- Lighting
- Medications
- Metal
- Paints
- Paper
- Plastics
- Yard Waste
- Building/Remodeling & Construction/Demolition

Residents are also encouraged to speak to a transfer station attendant, or to visit the Town's website for more information. Thanks are extended to the Transfer Station staff for their continued service to the Town, especially during hot summer & cold winter days. Their courteous and helpful assistance to town residents helps to ensure the safety and effectiveness of our Transfer Station.

WWTP

The Town of Deerfield's two Wastewater Treatment Plants process raw sewage from two separate collection systems. The collection system for South Deerfield is made up of approximately 12.4 miles of gravity sewer mains, 344 manholes, and one pump station while the collection system for Old Deerfield is made up of 3.8 miles of gravity sewer mains with 71 manholes. South Deerfield and Old Deerfield Wastewater Treatment Plants combined to treat over 248 million gallons of raw sewage in 2023, which is an increase of 80 million gallons over the previous year. The extra flow was mainly caused by the extremely wet year that saw rainfall up almost 24 inches from 2022. Due to the increased flow, the sludge that was generated increased in 2023 to 1,071,000 gallons of liquid sludge. The liquid sludge was transported off-site to be processed at Lowell Regional Wastewater Facility and Montague Clean Water Facility.

With the unprecedented rainfalls and flows that made treatment challenging in 2023, the plant staff worked diligently to keep both plants in compliance producing some of the best quality effluent that was well above discharge permit standards. The Wastewater Plants had one operator on training leave in April to pursue another career but his replacement that was hired stepped right in and has already passed his operator exam and received his license. The Town now has four licensed operators to man their Treatment Plants well into the future.

This year, the main focus at the Old Deerfield Plant has been to maintain the plant operationally and to start preserving the equipment that is there. The interior at the plant is the most noticeable because of the staff's hard work painting all the walls, trim work, and railings. The operators have also painted all the exterior doors, window frames, stairs, and railings on the exterior of the building and around the tanks. Lastly, a new Wi-Fi driven alarm system and an oxygen sensing probe and controller were installed to upgrade the failing alarm and probe.

The South Deerfield Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project is over 95% complete and will see a final completion date in May 2024. Many new pieces of equipment and electrical components have come online throughout the year and seem to be operating without any major issues. The plant staff have been trained in these new components by the vendors and are running the plant effectively and efficiently.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting the Wastewater Treatment Plants and their staff. We promise to continue to work hard to ensure the Town and its residents' needs are met, long into the future.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Meals
Chief Wastewater Operator

EDUCATION

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

I respectfully submit the 2023 Annual Report for the Deerfield Elementary School:

DEERFIELD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Carey Etchells, Chair	2025
Erica Jacob, Vice Chair	2024
Anne Curtis, Secretary	2025
*Mary Ramon, Member	2024
Trevor McDaniel, Member	2024
*Representative to Frontier Regional School Committee	

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools	Darius Modestow
Director of Business Administration	Shelley Poreda
Director of Student Services	Karen Ferrandino
Director of Education, Elementary Focus	Lara Ramsey
Director of Early Childhood	Kimberly McCarthy
Director of Instructional Technology	Scott Paul
Director of School Facilities	William Hildreth
Director of Food Services	Patrick McCarthy
Principal	Tina Gemme
Assistant Principal	Elaine Mount

SUPPORT STAFF

Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Jennifer Shumway
Administrative Assistant (Student Services)	Penny Smiarowski
Administrative Assistant/Facilities	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Receptionist/Early Childhood Assistant	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Brenda Antes
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper	Michelle Melnik
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
Accounting Specialist	Michael DeBarge
Secretary to Principal	Catherine Eckert
School Secretary	Lisa Jackson
Special Education Secretary	Rhonda Lutenegger

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2022

Grade	Resident Students	School Choice Students	Tuition-In Students	Total
PK	16	0	10	26
K	31	8	0	39
1	31	8	0	39
2	24	4	0	28
3	45	10	0	55
4	28	12	0	40
5	50	5	0	55
6	43	9	0	52
TOTAL	268	56	10	334

Union #38 Teacher Salary Schedule
Union #38 Teachers
Effective July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

	STEP	B	B+15	M	M+15	M+30	M+45
3	\$47,348	\$48,826	\$50,351	\$51,927	\$53,550	\$55,141	
4	\$48,826	\$50,351	\$51,927	\$53,550	\$55,224	\$56,817	
5	\$50,351	\$51,927	\$53,550	\$55,224	\$56,950	\$58,542	
6	\$51,927	\$53,550	\$55,224	\$56,950	\$58,725	\$60,317	
7	\$53,550	\$55,224	\$56,950	\$58,725	\$60,560	\$62,151	
8	\$55,224	\$56,950	\$58,725	\$60,560	\$62,454	\$64,046	
9	\$56,950	\$58,725	\$60,560	\$62,454	\$64,405	\$65,997	
10	\$58,725	\$60,560	\$62,454	\$64,405	\$66,416	\$68,008	
11	\$60,560	\$62,454	\$64,405	\$66,416	\$68,491	\$70,083	
12	\$62,454	\$64,405	\$66,416	\$68,491	\$70,633	\$72,225	
13	\$64,405	\$66,416	\$68,491	\$70,633	\$72,845	\$74,437	
14	\$70,500	\$72,631	\$75,248	\$77,511	\$80,580	\$82,187	
20	\$72,689	\$74,860	\$77,530	\$79,839	\$82,971	\$84,579	

Nature's Classroom Teacher: One hundred dollars (\$100) per day of attendance by a teacher. Workshop Presenters: \$30 per hour of presentation and reimbursement for reasonable expenses. Tutoring Rate: \$33.00 per hour. Head Teachers: \$1,500. Placement on Step 20 occurs when a teacher has completed 19 years as a teacher in Union #38. Mentors: \$500 per new teacher, \$250 for second-/third-year teacher, \$250 for each additional teacher being mentored, to a maximum of three (3) in any year. The Town of Deerfield currently pays 65% of the health insurance premium contribution, with the eligible employees who elect to participate in the Town offered health insurance paying the remaining 35% of the health insurance premium contribution.

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS						
	2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025	
	IA	IAB	IA	IAB	IA	IAB
3	\$16.18	\$16.68				
4	\$16.72	\$17.22	\$17.05	\$17.55	\$17.40	\$17.90
5	\$17.23	\$17.73	\$17.58	\$18.08	\$17.93	\$18.43
6	\$17.76	\$18.26	\$18.12	\$18.62	\$18.48	\$18.98
7	\$18.30	\$18.80	\$18.66	\$19.16	\$19.04	\$19.54
8	\$18.82	\$19.32	\$19.20	\$19.70	\$19.58	\$20.08
9	\$19.35	\$19.85	\$19.73	\$20.23	\$20.13	\$20.63
10	\$19.91	\$20.41	\$20.31	\$20.81	\$20.71	\$21.21
11	\$20.51	\$21.01	\$20.92	\$21.42	\$21.33	\$21.83
12			\$21.54	\$22.04	\$21.97	\$22.47

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT NURSES, LPN, COTA, SLPA & PTA

STEP	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1	\$24.91	\$25.41	\$25.92
2	\$25.98	\$26.50	\$27.03
3	\$27.04	\$27.58	\$28.13
4	\$28.10	\$28.67	\$29.24
5	\$29.16	\$29.75	\$30.34
6	\$30.23	\$30.83	\$31.45
7	\$31.30	\$31.92	\$32.56
8	\$32.37	\$33.02	\$33.68
9	\$33.44	\$34.11	\$34.79
10	\$34.48	\$35.17	\$35.87

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

District Mission Statement

Building dynamic learning communities, one student, one teacher, one family at a time.

District Vision Statement

*Vibrant, collaborative, engaging, and inclusive learning communities
promoting the growth of every student.*

Opening Statement:

I am pleased to present our annual town report; this serves as our "community report card" for our graduates and includes their post-graduation plans, as well as initiatives and changes in our schools.

Our school system continues to move towards pre-pandemic stability. The dedication of our faculty and staff, the leadership of our administrators and school committees, and support from our parents and caregivers are key components in our ongoing progress. Challenges persist in academic performance and the mental health of our students.

I am pleased with our progress in updates to our curriculum and teacher professional development initiatives. This year, we have a new equity plan that supports our guiding documents: Curriculum Management, Professional Development, and Assessment management. This ensures that our anti-racism and equity work is woven into future planning and ongoing initiatives.

Deerfield Elementary completed several capital improvements, including the installation of 11 heat pump mini splits to provide secondary heat and air conditioning in the classrooms. This project was split over three years, and we hope to complete installation in all classrooms by the end of this year. In cooperation with the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP), the elementary school will undertake the reconstruction of the front entrance walkway and landscaping. The entryway's expected completion date is September 2024.

The continued improvement of our facilities cannot be done without the support of our towns. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to provide our students with the best possible education.

In Service,

Darius E. Modestow,
Superintendent of Schools

Enrollment & School Choice: The October 1, 2023 enrollment for Deerfield Elementary School totaled 313 (PreK-6) students. This is a decrease of 21 students from the October 1, 2022 (PreK-6) enrollment figures of 334 students. Of those 313 (PreK-6) students, 47 were School Choice students. This is a decrease of 11 students from the October 2022 (PreK-6) School Choice enrollment figures of 58 students.

Curriculum and Professional Development:

Members of the Union 38 educational community have participated in professional development and committee work to align curriculum materials and classroom instruction with current educational research.

English Language Arts (ELA)

Teachers in all K-6 classrooms began implementing the EL Language Arts curriculum in September. In preparation for this implementation, all teachers received a two-hour training on the EL Language Arts digital platform, a 1-day training on the Foundations of EL Language Arts, and a 1-day training on Strategic Module Planning. A total of nine Early Release Fridays dedicated time to vertical and horizontal collaboration around ELA lesson planning. All teachers were offered the opportunity to work with an EL Language Arts coach.

The goals for year one, set out by the Implementation Committee, were:

- 1) to use the curriculum’s daily learning objectives
- 2) to use the texts provided by the curriculum
- 3) to use the anchor charts as outlined in the curriculum
- 4) to use the assessments provided by the curriculum.

By creating accountability for these four elements of the curriculum, we were able to ensure a basic level of consistency within and across schools. Year I implementation has been monitored and evaluated through student assessment, teacher observation, teacher survey, and standardized testing. In addition to implementing EL Language Arts as the Language Comprehension strand of our ELA program, we implemented UFLI in all classrooms K-2 as the Foundational Skills strand. We monitored the effectiveness of UFLI through the interleaved progress monitoring that is part of the curriculum as well as DIBELS 8, our Early Literacy Screener (administered in all grades K-6 3x/year).

In response to research on the importance of implementing regular screenings for dyslexia and providing explicit, systematic instruction in foundational skills in grades K-3, we have adopted DIBELS 8 as our dyslexia screener and will make a final selection regarding a foundational reading skills program in April. Additionally, research tells us that students with more core knowledge have stronger reading comprehension, so we are in the final stages of selecting language arts curriculum materials that emphasize the acquisition of core knowledge. Ten teachers have participated in LETRS, a curriculum-agnostic training about the science of reading. We are setting up more LETRS training opportunities for the fall of 2023.

Math

The district is uniting around several projects. This fall, we began implementing a universal screener for number sense in grades K-2, which we will expand to all grades in 2023-24. The district purchased Bridges Intervention materials for K-6 mathematics in all schools. For grade 6 to align with grades 7 and 8, the district purchased ALEKS, a digital platform for independent math practice that provides

acceleration and enrichment at individualized levels and pacing. Finally, the district is in the process of selecting core curriculum materials that are updated and aligned with standards of math practice.

Health

With support from a grant for Comprehensive School Health Services, the district acquired up-to-date curriculum resources for 5th and 6th grade health classes. We are in the process of documenting the scope and sequence of health topics that are taught K-6 by a combination of classroom teachers, PE teachers, counselors, and nurses.

Social Studies

With support from a Civics grant, the district acquired curriculum resources from Cornerstones for Civic Education. This is an engaging curriculum that draws on primary sources and puts students in the position of “thinking like historians.” Teachers are working together to pilot lessons from this program and to create a scope and sequence of lessons for 3rd and 4th grade.

Nature’s Classroom

The district is sending all sixth graders to Nature’s Classroom in Ivoryton, CT for a three-day/two-night outdoor education experience. In addition to participating in hands-on science and social studies classes, students will explore ecosystems and work through team building challenges; a goal for the experience is to provide positive social and academic connections among members of the class of 2029.

Staff Resignation: Cara Chandler, Nurse Leader

Faculty Retirements: None

Faculty Resignations: Athena Giles, Special Education Teacher; Colleen Stetson, School Adjustment Counselor; Catherine Cuff, Grade 4 Teacher; Kaela Jordan, Grade 5 Teacher; Rebecca Nicholson, Grade 5 Teacher; Anne Naughton, Kindergarten Teacher; Marijo Sherrill, Strings Teacher

New Faculty: Connor Edwards, School Adjustment Counselor; Jill Mackay, Kindergarten Teacher; Gabrielle Lasko, Special Education Teacher; Kirsten LaMotte, Grade 1 Teacher; Mia Friedman, Strings Teacher

Special Thanks: We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication of Deerfield School Committee member, Chair Carey Etchells. Vice Chair Erica Jacob, Secretary Anne Curtis, and Members Mary Ramon and Trevor McDaniel. The members of the Committee work tirelessly on behalf of the children in Deerfield. Together, I look forward to working with this group to continue to strive for the best educational experience for our students.

Respectfully submitted,

Darius E. Modestow
Superintendent of Schools

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

I respectfully submit the 2023 Frontier Regional School Annual Report.

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Melissa Novak, Chair, Deerfield	2026
Olivia Leone, V. Chair, Deerfield	2024
Christopher White, Secretary, Sunderland	2025
*Robert Halla, Member, Whately	2024
William Smith, Member, Whately	2025
*Philip Kantor, Member, Conway	2024
*Mary Ramon, Member, Deerfield	2024
Keith McFarland, Member, Sunderland	2026
*Joseph Elias, Member, Sunderland	2024
Damien Fosnot, Member, Deerfield	2025
Jared Campbell, Member, Conway	2025

*Representing the local Elementary School Committees for a one-year term.

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent of Schools	Darius Modestow
Director of Business Administration	Shelley Poreda
Director of Student Services	Karen Ferrandino
Director of Secondary Education	Sarah Mitchell
Director of School Facilities	William Hildreth
Director of Instructional Technology	Scott Paul
Director of Food Services	Patrick McCarthy

SUPPORT STAFF

Executive Assistant to Superintendent	Jennifer Shumway
Administrative Assistant (Student Services)	Penny Smiarowski
Administrative Assistant/Facilities	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Receptionist/Substitute Coordinator	Sarah Butler
Payroll Specialist, FRS/Union #38	Brenda Antes
Accounts Payable/Bookkeeper, FRS	Donna Lloyd
Treasurer	Michael DeBarge
Grants Accountant	Stephan Shepherd
SIS Data Specialist	Megan Donovan
Network Administrator	Stuart Dusenberry
Information Technology Specialist	Keith VanBuren
Education Technologist	Maureen Beeltje

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

George Lanides
Scott Dredge
Roberta Reiter
Deb Mason
Kelly Blanchette
Michelle Russell
Mary Lapinski

Principal
Assistant Principal
Principal's Secretary
School Secretary
Special Education Secretary
Attendance Secretary
Guidance Secretary

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL
ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2023

Grade	Conway	Deerfield	Sunderland	Whately	School Choice	Tuitioned In	Total
7	11	44	20	13	30	1	119
8	14	34	27	5	33	0	113
9	13	24	9	8	19	1	74
10	10	30	24	6	29	1	100
11	14	34	13	10	29	0	100
12	12	28	15	6	38	0	99
SP	0	3	1	0	3	1	8
Total	74	197	109	48	181	4	613

FRONTIER REGIONAL
UNIT A SALARY SCHEDULE

Frontier Regional Teachers Association
Salary Schedule 2022 – 2023

Step	Bachelors	Masters	M+30	CAGS/Doc
0	\$46,244	\$48,472	\$51,203	\$53,764
1	\$48,627	\$50,579	\$53,141	\$55,797
2	\$50,645	\$52,740	\$55,145	\$57,903
3	\$51,892	\$54,976	\$57,221	\$60,081
4	\$53,709	\$56,735	\$59,321	\$62,288
5	\$55,115	\$58,595	\$61,549	\$64,626
6	\$57,488	\$60,465	\$63,581	\$66,758
7	\$59,004	\$62,384	\$65,630	\$68,909
8	\$60,566	\$63,957	\$68,592	\$72,021
9	\$63,580	\$67,591	\$71,641	\$75,223
10	\$66,914	\$71,506	\$74,784	\$78,525
11	\$68,023	\$74,143	\$78,236	\$82,148
12	\$70,667	\$76,883	\$81,041	\$85,093
13	\$72,429	\$78,800	\$83,063	\$87,215
*20L	\$73,429	\$79,800	\$84,063	\$88,215
**25L	\$74,429	\$80,800	\$85,063	\$89,215

Steps 0-12 COLA is 2%; Step 13 COLA is 3%

*PLACEMENT ON STEP 20L OCCURS WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL HAS COMPLETED 19 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBER.

**Placement on Step 25L occurs when an individual has completed 24 years of service as a Frontier Regional School faculty member.

FRONTIER REGIONAL
UNIT C INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS SALARY SCHEDULE
2022-2023

Unit C Instructional Assistants

FY23 Instructional Assistants						
STEP	IA	IA with Bachelors	IA Special Programs	IA Special Programs with Bachelors	IA ALPS	IA ALPS with Bachelors
4	\$ 16.52	\$ 17.02	\$19.28	\$19.78	\$20.28	\$20.78
5	\$ 17.09	\$ 17.59	\$19.93	\$20.43	\$20.93	\$21.43
6	\$ 17.61	\$ 18.11	\$20.54	\$21.04	\$21.54	\$22.04
7	\$ 18.19	\$ 18.69	\$21.22	\$21.72	\$22.22	\$22.72
8	\$ 18.70	\$ 19.20	\$21.81	\$22.31	\$22.81	\$23.31
9	\$ 19.26	\$ 19.76	\$22.47	\$22.97	\$23.47	\$23.97
10	\$ 19.82	\$ 20.32	\$23.12	\$23.62	\$24.12	\$24.62
11	\$ 20.38	\$ 20.88	\$23.78	\$24.28	\$24.78	\$25.28
12	\$ 20.99	\$ 21.49	\$24.49	\$24.99	\$25.49	\$25.99

*Steps 2 & 3 on the previous salary schedule have been eliminated in the 2022-23 school year. IA's previously on step 2 or 3 will move to step 4. Step 12 has been added as a new step in the 2022-23 school year.

Unit C Educational Support Nurses

Educational Support Nurse			
STEP	FY23	FY24	FY25
1	\$ 24.91	\$ 25.35	\$ 25.79
2	\$ 25.98	\$ 26.44	\$ 26.90
3	\$ 27.04	\$ 27.52	\$ 28.00
4	\$ 28.10	\$ 28.59	\$ 29.10
5	\$ 29.16	\$ 29.67	\$ 30.19
6	\$ 30.23	\$ 30.75	\$ 31.29
7	\$ 31.30	\$ 31.84	\$ 32.40
8	\$ 32.37	\$ 32.94	\$ 33.51
9	\$ 33.44	\$ 34.03	\$ 34.62
10	\$ 34.48	\$ 35.08	\$ 35.70

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Mission Statement

Building dynamic learning communities, one student, one teacher, one family at a time.

District Vision Statement

*Vibrant, collaborative, engaging, and inclusive learning communities
promoting the growth of every student.*

Opening Statement:

I am pleased to present our annual town report; this serves as our "community report card" for our graduates and includes their post-graduation plans, as well as initiatives and changes in our schools.

Our school system continues to move towards pre-pandemic stability. The dedication of our faculty and staff, the leadership of our administrators and school committees, and support from our parents and caregivers are key components in our ongoing progress. Challenges persist in academic performance and the mental health of our students.

I am pleased with our progress in updates to our curriculum and teacher professional development initiatives. This year, we have a new equity plan that supports our guiding documents: Curriculum Management, Professional Development, and Assessment management. This ensures that our anti-racism and equity work is woven into future planning and ongoing initiatives.

Frontier Regional School made capital improvements to modernize our facilities. In September, the school finished the renovation of the tennis courts, which now have new asphalt surfacing, fencing, and lining for pickleball. The project was partially funded by \$100,000 from each of the four communities through the Community Preservation Act, with the remaining \$230,000 covered by the school. The school replaced two boilers, which were over 30 years old, with three high efficiency condensing boilers. The total cost of the project was \$494,000, which was under budget. The school is currently seeking bids for the first phase of roof replacement, which will cost approximately \$400,000. Additionally, the school recently completed the replacement of the kitchen's walk-in cooler.

Conway Grammar School completed several capital improvements, including the final installation of 2 classroom heat pump mini splits. These two rooms are the last two classrooms to receive mini splits, providing all learning spaces air conditioning and electric heat. The elementary school also has capital improvements in the building, including the replacement of new stage curtains, bathroom stall partitions, and a new range for the kitchen.

Deerfield Elementary completed several capital improvements, including the installation of 11 heat pump mini splits to provide secondary heat and air conditioning in the classrooms. This project was split over three years, and we hope to complete installation in all classrooms by the end of this year. In cooperation with the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP), the elementary school will undertake the reconstruction of the front entrance walkway and landscaping. The entryway's expected completion date is September 2024.

Sunderland Elementary completed several capital improvements, including the replacement of the underground oil tank. The oil tank installation was completed in February and was funded by the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. We were fortunate that there were no leaks found during the removal of the 33-year-old tank. The elementary school also received funding from ARPA to replace the windows on the south side of the building. The expected completion is September 2024.

Whately Elementary completed several capital improvements, including replacement of the cafeteria tables and installing new flooring in the employee and Pre-K bathrooms.

The continued improvement of our facilities cannot be done without the support of our towns. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to provide our students with the best possible education.

Darius E. Modestow,
Superintendent of Schools

Overview: Frontier Regional School opened in 1954 in the Town of South Deerfield, Massachusetts. The school includes students in grades 7 through 12 with an enrollment of 616 students. This is an increase of 6 students from the October 1, 2022 enrollment figures of 610 students.

The class of 2023 had 87 graduates; 62% planned to attend a four-year college, 14% a two-year college, 1% plan to attend vocational schools, 0% planned on a post-grad year, 5% will enter military service, 0% will take a gap year, 16% plan to enter the labor market, and 2% plans are unknown. This is different from previous years. There were 92 graduates in the class of 2022: 62% planned to attend a four-year college, 15% a two-year college, 1% vocational schools, 0% military, 4% will take a gap year, 9% planned to enter the labor market and 9% plans were unknown.

Curriculum and Professional Development

This year members of the Frontier Regional school community continue to be involved in initiatives and professional development experiences to expand the support and opportunities available to students. Programs and initiatives that began last year were expanded this year to include more students.

Innovation Pathways

Frontier was designated an Innovation Pathways School in the fall of 2022 by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Innovation Pathways are programs within Massachusetts high schools that are designed to connect students to industry sectors that are in demand in the regional and state economy. Grant funding support allowed for the implementation of the IP program, with funding available to purchase equipment for the hands-on training components. In our second year of implementation students continue to enroll in classes to fulfill the requirements of the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering and the Health Care and Social Assistance programs. Classes provide students with hands-on experiences in these career paths including work in our modern fabrication lab and certification to administer CPR & First Aid. At the conclusion of their coursework students participate in internship experiences at local businesses and health care facilities.

A student interest survey, administered in the spring of 2022 provided information about student interest in additional pathways. Planning is underway to add a Criminal Justice Pathway and Global Studies Pathway beginning in the fall of 2024. In the Fall of 2025 plans include the addition of a Business pathway and Computer Science Pathway.

My Career and Academic Plan (MYCAP)

Students began work on their MYCAP portfolio this year. *My Career and Academic Plan* prepares students for college, career, and civic readiness. The MyCAP process engages students in authentic postsecondary planning through a continuum of learning focused on individual student's interests, skills, and talents. Frontier students are collecting representative work samples in a portfolio from their courses at Frontier. The portfolio allows students to collect valuable information for later presentation to colleges or employers as they transition from Frontier to post graduation education or work environments. Beginning in the fall of 2024 students will include a goal component in their portfolio based on school-wide learning goals. During their senior year, each student creates a website where they display their accomplishments.

Restorative Practices

Social emotional well-being and academic success for all students continue to be a focus. Towards that end faculty and support staff participated in workshops and the implementation of a restorative practice model of student support. Restorative practices are a whole school teaching and learning approach that encourages positive relationships and repair to others and the community when an individual's actions cause harm. The model uses restorative circles to allow students to be seen and heard as a member of a classroom community.

In addition, faculty are learning about Micro- aggressions, categorized as insensitive statements, questions, or assumptions aimed at traditionally marginalized identity groups. As well as workshops on creating inclusive classroom environments.

Culturally responsive teaching and learning

Recognizing and valuing all learners in our school community continues to be a focus of professional development. Faculty participated in workshops focused on Universal Design for Learning described as a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning by designing classroom learning activities in a way that increases the “on ramps” for student learning.

Professional learning

In addition to the district wide initiatives faculty participated in a number of relevant PD topics impacting education including workshops on Artificial Intelligence writing tools such as Chap GPT; the new IEP process; and other technological advances.

Staff Resignation: Cara Chandler, Nurse Leader

Retired Faculty: Steven Blinder, Mathematics Teacher; Laura Sojka, Reading Specialist; Janet Pompilli, Library Assistant

Faculty Resignations: Zachary Rom, Chemistry Teacher; Martha Pomputius, School Psychologist

New Faculty: Stephanie Stokes, Mathematics Teacher; Amanda Sharron, Mathematics Teacher; Raina Kittilstved, Chemistry Teacher

Special Thanks

We are pleased to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Frontier Regional School Committee Members: Chair Melissa Novak, Vice Chair Olivia Leone, Secretary Christopher White, Members Bob Halla, Bill Smith, Mary Ramon, Joe Elias, Philip Kantor, Keith McFarland, Damien Fosnot, and Jared Campbell. I look forward to continuing our work together.

Thank you to the citizens of our four towns for being supportive of public education and our wonderful schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Darius E. Modestow
Superintendent of Schools

Alma Mater

In the hills of Old New England
Frontier's name is known
Loved by all her sons and daughters
Calling them her own
Frontier High School, Alma Mater
Shout it to the sky
Sing the praises of Old Frontier
Hail to Frontier High

Class of Two Thousand Twenty-Three



Senior Class Officers

President	Nicholas Lorantos
Vice-President	Tenzin Kunsang
Secretary	Rebecca Wallace-West
Treasurer	Cheryl Moreau
Historian	Cadince Wells-Robinson

Sixty-Sixth Annual Commencement

Ushers for 2023

Caroline Deane	Patrice Moriarty
Hannah Mackin	Aliana Pierce
Amory Maxey	Hashini Ratnatunge
Madison McCarthy	Jillian Worden

FRIDAY, SEVEN P.M.
THE SECOND OF JUNE
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

Class of 2023

Class of 2023 Advisor Stephanie Recore
Class of 2024 Marshal Gabrielle Adams

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL
SOUTH DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Program

Processional –	
Bagpiper.....	Eric Goodchild
Welcome.....	George Lanides Principal
“Pledge of Allegiance”.....	Cheryl Moreau, Rebecca Wallace-West, Class of 2023
Introduction of Poet Laureate	Cadince Wells-Robinson, Class of 2023
Commencement Poem	Elizabeth Tatro, Class of 2023
Introduction of Class President.....	Tenzin Kunsang, Class of 2023
Class President.....	Nicholas Lorantos, Class of 2023
National Honor Society Representative.....	Jesse Kurkulonis, Class of 2023
Introduction of Commencement Speaker	Cheryl Moreau, Class of 2023
Commencement Address	Katherine Blair, FRS Health/ESL/Science Instructor
Awarding of Diplomas.....	George Lanides, Principal Scott M. Dredge, Assistant Principal Darius E. Modestow, Superintendent of Schools Robert Halla, Chair, Frontier Regional School Committee
Alma Mater	Seniors, Class of 2023
Recessional –	

Members of Graduating Class

*Jillian Margaret Apanell	David Andrew Gray	Matthew C. Perreault
James Ayotte	*Siomara Meybelyn Green	*Anna Marie Petrin
Kyle Robert Baiker	*Renée Elizabeth Hait	David Salvatore Petinato
*Samantha Helen Baker	*Cordelia M. Hale	*Bianca Peura
Michaela Maureen Beelje	Coleman L. Hartner	*Madelene R. Powers
Kali J. Berthiaume	José Henriquez de Paz	Samuel Propp
*Erich T. Brown	Conner Hoffman	Madeline Nicole Reardon
Eathon Ryan Bryant	*Abigail Linnae Howard	*Lila Sarah Roche
*Brady A. Burch	Eva Rice Howard	Riley Michael Rowan
*Abigail Paige Burgess	Amier Hussien Ibrahim	Fernando Saravia
*Aniela Kathleen Carey	*Asa William Jackson	*Sydney Victoria Scanlon
Dylan McCullough Clemente	Carolena Marie Johnson	Matthew W. Sicard
Caroline C. Crocker	Miles Jacob Keefe	Ryan Skorb
Milo Andrew Cusano	Sean F. Kirkendall	*Liam Robert Skribiski-Banack
*Brooke Claire Davis	Andrew Kolakoski	Summer F. Sobieski
*Emily Day	*Tenzin Kunsang	Erma Fern St. Hilaire
Ngawang Deter	*Jesse Raymond Kurkulonis	Ayla Louise Starr
Gage Tomsho Dexter	*Kylie Mae Laford	Matthew J. Stiles
*Eve Joule Dougan	Nikos J. Lanides	Ajoshua Christopher Sutton
Jesse Todd Dubreuil	Marcus Ray Larsson	Elizabeth M. Tatro
Angelina Celeste Eglard	Sophia Leone	*Sydney Nicole Tor
Kirsten Marie Fabry	Indya Lewis	Rowan R. Viles
Daniel O. Fellows	Nicholas R. Lorantos	Rebecca Grace Wallace-West
Chloe Felton-Ernrick	*Benjamin Makosiej	*Victoria Rose Weagle
Miles Burke Ferreira	Jake Mattson	Cadince Jasmine Wells-Robinson
*Ella Mapel Flanders	*Fiona Grace McFarland	Aiden Matthew West
David Garcia Frazier	Cheryl Ann Moreau	Chad Michael Wilkey
Alexander Stephen Gochinski	Olivia Noyes	Quinn A. Woods
*Abigail Florence Goff	Shelby Kathleen Ortoski	*Harrison Read Wright
Léonore Isabel Gogibu	Steven C. Otto	

* National Honor Society (Recognized by Gold Stole)
 Summa Cum Laude Honors (Recognized by Red Cord)
 Magna Cum Laude Honors (Recognized by Blue Cord)

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

82 Industrial Boulevard
Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376
TEL: 413-863-4239 FAX: 413-863-2816



Richard J Martin
Superintendent

FCTS Mission Statement

It is the mission of Franklin County Technical School to prepare all students to achieve a future of successful careers, technical and intellectual curiosity, healthy life choices and strength of character.

FY25 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for the 2023-24 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff, and students. As a reminder, the FY25 budget represents October 1, 2023, enrollment count, which is always a year behind the state budget process. FCTS has an enrollment of 568 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	30	Erving	27	Montague	74	Sunderland	9
Buckland	18	Gill	13	New Salem	14	Warwick	5
Colrain	23	Greenfield	132	Northfield	40	Wendell	8
Conway	7	Heath	11	Orange	90	Whately	18
Deerfield	35	Leyden	4	Shelburne	10		

Franklin County Technical School awarded 123 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2023. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted their measures for evaluating district/school accountability and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5-point scale with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and advanced precision machining to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 with the bond authorization projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2023 FCTS has approximately 38% of our seniors involved in paid Coop jobs related to their vocational field of study. FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased courses in Advanced Placement, Honors, Foreign Language, credit recovery, and special education to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness.

Franklin County Technical School continues to experience increased enrollment and popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science, Medical Assisting, and a new Aviation Technician program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years and bring the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to fifteen. Unlike other school districts which may offer a 45-minute course in a trade, FCTS students must follow strict Chapter 74 guidelines where students are in their vocational shop program for 6.5 hours per day for a full week to meet industry competency guidelines.

FCTS is in the final process of completing a new 4800 sq. ft. Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The new building is located on Industrial Blvd next to FCTS. The facility is planning to open in the spring of 2024 and will be used for the FCTS Veterinary program and provide students with real world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program is slated to start during the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials to be certified as an Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT). FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2-million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000 sq. ft. aviation hangar with no additional assessment to towns. The FCTS hangar will be located along the boundary line between FCTS and Turners Falls Airport. The facility will include: 1 twin engine airplane, 2 single engine airplanes, 1 glider, and 1 helicopter as well as FAA machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA to start a new program. FCTS is planning to become one of the few high schools in the United States to offer a credentialed FAA program. Students graduating from the program will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training to sit for the FAA license test and be on their way to a career in aviation.

FCTS is nearly 50 years old and is one of the few remaining regional vocational schools in Massachusetts without a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded facility. In late 2022, FCTS was invited into the MSBA eligibility phase of the process, which will conclude in May of 2024. At this time, the MSBA will decide if FCTS will enter into the Feasibility Study phase of the program. The Feasibility Study will take several years to complete and will include a design phase which will determine anticipated costs of a potential project. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study without having to go out to bond with member towns. At the conclusion of the Feasibility Study, the MSBA and FCTS will determine if it is “feasible” to go out to our member towns to build a new facility, renovate, or seek other alternatives.

Franklin County Technical School’s technical programs continue to improve and evolve using competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in grants over the last 6 years without using tax dollars from member communities. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology and Aviation vocational technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer an evening program for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using our 21st Century modernized CNC machines. Through the highly competitive skills grant FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to be used to develop technical skills towards certification. FCTS will partner with the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab as an opportunity to help inmates acquire advanced technical skills which can lead to employment upon release.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 1.8-million-dollar multi-year grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth’s Career

Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, and Carpentry through the CTI grant and plans to explore more programs for 2024. FCTS also started its own Electrical adult program and plans to add more in the near future. To accomplish these goals and to meet industry and community needs, FCTS has hired a full-time adult coordinator.

Franklin County Tech's Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, and Landscaping programs established a foundation in collaboration with the Greenfield Savings Bank to build a new home for the community. The current construction continues on the house on Petty Plain Road in Greenfield. Beyond the Greenfield house project, the Carpentry program constructed a new storage shed for the Town of Charlemont Federated Church, is constructing a pavilion for the Town of Shelburne Falls and built a related classroom for our Automotive Tech program.

The Landscaping and Horticulture department worked with the Town of Shelburne Falls in the consultation and design of a pocket park, Source to Sea annual cleanup, Franklin County Fairgrounds tree planting, beautification design projects and fence repair, made wreaths for the Conway covered bridge, worked at the Shelburne Hills Cemetery for fall cleanup, consulted and designed the Veteran's Memorial in Pelham, the Peskeompskut Park signage in Turners Falls, and planted trees for the towns on South Deerfield and Turners Falls. In Montague LH is working with the Montague Planning Department on the Millers trail modification.

The Programming and Web Design students worked with the Montague Senior Center and will be providing Tech Support beginning in December of 2023. The program also helped to develop a website for the UCC Church in Conway and a senior student is working with the First Congregational Church in Ashfield and coordinates the video and audio for online services.

The Electrical department continues working with the Town of Heath, retro fitting new parking and office lights at the town hall. Additionally, there is ongoing work at the office of the Turners Falls Airport, the support of the wiring for the newly constructed Vet Science building on campus and the automotive technology related classroom, installation of securing cameras in the welding department, and supporting the FCTS NIS department.

The Advanced Manufacturing program collaborated with our welding and carpentry shop on the design and construction of the Towns of Deerfield and Northfield 350th time capsules. Currently, the students are manufacturing rollers for the horticulture program for the striping of the athletic fields in addition to assisting with making replacement parts for the automotive and horticulture departments, and they have worked with carpentry to operate the CNC router with a MasterCam program.

The Culinary Arts program did a crepe presentation for the Northfield Senior Center and will provide a holiday luncheon in December for the Montague Housing Authority. They will serve the Erving Lady's Red Hat Society for a Valentine's Day luncheon, have created ice carvings for the Annual Winter Festival in Greenfield, hosted the Annual Chamber of Commerce Breakfast, the School Resource Officer's Breakfast, the Superintendent's Award Dinner, the Light Up the Fairgrounds Breakfast, the Annual National Honor Society's luncheon. Also provided food and baked items for the Annual FCTS Car Show and Little Drummer Craft Fair.

The Welding department repaired the Highland Cemetery Gate in Millers Falls, have created an air conditioner unit cover for the Town of Warwick, a bench to be located at the French King Bridge in Erving, engine stands for the Aviation program scheduled to open in the Fall of 2024, brackets for the Franklin County Land Trust for signage, worked on the recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair and they are in discussion with the High Street Cemetery in Greenfield to restore their gates.

The Health Technology program has run public blood pressure clinics, a nail clinic at the Erving Senior Center, volunteered at the Arbors and Regal Care in Greenfield, collected items for a Hygiene Drive, work with the Ja'Duke Preschool observing child development and the creation of activities, and helped to serve holiday meals at the Stone Soup Café in Greenfield.

The Cosmetology program continues to provide services for residents of the Poet Seat Nursing Home, Linda Manor, Quabbin Valley Nursing Home, and the Bernardston Senior Center.

The Veterinary Science program ran a pet food and toy drive for local shelters and has volunteered at the Dakin Humane Society. Services will expand to the public once the program occupies the new building.

Franklin County Tech is forward thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs and skills to support students to obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace, college, and career. Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those who allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director

RESIDENT SERVICES

RECREATION COMMITTEE AND PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Committee Members (Current):

Gretchen Bysiewski, Chair
Eileen Skribiski-Banack
Beth Brown
Jeff Galli
Rod Warnick
Meagan Washburn

Recreation Department Director: Sue Antonellis

The 2023-2024 year has been a continued pursuit of program developments and offerings for residents by the Deerfield Recreation Committee and Department. The department provides comprehensive programs and activities for adults & children. These programs are a vital part of the community promoting physical activities, recreation, entertainment, art, family, and certification programs as well as providing a social network and major health and wellness outlets for all who are involved.

The Deerfield Recreation programs are part of a regionalized effort with surrounding towns, collaborating, and meeting with the Chairperson or Directors of Conway, Hatfield, Hadley, Sunderland, and Whately. The coordination requires regularly scheduled organizational meetings to ensure the needs of our community's teams and leagues are met and carefully programmed and scheduled.

Overall, the department had a successful year with an increase in participants in soccer, field hockey, basketball, baseball, and softball programs.

Throughout this past year, a variety of programs have been offered. These programs all require similar administrative support including selection of coaches, teams, team drafts, scheduling of practices and games, scheduling of fields/facilities, hiring and training referees, umpires, instructors, etc. The programs offered this year include:

Children's Programs

- **Soccer** – Our Start Smart Soccer program, for ages 3 & 4, continues to grow with the help of soccer players from Deerfield Academy. We had over 130 players in the entire program.
- **Field Hockey** – Grades 3-6. Deerfield runs the program for girls from the Union 38 towns. This is the fourth year we offered team play. We had 20 girls participating in the Western Mass League. They also participated in 1 jamboree.
- **Volleyball** – Grades 3-6. Sunderland runs the program for girls from Union 38 towns, but Deerfield has a highly active set of girl participants.
- **Basketball** – Grades 1-6. play teams from Conway, Hatfield, Sunderland, and Whately. Grades 7-12 combined players from Frontier to form teams. We had 121 participants.
- **Baseball** – Grades K-6. This program involves team play and organizations from Conway, Hadley, Hatfield, Sunderland, Whately, and Amherst. We had 86 players.
- **Softball** – Grades 2-6. This program combined girls from Union 38 towns. The Recreation Directors from Deerfield and Sunderland organize and implement this program. This year we had 76 players.
- **Skiing at Berkshire East** – there was renewed interest in the ski program this year. Berkshire East offered lift tickets, rentals, and lessons at a reduced and reasonable cost.

Scholarships – We offer scholarships for high school students who are dedicated and give back to the local community through work and volunteer efforts in assisting the department. The students who have helped in the department during their high school years as referees, umpires, scorekeepers, and councilors, assisted at clinics, assessments and special programs are encouraged to apply. We have supported 40 students through our scholarship program.

Adult Programs

These adult programs are open to surrounding towns, but Deerfield residents have priority. There is an additional fee of \$5.00 for non-residents. All of these programs have participants ranging in age from the mid-20's to mid-70's.

Pilates – We offered a combination of beginner/intermediate classes this year.

Community Events

Summer Concerts were held at Memorial Field in July. These were great entertainment for the community with the most ever in attendance.

Deerfield Donates was a toy and food drive. The Salvation Army, which gives to local families, was the beneficiary of a carload of toys. The Franklin Area Survival Center also received donations of food for the county. Our community went above and beyond helping those in need this year.

You Light Up My Heart Luminary Night was held on Valentine's Day to celebrate those we love and make us happy. It was beautiful to drive throughout town.

The Department has continuous correspondence with local schools for mutual support – Deerfield Elementary, Frontier Regional, Deerfield Academy and Eaglebrook School. We extend our appreciation to these groups for assisting the community in offering a space for these valuable programs. Without their continued assistance, recreation for the town residents would be minimal.

The Recreation Committee would like to thank the Selectboard, the Deerfield Town officials/staff, the Deerfield Highway Department, the Deerfield Police Department, the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Sokoloski's Landscaping, Jon Galenski, The Polish American Citizen's Club and the many businesses that contribute throughout the year, the youth participating in community service, and others for their continued interest and support in our committee's efforts.

Within the community, there are always those individuals and businesses that contribute that extra time and effort to volunteer for recreational activities. These include coaches, assistants, officials and scorekeepers, event organizers and program supporters. The Committee would like to extend special thanks for your continued endeavors to support the community of Deerfield.

Due to the Deerfield Recreation Committee's work this year, the committee remains active in continuing our ambitious efforts. We strive to maintain a minimal growth budget by creating and enhancing our programs to be self-funded where possible and to support the residents' financial concerns of taxation growth by keeping fees low and giving residents the choice of a user's pay programming philosophy. We would like consideration from the town's residents to support our current budget requests to maintain our Parks and Recreation Department for a broad cross-section of the community and to ensure a healthy and active community wellness initiative.

SOUTH COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

South County Senior Center
67 N Main St., South Deerfield, MA 01373
413.665.2141 • 413.665.9508

Email: scsc@town.deerfield.ma.us

Website: <https://www.deerfieldma.us/senior-center>

Jennifer M Remillard, Director

Susan Corey, Program Coordinator

Chris Goudreau, Outreach Coordinator

Tom Fydenkevez, Chair (through September 2023), Board of Oversight (Sunderland)

Joyce Palmer Fortune, Chair (September 2023), Board of Oversight (Whately)

Trevor McDaniel, Board of Oversight (Deerfield)

Daniel Murphy (September 2023), Board of Oversight (Sunderland)

The South County Senior Center provides services to older adults who reside in Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. We also welcome older adults from other communities who find value in our programming.

Programs are offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 am-12 pm at Holy Family Parish, Pope John Paul II Hall, located at 29 Sugarloaf St., South Deerfield.

Programs are also offered at 22 Amherst Road, Sunderland, on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2-4 pm, with scheduled programming on other days throughout the week. In addition to hosting programs, this space hosts our staff daily and provides meeting space; hosts our food pantry (open to anyone), a computer lab, a lending library, an arts center, a television area, and a sitting area.

Staffing and Board of Oversight

In October 2023, the South County Senior Center said goodbye to its longtime Program Coordinator, Susan Corey. We thank Sue for her many years of service. She will be missed.

In September 2023, we said goodbye to longtime Sunderland Selectboard Board of Oversight Member, Tom Fydenkevez, and welcomed new Board of Oversight Member, Daniel Murphy.

We thank Sue and Tom for their many years of dedication to the South County Senior Center.

Programs

During 2023, the SCSC membership increased by 151 members. This brings the total number of members who have attended events or received services from the SCSC to 407 individuals for more than 15,996 times in 2023. In addition to new members, 401 guests age 60+ and 98 guests under 60 have attended the SCSC during 2023.

During 2023, the South County Senior Center hosted more than 940 events. These events included Enhanced Fitness, Chair Yoga, Seated Dance, Tai Chi, African Drumming, Arts & Crafts programs, Cultural Events, Information Sharing programs, Recreation, Socialization, Congregant Meals, and Food Support.

Our average Daily Attendance for programs for 2023 was 68 members per day, per month. *This was an increase of 13%, up from 60 members, per day, per month during 2022 (Sept-Dec 2022).*

The highest daily average of individuals attending program, per day, per month for 2023 was 79 during the months of March and July, compared to 68 in November 2022. *This is an increase of 16%.* The lowest daily average of individuals attending program, per day, per month for 2023 was 57 individuals in the month of May: up from 26 in January 2022. *This is an increase of 113%.*

Through our partnership with LifePath, 49 seniors were able to regularly receive daily Grab n' Go meals (weekdays only), with more than 2,460 meals distributed amongst them.

Our food truck distribution program which occurs on the second Wednesday of each month is one of our most attended days at the Center. We average between 50-75 households who receive support. During 2023, we had more than 190 individuals receive support from our monthly pop-up food truck. This event is through our community partnership with the Franklin Area Survival Center.

In addition to our monthly food truck distribution program, the SCSC partners with The Food Bank of Western Mass to offer the Brown Bag program. This program has approximately 32 recipients each month. It offers a free bag of groceries to those who meet specific income guidelines.

We have also added a food pantry to our Sunderland space where we can store and offer items to our community daily.

During 2023, the South County Senior Center continues its partnership with the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) and UMass to become an application site for SNAP benefits. In doing so, we have been able to reach more individuals in our community experiencing food insecurity.

In August we hosted our second Informational Fair & Cruise night offering connection to more than 17 community partners. More than 130 people were in attendance. This event will continue.

During the holiday season in 2023, we offered a Friendsgiving in November. 90 individuals attended the congregant meal. It is also on a date which LifePath has an administrative day where no meals are provided or delivered to the seniors.

With the success of Friendsgiving, we worked with the community to deliver more than 86 meals to seniors who otherwise may not have a meal for Christmas Day. We had a large volume of volunteers come together from the community to prepare, package, and deliver meals across South County.

Funding

Our funding comes from the three towns of Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. In addition to the funds the Towns provide, we receive additional funds during FY24 from the Commonwealth - Formula Fund Grant; the Fred G. Wells Trust; grants through LifePath; grants through MCOA & EOE; and

We received the following grants for FY24:

1. Formula Fund Grant (EOEA). This grant funded by the EOE increased to \$42,380. This money is distributed through the State Budget based on the 2020 Census data. Each town receives \$14/per older adult age 60+ (up from \$12/per older adults for FY23).
2. \$1,000 Fred G. Wells Trust for Movement Classes.

3. Service Incentive Grants. We applied for and received two Service Incentive Grants (SIG):
 - a. Outreach: In the amount of \$13,135.05 to use towards the salary of the Outreach Coordinator (MCOA/EOEA).
 - b. Transportation: In the amount of \$16,612.96 to use towards fares and salary.
4. \$12,690 FRCOG Mass in Motion Grant (Non-Competitive) through FRCOG.
5. \$100,000 Digital Literacy Grant (EOEA). Funds were used to purchase and lottery 129 9th Generation iPads to those age 60+ who reside in Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately. It also funds salary for administrative time of SCSC Staff, technology training for iPad recipients, stipends for up to 52 digital connectivity winners, marketing, and more.
6. \$6,000 LifePath (Title III) (Second Year for Enhanced Fitness Programming).
7. \$3,000 LifePath (Title III) (Second Year for Chair Yoga).
8. \$896 LifePath (Church Street Home Fund - Second Year for Bird Programming).
9. \$706 LifePath (Church Street Home Fund - Second Year for Memoir Programming).

The above grants total \$154,040.01.

In addition to the above funds, the Cultural Councils from Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately provided funding in support of various activities, including dance programming and musical performances by a variety of local artists.

There are several areas of priority moving into 2024. They include continuing to expand and build new community partnerships; expand and create programs to attract current and new members; advocate for a permanent location; and create a 5-year plan for the South County Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M Remillard, MBA
Director, South County Senior Center

TILTON LIBRARY

Tilton Library – Deerfield’s Public Library

The Tilton aims to enrich our community through opportunities for learning, sharing, growth, and fun.

Tilton Library Board of Trustees

Appointed: Nancy Maynard, Elizabeth Schmitt, Cynthia Von Flatern (Secretary), Satu Zoller (Chair)

Elected: James Cambias, Kathleen O’Rourke, Marjorie Shearer (Vice Chair)

2023 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT, serving our community while designing our future facility.



BUILDING PROJECT: To continue to instruct, inspire, and innovate, the library is expanding so it can provide the appropriate amount of space, technology, energy efficiency, and flexibility for the future. In January, the Town of Deerfield signed a contract with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) to accept the first of five payments of the grant and move forward with the project. The Building Committee was developed by the Trustees and appointed by

the Selectboard. This Committee – made up of members of various town boards and Deerfield residents – is working with the architect and project manager to make design decisions and keep construction schedule and costs in line. A revised schematic design was approved, followed by detailed construction drawings for construction bids. To help the library continue to operate during construction, the town – with the help of Eaglebrook School – started renovation on the former Congregational Church which will become the library’s temporary home until construction on the library building is complete.

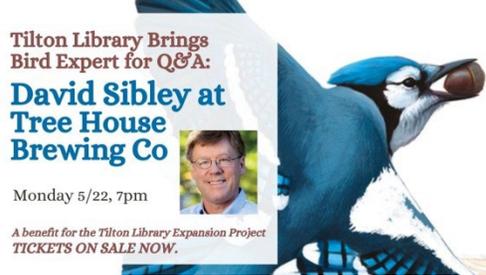


PROGRAMS: In 2023 most programs returned to in-person, including: two monthly book groups; weekly story times and parent-and-tot-meet-and talk for young children, bi-weekly visits with J-Lo the therapy dog for after school elementary school kids; a teen crafts lounge, teen sewing class and game night for teens; several crafts programs for adults, fly fishing lessons, Music on a Monday series, Halloween Party, mindfulness meditation series, sound bathing workshop, and more. A few programs were held via

Zoom, such as the healthy cooking classes, a writing class, and music classes for young children. Our drop-in crafts tables in the children’s room and upstairs in the teen/adult area were very popular. The new monthly spice club takeaway kit has been a big hit. Both the teen and children’s librarians did outreach at the local public schools. The NEW and most popular addition to our library programs is Mango the Bearded Dragon! Attendance and excitement in the children’s room went up significantly. The library is well versed in offering diverse programs, whether it be virtual, outdoors, indoors after hours, or via take and make kits, sponsored by grants from **Deerfield Cultural Council** and support of **The Friends of Tilton Library**.



Collection and Services: Quite a few items were added to the library’s popular Library of Things collection, supporting the “sharing economy” and the Town of Deerfield’s sustainability efforts, as patrons sharing items means less waste. Items include snowshoes, Nintendo Switch, sewing machine, mobile hotspots, and an induction cooktop. We continued the Homebound Delivery Service of library items to Deerfield residents of any age who are unable to visit the library due to illness, disability, or other mobility issues.



The Tilton Board of Trustees and the Tilton Fund, Inc. worked closely with the director and capital fundraising committee toward the Tilton Fund’s capital goal of \$2M, to offset the cost of the library expansion project to the town. Fundraising events were held at local venues including a talk with local bird

expert David Sibley at Tree House Brewing and a cooking demo with local award-winning chef Sandy D’Amato at Quonquont Farm. The Fund secured several new gifts and pledges from community members, organizations, and businesses toward the campaign.

The Trustees also reviewed and updated policies, monitored the library budget, and advocated for the library in multiple settings.

Thank You! Generous donations from our community were made to Tilton Fund’s Annual Appeal (which supports the annual purchases of library collection items) and Building Project Capital Campaign. Contributions to the library and the capital campaign in 2023 include those made by the South Deerfield Women’s Club, Greenfield Savings Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Bement School, The Peddar/Kittredge Family Fund, Barker Family Charitable Fund, the Oakes Family Charitable Fund, and the Elizabeth and Frank Odell Family Fund. Proceeds from fundraising sponsored by **Tilton Fund, Inc.** and **Friends of Tilton Library** helped pay for building project consultants, library programs, equipment and furniture purchases, the collection, and membership fees for library staff.

Tilton Library’s regular hours are Monday 11-4; Tuesday 1-7; Wednesday 11-4; Thursday 1-7; and Saturday 11-4.

Visit us on our website www.tiltonlibrary.org to reserve books, DVDs, audiobooks, and to borrow from our shared digital collections through Overdrive, Libby, Kanopy Films, Consumer Reports, Creativebug, and the Boston Public Library eCard. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube.

Respectfully submitted, Candace Bradbury-Carlin, Library Director

REGIONAL PARTNERS

FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



FRANKLIN COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

42 Canal Road • Turners Falls, MA 01376
Telephone: (413) 863-9781 • Facsimile: (413) 863-9289

Select Board
Deerfield Town Hall
8 Conway Street
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Dear Select Board,

I am writing to provide you with an annual report on activity in Deerfield’s Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund (HRRLF) account during the period **January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023**.

The terms of HRA’s agreement with the Town of Deerfield establish the process for handling proceeds repaid from Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation loans.

The following chart provides a summary of **THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY** during this period:

A	Beginning Balance of funds in account as of December 31, 2022	\$61,260.09
B	Deposits – loan repayment and interest	\$.00
C	Withdrawals – loan funds expended	\$.00
	If applicable, funds returned to Town	\$.00
D	Withdrawals – fees paid (24%, 2% HRA, 2% DHCD)	\$.00
E	Ending Balance of funds in account as of December 31, 2023	\$61,260.09

This next chart provides information on **THE PROJECTS** completed or in progress during this period:

F	Number of new loans closed from the HRRLF (1/1/23 – 12/31/23)	0
G	Total amount of new loan funds committed	\$.00
H	Loan funds committed after 12/31/23	0

HRA administers the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund for the town on a fee-for-service basis. HRA charges two types of fees: a program administration fee at the time that loans are initiated, and a loan servicing fee deducted at the time that loans are repaid. The fee structure, per the signed contract dated 9/12/2012, provides for a 24% program administration fee and a 2% loan servicing fee. The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development also requires the town to pay a 2% fee on funds deposited and retained in the revolving loan fund during the preceding calendar year. The following chart provides a summary of fees paid between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

I	HRA program administration fees (24% of funds loaned)	\$.00
K	HRA loan servicing fees (2% for subordinations, re-financing, discharges)	\$.00
L	DHCD program fees (2% for fees received during the period)	\$.00
M	Total fees	\$.00

As of December 31, 2023, the balance of all outstanding housing rehabilitation mortgages in the Town of Deerfield was \$466,888.11 and there is/are WAITLIST of 2 household(s) in Town for loans.

HRA appreciates the opportunity to assist income-qualified residents of Deerfield requesting emergency assistance through the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund program. If you know of any residents who could benefit from this program, please refer them to us.

Regards,

Sharon L. Pleasant
Community Development Program Manager

Kayce Warren, Town Administrator

Patricia Kroll, Administrative Assistant

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, training, and outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2023 shows that it was almost identical to 2022 recycling tonnage. District residents recycled just over 2,500 tons of paper and containers through their town programs. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold, primarily to domestic companies, to be recycled.

We held a May and October Clean Sweep bulky waste collection in 2023. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Northfield highway garage, and Whately transfer station. Combined, the events served 500 households and collected over 45 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2023 at Greenfield Community College and Orange transfer station. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 360 households participated in this event. Residents have access every year to other hazardous waste collection events in the Pioneer Valley.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$107,100 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 117 Main St. in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*
Terry Narkewicz, Shelburne - *Vice-Chair*

Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Chair*
M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield - *Treasurer*



Franklin Regional Council of Governments Services to Deerfield in 2023

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, the Cooperative Public Health District, Cooperative Building, Plumbing, and Electrical Inspection, and Town Accounting – are available to any municipality. The Community Health Department gathers data and works to improve the factors that impact health in the region; the Planning Department assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and local officials.

The following pages list services specific to Deerfield.

Climate Resilience, Land Use and Housing

- Reviewed and updated the zoning bylaws.
- Assisted the Deerfield Planning Board with zoning bylaws as they pertain to electric vehicle requirements.
- In collaboration with the Deerfield Conservation Commission and the Franklin Conservation District and as part of watershed-based planning work, Bloody Brook watershed planned outreach materials.
- Worked with town staff to plan a pollinator habitat workshop for residents that will inform a Deerfield Town Pollinator Action Plan, to be completed summer, 2024, as part of a Regional Pollinator Acton Plan.
- Assisted the energy committee and town administrator with completing the FY23 MA Green Communities annual report.
- Organized and facilitated the Small Town Housing Working Group, which met 6 times in 2023. Several Deerfield representatives attended at least one meeting, along with reps from 15 other Franklin County towns, 3 other municipalities, and several organizations.
- Prepared a memo summarizing known short-term rental numbers in Franklin County, revenues for towns that have opted into the lodging tax, and existing bylaws across the state related to short-term rentals. Towns can use that info to develop policies and bylaws, if desired.
- As part of a 6-town Complete Neighborhoods “Greenfield Area” grant project, worked on a zoning analysis of the area, to draft recommendations for increasing housing diversity.

Community Health

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Frontier Regional School District (FRSD) administrators on results from 223 Frontier students, representing 76% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Worked with FRSD administration and staff to implement Restorative Practices school climate improvements.
- Provided resources and direct technical assistance to students' groups for advancing racial justice in school districts/schools to the school district.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Worked with town officials to recruit residents to fill out the Massachusetts Community Health Survey, to better understand local needs and encourage state investment in improving health outcomes.
- Supported the South County Senior Center and community members on Mass in Motion age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. Mass in Motion funded additional staff time for the South County Senior Center Director and Outreach Coordinator to hold focus groups on issues of transportation and food security; to fund a senior center postcard marketing effort aimed at residents over 55 and resulting in 48 new members; and to hold info/input sessions with the Franklin County and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authorities. Senior center staff leveraged this planning to apply for and receive digital literacy and transportation grants.

Economic Development

- Met with the new Deerfield Planning & Economic Development Coordinator to review FRCOG services and provide information.
- Provided past Brownfield assessment document to property owner.

Shared Municipal Services

- Deerfield contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment; heating and vehicle fuel; elevator maintenance; and school district fire extinguisher services. Staff assisted the town with bids for an HVAC system at the police station, and drafts for a sidewalk project and a Senior Center feasibility study. Staff also conducted a Collective 5- year bid for Student Transportation encompassing 9 Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School.
- FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational meetings for members of town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables and training sessions that Deerfield public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Emergency Prep & Homeland Security

Advanced Medical Life Support — 1
Child Emergency Assessment & Stabilization — 1
K-9 Life Support Certification — 8
Assault and Battery Response — 7

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

One-Stop Municipal Grants Info Session — 3

Planning, Conservation, & Development

Environmental Protection Grant Info Session — 1

Short Term Residential Rentals — 1

Public Health & Community Awareness

Age and Dementia-Friendly Community Talk — 1
Beaver Trapping Permitting — 1
Food Safety — 1
Food Truck Permitting — 1
NARCAN Trainer Certification — 1
Opioid Overdose Response — 1
Plumbing and the Food Code — 1
USDA Rural Development Grant Info— 1

Transportation

- Met with the South County Senior Center about public transit needs and issues.
- Continued coordinating marketing campaign for the Valley Flyer to support passenger train operation in the region.
- Advised the town on revising and implementing a MA Shared Streets and Spaces project to improve two pedestrian crossings on North Main Street.
- Administered a MassTrails grant for trail improvements and information kiosks on the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.
- Facilitated the design of kiosk panels at trailheads.
- Engaged in contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Completed the summary report for the Deerfield Electric Vehicle Station Survey.
- Conducted truck survey and reporting at the Industrial Boulevard in Deerfield for truck drivers.

FRANKLIN REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

101 MUNSON STREET, SUITE 108
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01301-9675

Annual Report for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2022

To the reader:

The Franklin Regional Retirement System is a government agency that serves the 682 retirees, 52 beneficiaries, 1,063 active employees, and 685 inactive members of the towns and agencies in Franklin County. We are organized under Chapter 34b, and subject to the provisions of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. We receive oversight on the state level from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC). We contract with an independent auditor to do a full audit of our system each year. We also contract with an actuary to perform a complete actuarial valuation every two years. PERAC audits our operations and financial records every three years.

The retirement benefit we provide replaces participation in the Social Security system and is described as a “defined benefit”, which means that we pay monthly retirement benefits based on the age, salary, and number of years worked at the time a member of our system retires. To be a member, an employee in one of our government units must be working in a permanent position scheduled at 20 hours or more per week and earning \$5,000 or greater annually. Funding of these benefits begins with deductions from the member, and combined with matching funds from the employing unit, are invested in a mix of stocks, bonds, and indexed funds. Investment earnings are a large part of the funding of retirement benefits, and the allocation of those funds are spread to a variety of sectors to take advantage of positive activity as it occurs in each sector. Please make note of our investment performance percentages in the chart on the next page.

Up until 1988, we were a “pay-as-you-go” system. In 1988 it was legislated that we begin saving to become “fully funded” over the ensuing 40 years. Fully funded means we have enough in reserves to pay for all the current and future potential benefits of our present membership. At the end of 2022, we are 78.4% funded at 34 years (85%) into the 40-year mandate.

Our fiscal year is the calendar year; therefore our annual report is not filed until May of the subsequent year, and as a consequence the information provided herein will be a year old by the time you read this. Current reports and information can be found on our website: www.FRRSMA.com.

What follows is a synopsis of our annual report, as filed with our state oversight commission, PERAC. The full PERAC report can be read on the “Finances” page of our website.

	CY 2022	CY 2021	CY 2020
Balances			
Cash	1,446,341	1,428,506	1,492,254
Investments	178,624,410	207,207,180	174,179,165
Receivables	91,548	97,899	101,506
Payables	2,858,413	2,581,944	2,209,591
Annuity Savings (members)	35,595,132	33,909,443	32,662,132
Retirement Reserves	140,262,413	170,813,691	140,901,202
Revenues			
Member's contributions	4,772,807	4,423,787	3,955,793
Towns, Schools, Agencies	8,126,405	7,684,673	7,268,256
Retirement Cost Sharing	717,106	546,491	565,436
Miscellaneous Revenue	5,102	21,318	11,867
Investment Income (net)	(24,772,785)	35,121,918	20,436,491
Expenses			
Retirement Benefits	13,254,653.81	12,576,161	12,010,238
Operating Expenses	600,163	605,897	590,757
Investment Expenses	1,026,228	1,056,568	820,937
Retirement Cost Sharing	2,230,307	1,808,102	1,956,450
Refunds to Members	602,871	591,658	409,606
Investment Performance			
Target	7.75%	7.75%	7.75%
Since 1984	8.28%	8.89%	8.59%
10 years	8.45%	11.26%	9.31%
5 years	6.36%	12.32%	10.14%
Current Year	-12.16%	20.40%	12.65%
Demographics			
	1/1/2022	1/1/2022	1/1/2020
Members' Average Age	48.00	48.00	47.50
Members' Average Service	9.50	9.50	9.20
Members' Average Salary	41,628.00	41,628.00	37,982.00
Retirees' Average Age	72.90	72.90	72.80
Retirees' Average Pension	18,949.00	18,949.00	17,171.00
Disabled Members' Average Age	60.60	60.60	60.30
Disabled Members' Average Pension	28,793.00	28,793.00	29,998.00

Kristine Mathis
 Executive Director
 Franklin Regional Retirement System



FCAT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TOWN OF DEERFIELD

Submitted by Jonathan A. Boschen

2023 was a productive and exciting year for Frontier Community Access Television. Along with its usual duties, the station was involved with documenting Deerfield's 350th celebration and focused on turning the station and studio into a community space.

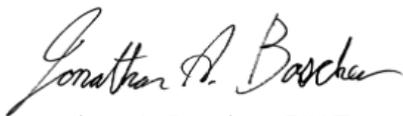
The usual duties of FCAT for the town of Deerfield consisted of covering Deerfield Selectboard meetings, recording Deerfield's Annual and Special Town meetings, archiving the town's government meetings on FCAT's YouTube page, and recording Frontier Regional School events. Along with this, FCAT also managed three cable channels consisting of channel 12, (Deerfield) 15 and channel 23 that all featured local programming and several community bulletin board postings. The coverage of the Selectboard meetings consisted of running a camera for the town's Zoom meetings. The Zoom meetings were recorded by the town of Deerfield and then sent to FCAT, who produced and broadcasted them on the FCAT cable channels and archived them onto the station's YouTube channel. In addition, the station broadcasted and archived zoom meeting recordings of Deerfield's Planning Board, Finance Committee, CIPC, ZBA, and 350th Committee. Coverage of Deerfield's 2023 Annual Town Meeting and the Special Town Meeting held during the Autumn, were both covered and live streamed to FCAT's YouTube channel and to the cable channels.

The coverage of school functions for 2023 was overseen by Youth Outreach Coordinator Kevin Murphy, and consisted of sporting events, concerts, and graduation exercises. Coverage of these events utilized at least one Frontier student, thus giving students hands-on experience working on a video set. Kevin also offered several educational programs to Frontier Students consisting of "Crowdsource Cinema" and a three evening workshop series that covered video production and video editing. The Crowdsource Cinema project (which is hosted by Northampton Open Media) is a workshop in which Frontier Students recreate a scene from a popular narrative movie. This project gives students experience working on a narrative video set and introduces them into what is involved in producing a feature film.

This 2023 year, FCAT was also involved in documenting Deerfield's 350th anniversary. Events consisted of numerous historical lectures, the Deerfield 350th parade, a fireworks display, chicken barbecue, a special 350th softball game against the town of Northfield, dances, performances, and open houses. The most frequent events that occurred throughout the year were the 350th lectures, and these were documented by FCAT Production Assistant Marie Thomas. The 350th events that FCAT devoted the greatest number of resources into covering consisted of the parade and the softball game. Both events were live streamed to the web, and it is worth noting that both streams were critical to Deerfield's celebration. As the Softball game took place in Northfield, and the parade took place on an extremely rainy day, FCAT's live coverage allowed Deerfield residents to watch these historical events in the comfort of their own home.

Other focuses in 2023 consisted of working to upgrade FCAT's studio and station. The studio now has two different sets which can be used for recording talk shows and has the capability of hosting podcasts. The Community/Editing Room has also been extensively upgraded to where FCAT can now hold editing and video production classes, which will help grow FCAT's volunteer base in 2024.

Overall, 2023 was a productive year, and this coming year will be an even more exciting year for FCAT. Along with covering events and using our three channels to serve Deerfield, and our other three communities, FCAT will be focused on recruiting more volunteers and media producers. This important goal will allow FCAT to grow as an important utility in our community.



Jonathan A. Boschen FCAT
General Manager



MISCELLANEOUS

DEERFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

John P. Paciorek, Sr.	Chairman
Robert J. Decker III	Assistant Vice Chairman
Richard C. Andriole.....	Treasurer
Ralph E. Healy.....	Secretary
Chris Harris.....	Member
Frank Moro.....	Member
“Open” position	Member

The focus of activities for the DEDIC Board in 2023 was: continued scheduled maintenance and repairs to the infrastructure systems within the Deerfield Industrial Park.

In 2015, the DEDIC Board updated the original 1977 Economic Development Plan when DEDIC was formed to create the Park. The updated 2015 Economic Development Plan is forward thinking and ultimately resulted in Massachusetts House Bill #4596 being passed and signed by Governor Baker in January 2017 granting DEDIC commercial development authority. However, no further commercial development occurred since this park is presently filled with industrial entities.

While DEDIC’s granted authorities as an Economic Development Industrial Corporation are designated to the operations and management of the park, the DEDIC Board has offered to engage in working with the governing Boards and Committees on numerous occasions over the years. The purpose being to share resources, experience, and expertise of DEDIC Board members on commercial construction and business development. The Board remains optimistic this extended offer will one day be accepted to benefit the Town.

The Town of Deerfield received in 2023 approximately \$370,000 in taxes and fees.

DEIDC 2023 Projects:

- Installed highly visible boundary markers to replace older damaged markers to clarify park and swale boundaries.
- Overgrown trees and brush were removed from the drainage swales.
- Increased swale/brush trimming to three times per year to improve control of the overgrowth.

DEDIC thanks the governing Boards and Committees that the Board was engaged with during the year. Also, special thanks to Kayce Warren and Chris Nolan, Town Administrators serving in 2023, Kevin Scarborough, Superintendent of Public Works Operations and Robert Walden, Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer, who all provided their assistance to the DEDIC Board during the year.

Most importantly, the DEDIC Board expresses continued appreciation to the property owners / business operators within the Deerfield Industrial Park for their continued contributions towards town and economic development and their support and cooperation with the DEDIC Board.

Sincerely Yours,

John P. Paciorek, Sr.
DEDIC Chairman

FRED WELLS TRUSTEES

This trust fund was established under the Will of Fred W. Wells. Mr. Wells, a former resident of Greenfield, directed that a portion of income from the fund be used for awarding scholarships in agricultural, mechanical, or professional fields. Funds available for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 were \$263,772.69 (inclusive of unused scholarship money from previous years that was reallocated to be granted this year).

EDUCATION

The Trustees received 190 applications and approved 186 of those received. Trustees were awarded a total of **\$203,997.00**. This amount includes two \$1,000.00 scholarships in honor of Ralph and Hilda Haskins. The Trustees worked diligently throughout the year to provide all eligible applicants an award to assist in their education.

HEALTH

Eight applicants were provided grants totaling \$39,566.00.

Bernardston Senior Center	\$ 1,000.00
Charlemont Council on Aging	\$ 1,000.00
Conway Council on Aging	\$ 1,000.00
Life Path, Inc.	\$15,250.00
Northfield Senior Center	\$ 1,000.00
South County Senior Center	\$ 1,000.00
The Care Collaborative	\$15,250.00
The Senior Center – West County Consortium	\$ 2,066.00
Total Health Grants awarded were \$39,566.00.	

OLIVER SMITH WILL

January 10, 2024

To the Residents of the Town of Deerfield

RE: SMITH CHARITIES' 2023 BENEFICIARY DISTRIBUTIONS

Below please find a breakdown of the following applicants who were paid monetary gifts as beneficiaries under the Oliver Smith Will between January 1, 2023 through the December 31, 2023 Year End:

Gift Distribution(s)		
<u>Recipient(s)</u>	<u>Beneficiary(ies)</u>	<u>Total Gift Amount</u>
0	Brides	\$ 0.00
0	Nurses	\$ 0.00
0	Tradespersons	\$ 0.00
<u>1</u>	Widow	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
1		\$ 600.00

In addition, a second page will be e-mailed to you at the beginning of February 2024 that will present the total beneficiaries' gifts paid during Smith Charities' Fiscal Year, which runs from February 1, 2023 through our Year End of January 31, 2024. This will include the totals for all nine (9) cities and towns, as well as the cumulative total paid out since our charities' inception.

Carla M. Kone, Treasurer
Leslie Dwight, Current Elector
Under the Oliver Smith Will

OLIVER SMITH WILL

***\$22,757 TOTAL BENEFICIARY GIFTS FYE 1/31/2024**

**176th Annual Report of Trustees
The Trustees of The Smith Charities**

During the past fiscal year, February 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024, the following beneficiary activity has occurred within the nine (9) designated communities of Amherst, Deerfield, Easthampton, Greenfield, Hadley, Hatfield, Northampton, Whately, and Williamsburg:

4 Brides' Gifts

- Three (3) new brides each received a \$200 marriage gift.
- One (1) bride received a \$100 gift from the prior year.

Cross Total

\$ 700

2 Nurses' Gifts

- Four (4) new student nurses were enrolled.
- Two (2) nurses graduated this year, each received a \$1,200 gift.

\$ 2,400

2 Tradespersons' Gifts

- Eight (8) new tradespersons were enrolled.
- Two (2) tradespersons each received a \$1,200 apprentice gift.

\$ 2,400

14 Widows' Gifts

- Two (2) new widows became eligible, (included in below count).
- Fourteen (14) widows, who renewed, were paid annual gifts of \$600 for first child under 18 years old, and \$200 for each additional child under 18 years.

\$ 10,266

#22 Total Beneficiary Gift Recipients

\$ 15,766 Individual Beneficiary Total

Total Sum - The total sum disbursed as gifts to beneficiaries, was *\$22,757, which includes the *\$6,991 that will be paid to the City of Northampton, after our monthly Trustees meeting on February 26, 2024, for the account of Smith's Agricultural School, being the net income from the permanent fund established for the school.

Total Sum Breakdown

\$ 15,766 Individual Beneficiary Total

\$ 6,991 City of Northampton 2024

***\$ 22,757 BENEFICIARY GIFTS TOTAL**

Beneficiaries from the nine (9) communities have been paid the following since the provision of the Will went into effect:

\$1,499,200 Bride's Gift (originally designated in the Will as Indigent Young Women)
\$ 818,933 Nurse's Gift (originally designated in the Will as Indigent Female Children)
\$2,931,900 Tradesperson's Gift (originally designated in the Will as Indigent Boys)
\$1,855,745 Widow's Gift
\$1,580,331 Smith's Agricultural School Yearly Distribution
\$ 5,000 Cash Donation to Smith's Agricultural School for 2022 fire damage
\$ 35,374 Annuities
\$ 613,717 Taxes
\$9,340,200 Grand Total Amount Paid to Date

Current Trustees

David A. Murphy, Carol Gray,
Lydia Szych

*Special Note: All figures above have been rounded to the nearest dollar. The exact amount to be paid to the City of Northampton for the benefit of Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School is \$6,990.78.



Department of Veteran Services
294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401
www.greenfield-ma.gov

Christopher Demars, Director
Laura Thorne, Assistant
Joshua Anderson, Deputy Director
Brian Brooks, VSO

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT
Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district

Member Towns

- Ashfield
- Bernardston
- Buckland
- Charlemont
- Colrain
- Conway
- Deerfield
- Erving
- Gill
- Greenfield
- Hawley
- Heath
- Leverett
- Leyden
- Monroe
- Montague
- New Salem
- Northfield
- Plainfield
- Rowe
- Shelburne
- Shutesbury
- Sunderland
- Warwick
- Wendell
- Whately

District Annual Report CY22

Mission Statement: To advocate for veterans, their spouses, dependants, widows or widowers for Veterans' Benefits on the Local, State and Federal levels

Office has maintained continued outreach operations across the district. We have dramatically increased the amount of VA claims we have been completing due to increased VA Presumptive diseases for numerous eras of service:

- District now brings in \$1,850,500.00 in Federal and State money **per month** from all sources (VA, State Reimbursements, State Annuities and sales).
- Tim Niejadlik retired in October of 2022, with Chris Demars taking over as Director.
- VSA Laura Thorne has maintained her SHINE certification and is helping veterans and their dependents, taking some of the load off the Senior Centers. Brian Brooks, Veteran Service Officer, was named the Massachusetts Marine Corps League Commandant, representing Marine Veterans across Massachusetts for the second year in a row.
- Office participated in numerous protests against potential VA closures, this seems to have helped along with our local elected officials in keeping VA Leeds open for now.
- We project a slight increase for Fiscal Year 24 budget while continuing to expand services in 2023

Christopher Demars, Director
Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

Explanation of “History Flows Like a River”, a ceramic mural presented to the Town of Deerfield by Judith Inglese, the artist, at an unveiling at the Deerfield Town Office on December 30, 2023 in commemoration of Deerfield’s 350th Anniversary

I knew that Deerfield would do a whole series of wonderful events for their 350th celebration. I thought it would be nice to do something permanent, something that would commemorate this year, but also be there for future generations. I think a work of public art is a way of commemorating an experience and a time. It is a way of enlivening this space and personalizing it, telling your story, reflecting the imagination of the community and the hopes of the community.

I also feel very strongly that art should be part of rural America, not just the big banks in urban centers or the big sculpture in the middle of a park. It should be part of everyone's community. So, if we walk down a street, we will have a surprise of some little wonderful thing that somebody did that will change our day, surprise us, and make a total difference to our daily existence.

I proposed the idea of doing such a ceramic mural to the town. I was fortunate to have everybody respond nicely to the idea, and for the support of the Select Board, the 350th Steering Committee, the Friends of Deerfield, and the Deerfield Cultural Council, which was incredible. Peter Thomas familiarized me with the history of Deerfield, which I knew little about. It was not only the history of the beautiful buildings of old Deerfield. It was the history of the land, and a history of all these amazing settlers that came into this land.

I call the mural *History Flows Like a River*. For me, it's my shout out to the Connecticut River. I started at the bottom of the mural with a very large caribou, because I wanted to show the importance of this period before there were any settlers whatsoever. It was a glacial period which lasted some 2000 years. This was to me amazing - a long time. Eventually, Indigenous people came into the area. They fished, they hunted, they foraged, they tracked, they developed the three sisters -- the farming technique of combining squash, maize, and beans together, which is a technique used throughout the Americas by Indigenous people.

Eventually, by roughly 1660, the first settlers came into the area, built houses, and built fences. So of course, I thought, “Oh, build fences. You keep your cattle inside the fence.” That was my first drawing, only to be told “No”, that's not what happened. Cattle were grazing outside the fence, which I thought was just fascinating. So, they were just loose with wildlife, with the foxes, with the deer, and with the bear, which caused a little problem with the Indigenous people who were hunting all these animals outside.

The other thing I learned was that Deerfield had slavery -- not all the families, but some of the families starting about 1694 to about the 1780s. They worked in the houses, they worked in the fields, they worked in shops, and they were lent out to other families.

The other big period was the middle of the 19th century with the expansion of the railroad, which enabled Eastern Europeans to come into this area. They came from the Ukraine. They came from Lithuania. They came from Poland. They came from other Eastern European countries, and they came south from French Canada. This area became a vibrant melting pot of different immigrant people. They started as field laborers but then became very influential in the community as farmers and entrepreneurs.

Finally, at the very top, you will see there are four children -- diverse. For me they represent the vitality and the diversity of the future of Deerfield.

What I have depicted is not a timeline of events or battles, of specific things. It is really a collage of changing human experiences that people have had in Deerfield. This history is like a river – a river that bends to the contours of the land, but also forms the contours of the land. The changing flow of the river conditions the events and the people of the time. That is what the mural is all about.

Transcribed: 1-28-2024 by Peter Thomas.



The 2023 Annual Town Report

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Patricia Kroll

Proofreaders:

Peter Thomas
Cassie Sanderell

