



THE

Gill Newsletter

February 2009 Issue

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Town Hall News

Budget, Budget, Budget

On January 6, Gill residents voted on two Proposition 2 ½ Override questions. The first question, totaling \$35,013.33 for general operating expenses, passed. The second question, totaling \$13,631.00 for the Building Inspector Stabilization Fund, did not.

On January 12, voters attended a Special Town Meeting to make several adjustments to the current year's budget. Due to an accounting error discovered shortly after the Annual Town Meeting last May, and an increase in the Gill Montague Regional School District assessment, voters had very difficult decisions to make in order to balance the budget. Thanks to the successful passing of the general operating expense override, the diligent work of town officials, and the dedication of town meeting voters, we were able to maintain all town services at some level, including the library, senior center, recreation committee, etc.

On January 28, Governor Patrick made further cuts to the state budget because state revenues are not coming in as well as estimated. While local aid was spared in the cuts made last fall, it was not spared this time. Gill lost almost \$26,000 in aid from the state, after making it more than half-way through the year, leaving us only five months to absorb the cut. On February 9, all town departments and committees met with the Selectboard to strategize how to handle this cut. I was very impressed by the generosity of folks at that meeting to give a little here and there—from their already reduced budgets—to make ends meet. We managed to save the jobs of all town employees and keep all departments intact

through people's efforts to reduce spending and work creatively to save money. The remainder of this year and all of next year will be difficult to get through and you may see some of the services you've come to expect provided less frequently or not at all while we tighten our belts. I try to remain optimistic—what comes down must go up, right?

The tax rate has now been set at \$13.02 per \$1,000 of valuation. The Tax Collector anticipates sending out tax bills for the second half of Fiscal Year 2009 in March and payment will be due May 1. Any difference between the estimated first semi-annual payment you made October 1, 2008 and the total due for the year will be made up in the second semi-annual bill.

Volunteers Sought

The Town of Gill has openings on many committees and boards including the Agricultural Commission, Cable Access Committee, Council on Aging, Personnel Committee, Planning Board, Recreation Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. No experience is necessary. Meetings are generally held once a month. For more information, contact Tracy at 863-9347



Check in with the
Gill Website
www.gillmass.org
for up to date news,
announcements and
contact information!



Trench Safety Regulations

The Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety and the Department of Public Safety have passed regulations for excavation and trench safety. Effective March 1, cities and towns across the Commonwealth must administer permits for anyone planning to dig a trench. The trench safety law, called "Jackie's Law," is named for Jackie Moore, a 4 year-old who died after being buried in a freshly dug but unattended trench in Bridgewater in 1999. Full text of the regulations, click on the "Trench Safety Regulations" link on Gill's website at www.gillmass.org/events.php.

The Selectboard has appointed Gill's Highway Superintendent as the person responsible for issuing these new trench permits. Permits must be obtained prior to the excavation of a trench, with the exception of emergencies. In an emergency, a permit must be obtained as soon as the Town Garage is open during regular business hours (Mondays through Fridays 6:00 am until 2:00 PM). For more information, please contact the Highway Superintendent, Mitchell LaClaire, at 863-2324.

Trash Sticker Price Increase

Effective 1/1/09, trash stickers have increased to \$3 each. The reason for the increase was to try to keep up with the cost of trash disposal. Even at the new price, trash sticker fees only partially cover the cost of disposal, while town funds pay the remainder. Trash stickers themselves have not changed and you may continue to use any you already have. Stickers are available for purchase at Jan's Package Store, Upinngil Farm, and the Town Hall.

Seeking Pictures of Gill

It will soon be time to pull together the Annual Report for 2008. I'd appreciate any pictures folks have of Gill landscapes, residents, animals, gardens, etc. Please mail them to Tracy Rogers, Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road, or e-mail them to administrator@gillmass.org. Thank you!

Tracy Rogers, Administrative Assistant to the Selectboard

Gill Fire Department

2008 Run Summary

The Gill Fire Department answered 174 alarms during 2008. Medical emergencies, where Fire Department personnel provide first aid and basic life support until the arrival of an ambulance, accounted for 44% of the year's total runs. Automatic fire alarms at Mount Hermon and private residences made up 15% of the calls. Public assistance, like flooded basements and downed wires, made up almost 13% of calls.

Brush Fire	1
Building/Residence Fire	4
Chimney Fire	3
CO Alarm	1
Fire Alarm Sounding	26
Fire Prevention	9
Hazardous Materials Spill	1
Illegal Burning	1
Medical Emergency	76
Motor Vehicle Accident	13
Mutual Aid	12
Public Assistance	22
Smoke Investigation	4
Water Rescue	1

Brush Permit Season

Brush burning season runs from January 15 to May 1, 2009. Town residents who wish to burn brush, sticks, or fallen tree limbs may contact Shelburne Control at 625-8200 to obtain a permit. Fires must be at least 75' from buildings, contained, and attended. Residents may not burn trees, logs, stumps, leaves, trash, or demolition materials. Fires must begin before noon and be completely extinguished before 4 PM. Call the Fire Department at 863-8955 if you need information on brush fire permits.

Seeking New Members

A community's volunteer fire department is as good as the people who make it work. If you live in Gill and you are up to the challenge of serving as a firefighter, we are looking for you. The Gill Fire Department could always use a few more members, especially during weekdays. The Department provides the necessary equipment and training for new firefighters, who must be at least sixteen years of age. Preliminary training includes personal protective equipment, fire behavior, basic fire fighting skills, first aid, and CPR and defibrillation. More advanced training opportunities in pump operation, hazardous materials response, rope and water rescue, emergency medical technology, and other areas are available throughout the year. The Town of Gill is an equal-opportunity employer and its emergency services personnel are subject to criminal background (CORI) checks. The Gill Fire Department meets each Thursday evening at the fire station from 7:00 to 10:00. For more information, call the fire station at 863-8955.



Gill Senior Citizens

Are you sick and tired of the cold weather and watching too much TV. Come to the Montague Senior Center. Senior Aerobics, led by a certified instructor, are scheduled Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 10 to 10:45AM followed by Easy Aerobics on Monday & Friday where you can either exercise sitting or standing, whatever you prefer. Both are a lively group and welcome newcomers. Seniors from the early 60's through the 80's participate in these events at a cost of \$1 a session. Friendly games of canasta and pitch are played in the afternoons a couple days a week and "Coffee and Conversation" is held the second Thursday at 10AM. Coffee and donuts are provided by the center. Every month a representative from Applewood in Winchester, NH brings health information and a time for discussion is always held. Blood pressure and blood sugar screening by the Town Nurse usually take place once a month along with a foot clinic. There are special programs scheduled on other days that deal with senior issues, some serious and some just plain fun.

Chair yoga classes with Jean Erlbaum is returning on Tuesdays mornings 10:30 to 11:15AM beginning March 10th. There is a discounted price of \$2 for each class. People from all towns are invited and of all skill levels, including folks in wheelchairs. Pre-registration is not required. And, let's not forget Bingo on Wednesday afternoons 12:30 to 3:00PM following lunch.

A new painting class will begin on Mondays March 23rd for 6 weeks. The painting classes are usually held in the fall and the spring.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 23rd at 9AM to attend the Senior Health Fair at the Turners Falls Discovery Center. More information will follow.

FRIENDS OF GILL

CHILI COOK-OFF

The Friends of Gill will sponsor a chili cook-off on Saturday, February 28th, from 6 to 8 PM, in the Gill Congregational Church. Area residents are invited to come as members of the jury to use their taste buds to determine the best chili in Gill or as contestants in the chili cook-off. The fee for admission as a juror will be \$5.00 and the fee for a contestant will be one gallon of chili in a hotpot. The winner will receive an appropriate prize as the best chili cook in Gill. If the current weather continues, this could be a very warming evening on a frigid night. Plan to participate in what promises to be a fun evening. For further information call Bill Burnham at 863-2970.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

It is a well known fact that the best pancakes in Franklin County are made by the Friends of Gill. If you have yet to experience this unique taste treat, come to the Friends of Gill Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 29th, from 8:00 to 10:30 AM, in the Gill Congregational Church. Enjoy conversation with your friends as you top your pancakes with this year's locally produced maple syrup. Sausage, orange juice, and coffee will also be available.

Adults - \$6.00 Seniors - \$5.00 Children under ten - \$3.00

During the Holiday Season, as we do every year, we distributed 14 gift baskets of fruit and a poinsettia to the elderly in the town of Gill. We also made contributions to the Warm the Children Fund, the Franklin County Food Bank, the Salvation Army, and awarded \$1,000 in scholarships to deserving Gill students headed for college. The money we raise through our fundraising activities makes these contributions possible. Whether you opt for Chili or Pancakes or both, you will be helping us in these hard economic times to further our service to the town of Gill.



Gill/Montague Seniors

State budget cuts have forced the Franklin County Home Care Corp. to only serve meals at the Center on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after March 16th. To keep the meal site group together, Director Bunny Caldwell will have a Social Hour from 11:30 to 12:30PM each Monday. We are hoping seniors will bring their own lunch, or order take out, but don't stay away. Enjoy conversation, cards or games with your friends, help with that puzzle waiting to be finished, or read the magazines brought in by seniors.

Senior volunteers man the telephone at the Center. Call 863-9357 between 9AM and 2PM for any information. If you haven't been to the Center, you're missing out.

Franklin Solid Waste Management

Proper Disposal of Household Hazards

Have you updated your old wall mounted thermostat to a digital one? If so, don't throw out that old thermostat; it is hazardous waste. The Franklin County Solid Waste District would like to remind residents how to properly dispose of common household hazards. The items below should be kept out of the trash.

These items may be properly disposed of by bringing them to town hall:

- All **Fluorescent light bulbs**, including the new energy saving CFLs (also accepted at Home Depot and Aubuchon)
- **Cell phones**
- **Rechargeable batteries:** found in cell phones, cordless phones, cameras, cordless power tools, laptops, etc.
- **Button batteries** found in hearing aids, watches, calculators, toys, singing greeting cards

These items may be brought to the transfer stations listed below.

Mercury containing items:

- **Wall mounted thermostats**, non-digital (also accepted at District office, address below)
- **Thermometers** with silver liquid (also accepted at District office, address below)
- **Silent Light Switches**
- **Furnace or Boiler Controls**
- **Pilot lights** in gas appliances such as stoves, water heaters, furnaces, washers, dryers and heaters



Geri Johnson
ABR, CBB, CRS, GRI
Senior Real Estate Specialist

66 French King Highway
Gill, MA 01376
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Other common household hazardous waste accepted:

- **Ballasts** from fluorescent light fixtures
- **Oil based paints**, thinners, lacquers, and other paint-related items
- **Motor oil, oil filters**
- **Transmission fluid**
- **Anti-freeze**

Locations: Gill residents may bring the above materials to these transfer stations at the designated times.

Bernardston Transfer Station:

First Saturday of the month,
9 AM – 11 AM (Dec.-Apr.);
8 AM – 12 noon (May-Nov.)

Rt. 91, Exit 28A to 10 N, right on Merrifield, right on Nelson Dr

Conway Transfer Station:

First Saturday of the month,
11 AM – 2 PM

Rt. 5/10 to 116N to Whately Rd, bear right at Old Cricket Hill Rd

Colrain Transfer Station:

Every Saturday 8 AM – 4 PM

Rt. 2 to Rt. 112N, left on Charlemont Rd

Hazardous wastes not listed here may be brought to the annual Household Hazardous Waste collection held in Montague, Charlemont, and Orange each September.

Links for more information:

www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/products.htm

www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/mercury.html

www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/what_do_i_do_with.html

(the Solid Waste District's listing of proper disposal of over 350 items.)

For more information call 413-772-2438 or visit: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)

The District is an equal opportunity provider.

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Gill Elementary School

We are off to an exciting start this new year. To build upon the national election and the buzz of the inauguration, we held our own elections. This was quite a process from selecting the topics, to designing the ballot, “registering” voters, voting, and finally counting the ballots. Throughout the process I tried to weave in the issues that have to be dealt with in our national elections. Who should vote? How can we make a ballot that everyone can understand? Do you have to vote or is it your choice to vote? Why do we have secret balloting?

I think the children enjoyed this process and I am pleased to announce that we have some winners. We picked 4 themes: pajama day, crazy hair day, hat day, and show and tell day. We also picked 2 activities: a school dance and an all-school field trip. Now we have to plan these different events.

We also had some special activities to help our students participate, at a distance, with our historic inauguration. We had live TV access in several classrooms and in the computer lab to hear Barack Obama take the oath of office. We displayed a special flag in our school throughout the day. Individual classrooms had other special activities. What an opportunity for our students to see the grandeur of our country!

*Rita Detweiler,
Principal at Gill Elementary School*

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Gill Students HONOR ROLL Second Quarter

NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON SCHOOL

- Grade 12** Academic honors:
Harriet S. Booth
- Grade 11** Academic high honors:
Bradford G. Ward
- Grade 10** Academic honors:
Nora A. Hefner
- Grade 9** Academic high honors:
Malik M. Odeh, and Jane R. Booth
- Academic honors:
Corey E. Atkins, and Margaret K. Sturtevant

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

- Grade 12** High honors: Kyle Demers
- Grade 11** Honors: Joseph Lafleur



PIONEER VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL

- Grade 11** High Honor: Nicholas Duska
- Grade 9** High Honor: Mary Kate Duska, and Jacob Levin
- Grade 8** Highest Honor: Jaclyn Lafleur, Emily Messer, Kevin Wang, and Raleigh Yates
Honor: Kaylyn Tognarelli
- Grade 7** Highest Honor: George Atkins
Honor: Whitney Urgiel

TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

- Grade 12** First honors: Amber Henry
Second honors: Jodi Hallett, Angela Marguet, and Joseph Rinaldi III
Third honors: Thomas Field, and Jeremy Tetreault
- Grade 11** Second honors: Scott Brown, Danielle Dolhenty, Mackae Freeland, Matthew Garber, Kathleen Rinaldi, and Sarah Underwood
Third honors: Corey Hescocock
- Grade 10** Second honors: Nina Dodge, Makayla Dolhenty, Brooke Hastings, Krysten Hawkins, Julie Howard-Thompson, Jack Hubert, Andrew Turban, and Natasha Vaughn
- Grade 9** First honors: Todd Richardson
Second honors: Christopher Gordon, Colton Hallett, and Samantha Shaw
Third honors: Brittany Rawson

GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Grade 8** First Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Shawn Englehardt, and Timothy Meyer
Second Honors: Nala Vaughn, and Brittany York
Third Honors: Bethany Laramie
- Grade 7** Second Honors: Shelbi Williams
Third Honors: Tyler Richardson
- Grade 6** First Honors: Spencer Hubert
Second Honors: Jessica Gaines, and Nicholas York
Third Honors: Zachary Demars, and Stephanie Robertson

Dean's List

The following students from Gill were named to the dean's list at Greenfield Community College:Barrie Cameron, Marilyn Odeh, and Alexander Tufano.

Pam Veith Real Estate



Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
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REALTOR

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Sports Award

Amber Henry and Angela Marguet, seniors at TFHS, traveled to Boston on February 6, 2009 to participate in the "Massachusetts Celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day". Both received an award and were recognized by TFHS as being positive, contributing members of their teams and school. Amber plays field hockey and basketball. Angela participates in three sports – volleyball, basketball, and softball.

Swimming

Matt Garber, a TFHS junior, has qualified for the Western Mass Championships in the 100 yard butterfly. Matt also swims in the 50 yard freestyle, 200 individual medley and 200 yard medley relay team.



Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM in the Riverside School on Route 2. The Commission maintains the Gill Museum in an effort to preserve the history of Gill; the Museum is open at advertised times as well as by appointment. The Commission continues to appreciate the memorabilia, stories, and photographs that many people share or donate in the interest of documenting and preserving the history of Gill. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Dick French, Bob Perry, Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo, or Pam Shoemaker.

This month we share a view of January as written in Joseph B. Marble's diary in 1866. Joseph Marble lived on River Road with his wife Jerusha (Morgan), his daughter Isabelle, and his son Jay. In 1866, Isabelle is teaching at the Powers Institute in Bernardston. J.B.'s father-in-law, Obed Morgan, had remarried and lived with second wife in the house on the Gill Common, across from the current library, that J.B. and his family later occupied. This diary was given to the GHC by Henry Ingram who lived in the house after several generations of the Marbles. The Marble farm on River Road is now the Girard farm. The entries for this month show the men's work in an agrarian Gill of the mid-19th century. In the next issue we will include a month through another resident's diary as spring comes.

J.B. Marble. *Gill. Mass. 1866* *Diary*

Monday, January 1, 1866

Some cloudy and foggy all day; went to Greenfield and carried Hollis Slate

Hollis Slate is the eventual donor of the Prentice Slate Memorial Library in Gill. Refer to Stoughton, Vol. 1, pp. 135+, 197, 198. The history of the Slate family is given. Hollis was the son of Prentice S. Slate.

Tuesday 2

Some cloudy and rather warm all day. Father Morgan here. Cut and drawed 2 Loads of wood.

Probably Obed Morgan, Sr.

Wednesday 3

Some cloudy and rather warm all day chopped some wood in the woods.

Thursday, January 4, 1866

Foggy and frosty this morning pleasant and rather warm through the day; watched with Frederick Potter last night not doing much through the day

F. Potter is detailed in Stoughton, Vol. 1, pp. 277, 279. He was a Civil War veteran and served with Jennie Bardwell's father Francis.

Friday 5

Some windy and very cold last night and pleasant but cold at night. The coldest of the season thus far; not doing much only my chores

Saturday 6

Pleasant and very cold and some windy all day the coldest of the season; shelled some corn and went to mill and worked about the house

Sunday, January 7, 1866

Snowed a little last night ? and very cold and windy all day the coldest of the season

H.G. Stacy died last night at 10 O. C. Fred Potter died this morning at 4 O. C.

Monday 8

Very cold last night and all day the coldest of the season pump froze at the barn and the well froze over good?ing at dark about the house and barn

Tuesday 9

Cold and windy all day, but not quite as cold as yesterday wind N. East attended Mr. Stacy's funeral, as one of the bearers Mrs. Kosley's child died yesterday

Stoughton, Vol. 1, pp. 154-155. Ref. to Stacy's Ferry, which becomes Morgan's Ferry, to Northfield Farms.

Wednesday, January 10, 1866

Pleasant and rather cold all day; Mr. Potter and the Kosleys child buried to day, went to town at night

Thursday 11

Pleasant and a little warmer quite warm at night Killed a heiffer (sic) and carried the meet (sic) away Went to John Roberts in the evening

John Roberts, age 33, appears in the census of 1870 as a farmer in Gill with his wife Emerly, 24.



Friday 12

Some cloudy and rather cool all day went to Greenfield and carried the hide and some cuts

Saturday, January 13, 1866

Snowed a little last night cloudy and warm with a shower at night snow mostly gone chopped some wood

Sunday 14

Pleasant but cold and windy all day very cold at night went to Mr. Chapins in the evening

Lyman Chapin, age 55, appears in Gill in the 1870 census.

Monday 15

Very cold this morning pleasant but cold and windy all day chopped and sawed wood

Tuesday, January 16, 1866

Commenced snowing in the night and snowed some all day strung my bells and worked about the house all day.

Wednesday 17

Pleasant and quite mild all day south wind at night shoemaked some and worked about the house and barn all day

Thursday 18

Pleasant and quite warm all day thawed considerable went to mill and worked about the house Went to Father Morgan and H.C. Strattons in the evening

Horace H. Stratton, 48, is listed in the 1870 as farming in Gill. His wife is listed as Catherine L., 30; they have two children, Herbert R., 8, and Cleson, 4.

Friday, January 19, 1866

Some cloudy and quite warm all day chopping sapling pines on the hill all day

Saturday 20

Cloudy and foggy and misty with a shower at night chopped in the woods in the forenoon; carried wife to Father Morgans at noon went to town at night Aunt sick

Sunday 21

Cleared all last night very cold and windy pleasant but cold all day; went to Fathers in the morning and again at night and got wife. Aunt is better.

Monday, January 22, 1866

Pleasant and very cold all day; went to Greenfield carried wife to Aunts and brought her home on my return

Tuesday 23

Pleasant and rather cool in the forenoon some cloudy and more mild at night chopping sapplin (sic) pines on the hill all day

Wednesday 24

Pleasant and rather cold all day chopping saplin pines on the hill went to town in the evening

Thursday, January 25, 1866

Commenced snowing in the night and snowed most of the day wind N East at work shoemaking all day

Friday 26

Snowed some in the night stopped snowing this morning some cloudy and rather mild all day chopping some wood at the (?) and worked about the house

Saturday 27

Pleasant and rather warm all day chopping wood at the chase(?) all day Wm Merriman and wife here in the afternoon and evening

Sunday, January 28, 1866

Pleasant in the forenoon come cloudy at night Mary and Walter Stone here and went back to Groing at night

Monday 29

Some cloudy and rather cool all day went to Mr. Phillips and then to Greenfield to meet the Montague selectmen to consult about the Falls ferry boat

Mr. Phillips refers to Simon Cady Phillips who lived on South Cross Road. He and his family are featured in the current exhibit at Gill Museum.

Tuesday 30

Some cloudy and rather cool all day chopped some in the woods and went to town at night snowed a little in the evening

Wednesday, January 31, 1866

Cleared off in the night pleasant and rather warm all day drewed some logs to mill





GILL RIGHT TO FARM BY-LAW

Section 1 Legislative Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this by-law is to explain the existing Right to Farm accorded to all citizens of the Commonwealth under Article 97 of the Constitution and all state statutes and regulations thereunder including but not limited to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3, Paragraph 1; Chapter 90, Section 9; Chapter 111, Section 125A; and Chapter 128, Section 1A. We the citizens of Gill restate and republish these rights pursuant to the Town's authority conferred by Article 89 of the Articles of Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution ('Home Rule Amendment').

This General By-law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Gill by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies. This By-law shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the Town.

Section 2 Existing Definitions

The word 'farm' shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land or water bodies used for the primary purpose of commercial or non-commercial agriculture or accessory thereto.

The words 'farming' and 'agriculture' or their derivatives shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil;
- Dairying;
- Production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural, or horticultural commodities;
- Growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land and any other forestry or lumbering operations;
- Keeping and raising of poultry, horses, swine, cattle, bees, ratites (such as emus, ostriches and rheas) and camelids (such as llamas and camels), and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes.

'Farming' shall encompass activities including but not limited to the following:

- Operation and transport of slow-moving farm equipment over roads within the Town;
- Control of pests, including but not limited to insects, weeds, predators and disease organism of plants and animals;
- Application of manure, fertilizers and pesticides;
- Conducting agriculture-related educational and farm-based recreational activities including agri-tourism, provided that the activities are related to marketing the agricultural output or services of the farm;

- Processing and packaging of the agricultural output of the farm and the operation of a farmer's market or farm stand including signage thereto;
- Maintenance, repair or storage of seasonal equipment or apparatus owned or leased by the farm owner or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management, or sale of the agricultural products; and
- On-farm relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operations.

Section 3 Right to Farm Declaration

The Right to Farm is hereby recognized to exist in the Town of Gill. The above-described agricultural activities may occur on holidays, weekdays, and weekends by night or day and may include the attendant incidental noise, odors, dust, and fumes associated with normally accepted agricultural practices. It is hereby determined that whatever impact may be caused to others through the normal practice of agriculture is more than offset by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community, and society in general. The benefits and protection of this By-law are intended to apply exclusively to these commercial agricultural and farming operations and activities conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. Moreover, nothing in this Right To Farm By-law shall be deemed as acquiring any interest in land, or as imposing any land use regulation, which is properly the subject of state statute, regulation, local zoning law or other local by-laws or regulations.



Section 4 Disclosure Notification

Within 30 days after this bylaw becomes effective the Select Board shall prominently post in the Town Hall and make available for distribution the following disclosure:

It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products and for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy is within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include but are not limited to activities that cause dust, noise and odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that the location of property within town may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations.

In addition this disclosure notification will be made by the Agricultural Commission to the town residents each fiscal year via a town mailing or newsletter.

Section 5 Resolution of Disputes

Any person who seeks to complain about the operation of a farm may, notwithstanding pursuing any other available remedy, file a grievance with the Select Board, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, or the Board of Health, depending upon the nature of the grievance.

The filing of the grievance does not suspend the time within which to pursue any other available remedies that the aggrieved may have. The Zoning Enforcement Officer or Select Board shall forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent, which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance involving all concerned parties and report its recommendations to the referring Town authority within an agreed upon time frame.

The Board of Health, except in cases of imminent danger or public health risk, shall forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent, which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance involving all concerned parties and report its recommendation to the Board of Health within an agreed upon time frame.

Section 6 Severability Clause

If any part of this By-law is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this By-law. The Town of Gill hereby declares the provisions of this By-law to be severable.

The Visitor Center in Greenfield is in need of volunteers for two 4-hour shifts on Saturdays as well as back-up for Sunday mornings.

Please contact
Jeanne Douillard at
773-9393, extension 11,
if you are interested in
learning more about these
volunteer opportunities.

Slate Library News

Slate library has been a warm and lively place this winter in the center of Gill. Story hour has continued to bring new families to the library throughout the fall and into the holidays. We have read stories about sheep and bats and snow and bears and played with a variety of art materials, each and every Friday morning. Come join us at 10 AM as we move into the spring with stories about pets, dinosaurs, fairy tales and flowers. A healthy snack is provided and socializing is encouraged!

The library hosted a holiday show of music and stories by the performer MaryJo Maichak on December 20. Ms. Maichak regaled her audience of entranced parents and children with holiday stories from around the world. It was a wonderful performance for both big and small and Slate library is grateful to the Gill cultural council for funding this program.

New acquisitions to the library shelves include "Outliers" by Malcolm Gladwell, "Hot, Flat and Crowded" by Thomas Friedman, "Testimony" by Anita Shreve, and "The Story of Edgar Sawtelle" by David Wroblewski. We have also acquired by generous donation a beautifully illustrated edition of Darwins "Origin of Species" as well as several new mysteries for our crime solving patrons. Come in and visit! The library is open Mondays from 2-6 PM, Thursday 2-8 PM and Saturday morning 10-2 PM.



Business Advertisements

The Gill Newsletter will include business card size advertisements of local businesses for a year (six bi-monthly issues) for \$50.00. Please send a copy of your business card and a check for \$50.00 payable to 'Town of Gill' to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses in a very tight budget, we would also welcome such contributions mailed to the above address.

Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we and our advertisers cannot be responsible for errors or the accuracy of materials submitted to us.

Next Newsletter Deadline

March 15th for the April Issue.

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