

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

Motions for Annual Town Meeting May 9, 2011 & the June 25, 2011 Continuation

To any of the Constables of the Town of Gill in the County of Franklin,

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Gill Town Hall in said Town on Monday, the Ninth day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Eleven (5/9/2011) at 7:00 p.m. in the evening then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: Move to hear and act upon the 2009 Annual Report of the Officers of the Town.

This is Annual Report makes the transition from a calendar year report to a fiscal year report, and covers January to June 2009. The Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2010 is in progress, and will be printed later this year.

Article 2: Move to elect Edward J. Golembeski and Clifford C. Hatch as Field Drivers and elect the Selectboard as Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber - all for one year.

Article 3: Move the Town accept and expend any sum of money that might be made available from State or Federal funds for roadwork for the Fiscal Year 2012 and for the Chapter 90 type funds, authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Highway Department, and authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement.

Chapter 90 funds are given annually by the State to the Town, and are used for our road maintenance program – activities such as repaving asphalt roads or applying new oil & stone. The Town will receive \$152,763 for FY2012, which is up \$34,729 (29%) from FY2011.

Article 4: Move the Town vote to authorize the following revolving funds per the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E 1/2, for which revenues will be deposited into the funds and expended to pay related costs under the authorization of the Selectboard, and total expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will be limited to the amounts listed below, with all money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year:

Table with 4 columns: Dept. Authorized to Spend, Types of Receipts Credited, Program/Purpose for which Funds may be Expended, Amount of Funds Authorized. Rows include Fire Dept., Town Clerk, Cemetery Commission, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, and Energy Commission.

These are the same revolving funds approved last year, with addition of a revolving fund for the Energy Commission. A revolving fund allows program fees to be used within the fiscal year for the purposes listed by the "department" that collects the fees.

Article 5: Move the Town vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Riverside Municipal Building Use Study Committee.

This Committee was established at the recommendation of the 2009 Annual Town Meeting, following a discussion and unanimous vote to not declare the Riverside Municipal Building as surplus property. The Committee wishes to report to the Town on its doings.

Article 6: Move the Town vote to amend that paragraph of the Town’s Dog Control bylaw that references late fees, to read that “An additional late fee of \$10.00 shall be assessed for every dog whose owner fails to properly license his dog by April 1 of any year.” *(Simple majority required)*

Currently the bylaw reads June 1st which causes some confusion due to the license stating an expiration date of March 31st. In order to have this expiration date hold any significant meaning, a fine should apply the day after the expiration, not two months later. This article was requested by the Town Clerk.

Article 7: Move the Town vote to amend the first sentence of the second paragraph of the Town’s Agricultural Commission bylaw, to read “The Commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the Moderator, of which the majority of the membership shall be substantially engaged in the pursuit of agriculture.”, and further add to the fourth paragraph the sentence “The Moderator shall appoint additional members to initial terms of one, two, or three years and three thereafter, in such a way as no more than three members’ terms expire in any given year.” *(Simple majority required)*

Currently the Town has a five-member Ag Commission. The Commission has more people interested in being on it than there are seats, and feels that expanding the size would allow more involvement, get more done, and spread out duties.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following **Resolution to Seek Lower Electric Rates in a Competitive Market**, or take any action relative thereto:

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by enacting Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, has established a competitive marketplace through deregulation and restructuring of the electric utility industry; and

Whereas, the citizens of the Town of Gill in Franklin County have substantial economic, environmental, and social interests at stake; and

Whereas, Gill’s residential and business consumers are interested in reducing their electricity rates;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Town Meeting of Gill grant the Board of Selectmen authority to develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, for power supply and other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities through the Hampshire Council of Governments. If such contracts are to be approved, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate and to choose any alternative service they desire; and

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Selectmen will appoint a representative for a committee to oversee such joint action.

A separate handout is available that explains this article. Additionally, Marie Guerin, Electricity Director for the Hampshire Council of Governments, will be present to answer questions.

Move to continue the remainder of the Annual Town Meeting to June 25th at 9:00AM.

The Town has not yet finished its budget process for Fiscal Year 2012; therefore, the Selectboard and Finance Committee have not been able to finalize the Town’s budget for next year. The Selectboard recommends continuing Annual Town Meeting to Saturday, June 25th at 9:00AM, at which time the remaining articles will be presented.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

Motion: Move the Town vote to fix the salaries or compensation of the several officers of the Town as follows, plus any cost of living adjustment (COLA) that may be provided by the Town:

Constable(s) – Each Posting	\$17.57
Moderator – Annual Town Meeting	\$128.27
Special Town Meeting, Each	\$22.87
Selectboard Chair	\$2,431.79
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,210.78
Board of Assessors Chair	\$2,953.02
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$2,684.54
Board of Health Chair	\$1,311.69
2 nd & 3 rd Member, Each	\$1,201.20
Town Clerk	\$14,272.70
Tax Collector	\$19,446.12
Additional As Sewer Collector	\$610.81
Treasurer	\$16,344.58
Registrars – Three members, Each	\$54.54
Town Clerk	\$87.36

All amounts are level funded from Fiscal Year 2011. A COLA, if approved in Article 11, would be in addition to the amounts listed above.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Building Inspector Assessment Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the Fiscal Year 2012 assessment for the Cooperative Inspection Program, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to transfer money out of Stabilization.)

Motion: Move the Town vote to transfer Nine Thousand One Hundred Seventy One and 45/100 Dollars (\$9,171.45) from the Building Inspector Assessment Stabilization Fund and appropriate for a portion of the Fiscal Year 2012 assessment for the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program (FCCIP).

A 2/3 vote is required to transfer money out of a Stabilization Fund. The FCCIP provides building inspector services to Gill. The Town collects permit fees for the building permits as they are issued throughout the year. Our assessment for the FCCIP services, however, is based on permit activity during the prior 3 years. In the event of a very large building project with a very large permit fee (like an Arts Center at NMH), the Town will collect a large fee when the project starts, but will also see its FCCIP assessment rise in the 3 subsequent years.

This scenario happened in Fiscal Year 2008 (FCCIP assessment = \$41,494), and the extra permit fees were voted in to this stabilization fund. The Town survived the subsequent assessment increases in FY 09 (\$58,472), 10 (\$54,193), and 11 (\$58,860) without needing to use the entire stabilization fund. The FCCIP assessment for FY 12 (\$37,213) has returned to normal levels, and there is no projected future need for the money in this stabilization fund.

This article is recommended by the Finance Committee.

Article 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds any sum or sums of money to provide a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees and elected officials, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Three and 05/100 Dollars (\$6,283.05) to provide a 1.3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all Town employees and elected officials.

The Personnel Committee recommended a COLA of 1.3% to the Selectboard this spring. The Finance Committee voted 2 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Article 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Selectboard, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise by taxation One Million Two Hundred Ninety Seven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Nine and 17/100 Dollars (\$1,297,559.17) and transfer Sixty Seven Thousand Six Hundred and 09/100 Dollars (\$67,600.09) from Sewer Use Fees for a total appropriation of One Million Three Hundred Sixty Five One Hundred Fifty Nine and 26/100 Dollars (\$1,365,159.26) for the maintenance of the several departments of the Town, and for other necessary charges, in accordance with the amount recommended by the Selectboard.

Please see the separate handout (orange paper) for the Omnibus amounts. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 4 in favor, and 1 opposed.

Article 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from the Education Stabilization Fund, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for its Fiscal Year 2012 operating assessment and any sum or sums of money for its Fiscal Year 2012 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to transfer money out of stabilization.)

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation One Million Three Hundred Ninety Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Six and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,390,476.00) to provide \$1,369,741.00 for its Fiscal Year 2012 operating assessment and \$20,735.00 for its Fiscal Year 2012 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

Gill's share of the GMRSD's operating budget has increased by \$23,375 (1.74%) and the debt service decreased by \$5,137 (due to lower interest rates). Although the Town established an Education Stabilization fund last December, the Selectboard and Finance Committee believe the District's assessment is reasonable, and that the stabilization money should be saved for future years. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Article 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide any sum or sums of money for its Fiscal Year 2012 operating assessment and any sum or sums of money for its Fiscal Year 2012 debt service costs for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move to pass over Article 14.

Article 14 is redundant to Article 13.

Article 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to pay Veterans' Benefits, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Nine and 64/100 Dollars (\$3,359.64) to pay Fiscal Year 2012 Veterans' Benefits.

These benefits were previously administered and paid entirely by the state, but are now the responsibility of the Town. The state eventually will reimburse the Town for 75% of the benefits; however, the full amount must be appropriated by Town Meeting voters. In future years this will become a line in the Omnibus Budget.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money in addition to that provided in the Omnibus Budget to be used for the salaries of part-time police officers, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Six and 86/100 (\$14,356.86) in addition to that provided in the Omnibus Budget to be used for the salaries of part-time police officers.

This article will provide additional police coverage for the Town through the use of part-time officers. The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 2 opposed.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to hear and act upon a report presented by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

The Town voted to establish the CIPC at last year's annual town meeting. Their first report to the Town is available today as a handout. Articles 18 – 22 were requested by the CIPC.

Article 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase a police cruiser and associated equipment for the police department, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Twenty Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$28,000.00) to purchase a police cruiser and associated equipment for the police department.

The 2004 Ford Explorer has more than 80,000 miles on it, and is being recommended for replacement this year with a new Ford Taurus all-wheel-drive cruiser. The Explorer will be used by the highway department, but will also be available to the police and fire departments for emergencies and driving conditions that require 4-wheel-drive. The highway department's 1999 Chevy Blazer will be disposed of as surplus equipment. The police department has two other cruisers – a 2005 Crown Vic and a 2008 Crown Vic.

The Finance Committee recommends this article by a vote of 3 in favor and 2 opposed.

Amendment: Move to amend Article 18 to read “Move the Town vote to appropriate Twenty Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$28,000.00) to purchase a police cruiser and associated equipment for the police department, plus borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7.

The main article would purchase and pay for the cruiser this year, without borrowing. The amended article envisions a 3-year loan at 2% APR. The total interest over the 3 years would amount to \$1,120. If borrowing occurs, the first payment of \$9,894 would not be due until August 2012, and would be a Fiscal Year 2013 expense.

Article 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to fund the first year of a three year lease-to-own schedule for the purchase of a police cruiser and associated equipment for the police department, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said purchase and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Motion: Move to pass over Article 19.

At the time the warrant articles were written, it was still uncertain which cruiser option, purchase or lease-to-own, would be the best for the Town's finances. The lease-to-own scenario is not recommended due to a 6.5% interest rate.

Article 20: To see if the Town will vote to create a Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding any capital-related project, or pieces of capital equipment, or debt-service payment related thereto, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended, or take other action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to create a Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding any capital-related project, or pieces of capital equipment, or debt-service payment related thereto, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended.

This article would establish a new stabilization fund for the purposes listed within the motion. Like any stabilization fund, a 2/3 vote of town meeting is required to move money in or out of the fund. Once voted into this fund, the money can only be voted for use on capital projects or voted for transfer to the general Stabilization Fund. The Capital Stabilization Fund is viewed as one important tool for meeting the Town's ever-growing list of upcoming building repairs and equipment replacements. The CIPC, Selectboard, and Finance Committee all recommend this article.

Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to fund the Capital Stabilization Fund, this sum contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ Override as allowed under MGL c. 40 §5B. (A 2/3 vote is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

Motion Option 1: (Assuming Article 20 is defeated, OR Article 20 is approved and the Police Cruiser is purchased outright) Move to pass over Article 21.

Motion Option 2: (Assuming Article 20 is approved AND the Police Cruiser is purchased through borrowing OR Article 20 is approved AND the Police Cruiser is defeated) Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Twenty Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$28,000.00) to fund the Capital Stabilization Fund, this sum contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ Override as allowed under MGL c. 40 §5B.

Amendment: Move to amend Article 21 to read "Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Twenty Eight Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$28,000.00) to fund the Capital Stabilization Fund.

The motion for this article depends on A) the passage of Article 20, and B) the outcome of Article 18. A Proposition 2 ½ Override to fund this article is not anticipated or recommended at this time. A 2/3 majority vote is required to place money into a stabilization fund.

Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to purchase and install replacement interior doors and locksets for the Gill Elementary School, including borrowing costs that may be associated with said project and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Motion: Move to pass over Article 22.

The requested amount for this project is \$20,000. At the time the budget figures were finalized, the Selectboard and Finance Committee felt they lacked the proper information about the need and/or requirements for additional security measures at the elementary school, and therefore recommend voters pass over the article.

Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of money to improve the foundation drainage at the Slate Memorial Library, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move to pass over Article 23.

The Library Trustees, who requested this article, ask that it be passed over. While the library basement does have a moisture problem, the Trustees have decided to take a whole-building approach to understanding all of the maintenance and structural needs of the Library. Renaissance Builders has been hired to perform an assessment of the existing conditions, and to make prioritized recommendations for repairs, improvements, and renovations. This report is expected to be substantially complete by June 30, 2011, and its \$1,100 cost is being funded through the FY 2011 Building Maintenance & Repairs account.

Article 24: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from Sewer Use Fees to the Riverside Sewer System account to offset Fiscal Year 2012 sewer expenses and to pay the Tax Collector as related to collecting sewer fees, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move to pass over Article 24.

The motion for Article 12 (Omnibus) includes the \$67,600.09 transfer from Sewer Use Fees to fund the FY 2012 operating costs of the Riverside Sewer System. The Accountant asked that this article be combined with the Omnibus article in order to simplify reporting to the Mass. Dept. of Revenue.

Article 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds Four Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the First Light Appraisal Account to be used toward a portion of the cost of a future appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to transfer from the Released Overlay account Four Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the First Light Appraisal account to be used toward a portion of the cost of a future appraisal of the real and personal property in the Town of Gill owned by FirstLight Hydro Generating Company.

Every three years the Department of Revenue requires the Assessors to obtain a new appraisal of the value of the Gill portion of the Turners Falls Dam, as well as other property in Gill owned by FirstLight. This article adds to the account established last year for saving toward the next appraisal.

Article 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation or transfer from available funds Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00) for the Board of Assessors' Triennial Revaluation Account, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to transfer from the Released Overlay account Three Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000.00) for the Board of Assessors' Triennial Revaluation account.

Fiscal Year 2014 will be the next triennial recertification year for Gill, in which the Department of Revenue will review and certify property values town wide. Because of the added level of research and analysis, the Assessors incur extra costs during revaluation years. This article begins saving toward the next reval.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to pay Temporary Loan Interest for short-term borrowing relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto. (A simple majority is needed; voters have already authorized borrowing money for this purpose.)

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate by taxation Five Hundred Fifty Five and 50/100 Dollars (\$555.50) to pay Temporary Loan Interest for short-term borrowing relating to the energy project at the Gill Elementary School.

Ultimately, the costs of the energy project (boiler replacement, energy management system, lighting upgrades, and sealing around univent heaters) will be paid for from energy savings, and financed using a 15-year Qualified Energy Conservation Bond with an effective interest rate between 0.50 and 1.00%. In order to begin the project this summer, a 6-month short-term loan of \$110,000 was needed. This article provides the funds to pay the interest on the loan when it comes due in December.

Article 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money for the repair and/or replacement of the well and/or water system components at the Gill Elementary School, including borrowing for the repair and replacement and costs that may be associated with said project and authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, §7; all or some of which may be contingent upon a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion vote override, or take any other action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required for authorization to borrow.)

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate Seven Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$7,000.00) for the repair and/or replacement of the well and/or water system components at the Gill Elementary School.

Although it tests safe for consumption, the water at the elementary school does have odor and visible sediment. This article will fund a project to excavate the topmost well casing extension and inspect the casing weld, as well as open the well, raise the pump, and assess the conditions in the well. The well cap will be replaced with a lockable cap. The \$7,000 includes a contingency in the event that the 30+ year-old well pump is in need of replacement. It is hoped that this basic maintenance, along with a regular flushing of the water lines, will greatly reduce or eliminate the issues with water quality.

Article 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from taxation or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Stabilization Fund, or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 majority is required to place money into a stabilization fund.)

Motion: Move the Town vote to raise and appropriate from taxation Eleven Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$11,000.00) for the Stabilization Fund.

Depending on the outcomes of the other "money" articles, a higher or lower amount may be recommended to go into Stabilization. There is currently \$119,609 in the Stabilization Fund. A 2/3 majority vote is required to place money into Stabilization.

Article 30: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from unappropriated funds (Free Cash) to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2012, or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move the Town vote to transfer One Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Fourteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$147,814.00) from unappropriated funds (Free Cash), and further transfer Ten Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Seven and 67/100 (\$10,847.67) from Released Overlay, for a total of One Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Sixty One and 67/100 Dollars (\$158,661.67) to be used to reduce the tax rate and stabilize the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2012.

Depending on the outcomes of the other "money" articles, a higher or lower amount may be recommended to be used to reduce the FY 2012 tax rate.

Article 31: To see if the Town will vote to approve that, upon exceeding the levy limit, any monies appropriated that exceed the levy limit may be contingent upon the approval by the voters of an "Override of Proposition 2 1/2," or take any action relative thereto.

Motion: Move to pass over Article 31.

The motions that are presented in this handout will result in a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2012, and will not require a Proposition 2 1/2 Override.

Article 32: To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 2.F.5.d of the Town of Gill Zoning Bylaws by adding the following language to the existing paragraph: "Signs in excess of ten (10) feet in height but not more than twenty (20) feet in height may be allowed by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals as outlined in F.1 above." or take any action relative thereto. (A 2/3 vote is required to amend zoning bylaws.)

Motion: Move the Town vote to amend Section 2.F.5.d of the Town of Gill Zoning Bylaws by adding the following language to the existing paragraph: "Signs in excess of ten (10) feet in height but not more than twenty (20) feet in height may be allowed by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals as outlined in F.1 above."

This amendment was requested by the Zoning Board of Appeals in order to allow greater flexibility in working with Gill businesses on signage needs. Under the current zoning bylaws, signs in excess of 10 feet in height are allowed only by a variance, which is difficult to grant because of a very narrow set of conditions that must be met. The Planning Board held the required public hearing on the amendment on June 2, 2011, and subsequently voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend the adoption of the amendment to the Gill Zoning Bylaws. A 2/3 majority vote by Town Meeting is required to amend zoning bylaws.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

TOWN OF GILL

And, you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall, Main Road; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; The Gill Store & Tavern, Main Road; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, in said Town seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting, as foresaid.

Given under our hand this 27th day of April in the year Two Thousand Eleven (4/27/2011).

Selectboard of Gill

_____, Chair

_____, Board member

_____, Board member

A true copy Attest:

_____, Town Clerk

Date: _____

Individuals who may need auxiliary aids for effective communication for this meeting should call the Gill Town Hall at (413) 863-9347 or MA Relay System at (800) 439-2370.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Gill by posting up attested copies of the same at Town Hall, Main Rd.; Post Office, Mt. Hermon; Gill Store & Tavern, Main Rd.; and Riverside Municipal Building, Route 2, seven days before the date hereof, as within directed.

_____ Constable of Gill

Date: _____