



SERVICES TO DEERFIELD IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Assisted the Deerfield Planning Board with zoning bylaws as they pertain to electric vehicle requirements.
- Worked with town staff to plan a pollinator habitat workshop that will inform a Deerfield Town Pollinator Action Plan.
- Assisted the energy committee and town administrator with completing the FY23 MA Green Communities annual report.
- Prepared a memo summarizing known short-term rental numbers in Franklin County, revenues for towns that have opted in to 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.
- 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 five-year bid for Student Transportation encompassing nine 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 Preparedness and 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.