



THE

# Gill Newsletter

June 2007 Issue

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## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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- Joe Elliott
- Peter Jenkins
- Don Krüger
- Ronnie LaChance
- Dan Sachs
- Pam Shoemaker
- Dot Underwood
- Barbara Watson

## Town Hall News

### Town Meeting

Annual Town Meeting opened May 7, 2007, at 6:30 PM with the first article accepting the Annual Report dedicated to retiring Selectman Philip Maddern. After the election of Field Drivers; Fence Viewers; Measurers of Wood, Bark and Surveyors of Lumber, town meeting accepted a gift of land containing approximately 517 square feet from Gary and Doreen Stevens, discovered to be part of the town way entering Mount Hermon campus from North Cross Road after survey.

Town Meeting also accepted a local option statute, Chapter 39, Section 23D regarding attendance requirements by municipal board, committee and commission members for participation in hearings. The statute allows an individual member to participate in voting on a given matter after absence from a single session of the hearing at which testimony or other evidence was received, providing they certify for the record that he or she has examined electronic recording of the missed session.

Reauthorization for a revolving fund for receipts and expenditures for the licensing of dogs was granted, as was permission associated with acceptance and expenditure of Chapter 90 funds from the State for improvement of roads.

Town meeting set the salaries of the officers as proposed, which included a 2.75% cost of living increase for all employees and approved the omnibus

budget for the operation for the town and the schools contingent upon a \$300,000 override vote, scheduled to coincide with Annual Town Elections on May 21st.

Two articles raising \$3,000 each were approved, one to add to the account for tri-annual revaluation of all town properties and the second for fees to allow the Treasurer to proceed with land takings for non-payment of taxes. Town Meeting also approved a \$2,200 appropriation of the second installment for the purchase of a used voting machine.

After lengthy debate, Town Meeting approved an article for purchase of a new single axel dump truck raising \$125,000 contingent on a capital exclusion vote outside of Proposition 2 1/2 and transferring \$15,000 from a machinery account.

Town meeting passed over the next two articles, one for the lease of the truck planned in the event the purchase failed and the other at the request of the Fire Department for employment of a full-time firefighter, not supported



Check in with the  
Gill Website  
[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)  
for up to date news,  
announcements and  
contact information!



by the Selectboard or Finance Committee.

A request for continuation of the Annual Town Meeting to **JUNE 11, 2007 at 7:00 PM** was supported by town meeting voters. The Selectboard assumes by that time Town Meeting will know the outcome of contingent override questions and the decision by Montague voters for their 86% share of the Gill-Montague District appropriation will also be known. A **Special Town Meeting** is planned to coincide with the continuation of Annual Town Meeting, at 7:30 PM for reconsideration of the omnibus, town officer salaries and the one-ton truck purchase should the contingent appropriations fail.

### **Free Building Maintenance**

Franklin County Sheriff's Department will be arriving in Gill the week of June 4th to begin painting the Town Hall. The program utilizes inmate labor to improve public grounds and buildings at no expense to taxpayers under the supervision of a uniformed deputy sheriff. The Town is required only to provide the supplies necessary for the project. Renaissance Builders have been gracious in offering the use of their ladders and scaffolding for the project. THANK YOU! The Highway Department will be preparing the surface by power washing the building several weeks in advance to allow adequate drying time for the paint to set and ensuring that the Community Service crew has enough primer, paint and supplies on hand to do the job.

## **Search for Town Administrative Assistant**

The Town of Gill seeks qualified applicants for an Administrative Assistant to perform administrative work related to the implementation of town policies, providing aid to the Selectboard, departments and committees in the operation of town business. Bachelor's Degree in related field plus three years of municipal and/or office administration experience, or an equivalent combination. Knowledge of computers, software, networks, municipal finance, budgeting, and personnel laws is essential. This is a 32-40 hour position with competitive salary and benefits. Send resume and cover letter to:

Board of Selectmen  
325 Main Road  
Gill, MA 01354

### **Mariamante RFP**

The Committee met and discussed the lack of response to the recent requests for proposals for the Mariamante parcel, including conversations with individuals who requested bid packages but then did not submit a proposal. The good news is it was not related to a specific issue with the parcel, as we feared might be the case. The Committee is in the process of arranging a meeting with a commercial realtor and contacting other communities regarding their processes for the sale of public land, although it is known

some communities form development corporations. The Regional Planning Director is assisting with the repackaging of the RFP, gathering data regarding position of the property, mapping etc., before redistribution.

## **Gill Fire Department**

### **Gill Fire Department Receives Mass. Department of Public Safety Grant**

The Gill Fire Department received a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management grant of \$3,900.00 to purchase and upgrade gasoline-powered rescue and ventilation saws. Grant funds will be used to purchase a new cut-off saw with diamond blades and equipment to make roof ventilation safer when using chainsaws. New guards fit over the cutting end of the chainsaw to protect firefighters and gauge the depth of cuts. Roof ventilation can be vital during a building fire to remove hot and dangerous gases from the burning structure.

### **Student Awareness of Fire Education Grant**

The Gill Fire Department received more than it requested to educate Gill's children and teenagers in fire safety and prevention. The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services exceeded the Town of Gill's request of \$3,017.29 by over \$300.00 this year. Grant funds will allow firefighters to present important fire safety lessons to children at Gills public and private schools.



Fire safety instruction ranges from teaching children in preschool and kindergarten how to call for help to dormitory safety for the Town's resident high school population.

### **New Defibrillators Needed**

The Gill Firemen's Association is raising funds for new automated external defibrillators, devices that can restart a patient's heart during emergency cardiac care. Recently, the American Heart Association revised the procedures for cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, which includes standards for more effective defibrillation devices. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is requiring all first responder agencies to comply with the new standards for emergency cardiac care and defibrillation by 2008. As a result, the Fire Department must replace its current automatic external defibrillators with new equipment. So far, the community has been very supportive of this important task and the Gill Firemen's Association has made it a fundraising priority. The Firemen's Association will be selling concessions, including its famous French fries, at the Common People Concerts on the Gill Common on June 5, July 3, and August 7. The Firemen's Association will team up with the Friends of Gill for the Picnic on the Common on June 24 and the Fall Arts and Crafts Festival at the Riverside School on October 13-14.

### **Stanley Ambo, Sr., Scholarship**

The Gill Firemen's Association is pleased to announce the selec-

## **FRIENDS OF GILL**

### **Picnic on the Common**

The Annual Friends of Gill Picnic on the Common will be held on Sunday, June 24th, from 12 noon to 3:00 PM. Come join your friends and neighbors in this festive community celebration of the first days of summer. The Gill Firemen, as usual, will prepare and serve the food including hamburgers, hot dogs, and their famous "made-from-scratch" French fries. The Friends of Gill will be selling ice cream, strawberry shortcake, and cold sodas. The Fall Town String Band will provide the music from 12 to 2 PM. Also, from noon to 2 PM, hayrides in a horse drawn wagon will be available. At 2 PM, another favorite, as children scramble for coins in a colossal pile of sawdust.

### **Raffle Tickets**

Raffle tickets for a drawing to take place on the last day of the Fall Craft Fair on October 14th will be available at the Picnic on the Common. Proceeds from the raffle will help underwrite the two \$500 scholarships we award each year.

**First Prize:** Two packages of four tickets each for a cruise on the Quinnetucket II donated by the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center plus eight box lunches donated by the Wagon Wheel and a case of soda donated by Jan's Package Store.

**Second Prize:** Two tickets to Foxwoods with a bonus package donated by Travel Kuz.

**Third Prize:** Two sets of tickets for two to play nine holes of golf with a cart for each set donated by the Oak Ridge Golf Course.

**Fourth Prize:** A twenty-five dollar gift certificate to In Stitches, a new store at 259 Federal Street, Greenfield, donated by Kathy Bernier.

We are deeply appreciative of these generous contributions to the Friends of Gill.

### **Community Tag Sale**

The Friends of Gill will sponsor a community tag sale on the Gill common in front of the Town Hall on Saturday, August 18th, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Interested residents should call Ronnie LaChance at 863-2105 or 863-9240. A ten dollar fee will be charged to help defray the cost of advertising.



tion of Chelseigh Isles, a 2007 graduate of Turners Falls High School, for this year's Stanley Ambo Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is available to a selected Gill resident who graduates from an accredited area secondary school and plans to attend college. Each year, the Association chooses a member of the senior class who demonstrates scholastic ability, need, character, and participation in extra-curricular and community activities. The scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Gill firefighter Stanley Ambo, Sr., who gave his life in the line of duty in 1980.

### Outdoor Cooking Fires and Fireplaces

Residents eighteen years of age or older may, without a permit, set a reasonable fire for the purpose of cooking as long as the fire is enclosed within rocks, metal, or other non-flammable material and safely away from residences and vegetation. The fire chief or his representative may issue orders to immediately remedy any dangerous condition, including extinguishing the fire, if the conditions of an outdoor fire are likely to cause a risk of greater fire. The Gill Fire Department appreciates the right of citizens to conduct reasonable and safe outdoor cooking fires and asks that residents take into consideration the potential effects of smoke or other fire-related nuisances upon their neighbors.

### Visible House Numbers Reduce Emergency Response Time

The Fire Department urges residents to make sure their house numbers are visible from the street. House numbers that are missing or difficult to read can increase response time in an emergency.

## News from Gill Elementary School

### Instructional Happenings


With one section of the MCAS behind us (Language Arts) we will begin the math, science and history sections of the test for grades 3-6. The MCAS results are important toward evaluating student progress and assessing our curriculum and teaching strategies. The staff works diligently knowing that the MCAS is an important instructional measure. Students and staff are conscientious and



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

66 French King Highway  
Gill, MA 01376  
(413) 863-9736  
Fax (413) 863-9739



**Stephen Greenwald**  
President

P.O. Box 272  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
413/863-8316 Fax 413/863-9712  
www.renbuild.net

stephen@renbuild.net



take the MCAS exam seriously. Over the years, the staff has taken great pride which is reflected in the positive results achieved on the MCAS.

### **New Math Series**

Everyone is encouraged with the new Houghton Mifflin Math Program and with full implementation next fall. This year, because of the mid year introduction of the new text material, the staff is working with their grade level professional development teams to cover certain units that would coincide with the state standards. This year's spring MCAS results will begin to play a role toward our collecting data based on the HM math program.

### **New Reading Program**

Thanks to the Gill Community, we are ready to purchase the updated Houghton Mifflin Reading Series. Our goal is to have the new reading material here before the close of this school year. This strategy would allow staff the opportunity to become familiar with the materials over the summer.

### **Inter and Intra District Choice**

We have eight students requesting grade four and another four possibly for grade three based on low performance MCAS scores at Sheffield. Currently, we have four students from outside of the district who are now part of the inter district choice program.

### **Six Grade Graduation**

The school year is coming to a fast close. The sixth grade graduation will be held on June 12th at 10:30 am. As a staff we have enjoyed the sixth grade class and wish them well as they move on to the middle school. I would like to thank the staff for their efforts to prepare these students as they move on to new challenges. The Gill staff is very caring and wanting the best for the children. Furthermore, we all appreciate the community's support of the Gill elementary school. I would like to thank parents for their excellent involvement in the school and the effort of the PTO to assist the staff to make each school year a positive experience for everyone.

### **Upcoming Events**

Thursday, June 7 6:30 pm - PTO Arts and Eats Night  
Tuesday, June 12 10:30 am - Sixth Grade Graduation  
Wednesday, June 13 Last day of school

### **Read-A-Thon**

The yearly Read-A-Thon in February was a great success. The goal is to encourage reading activities and to establish an appreciation of reading and literature. The Read-A-Thon serves a dual purpose. Sponsors are sought by each student who will contribute funds for each page read. The funds are an important fund raising event for the PTO. We would like to thank our guest readers who participated in the Read-A-Thon. Our school read a total of 45,384 pages and raised approximately \$3,000 dollars.

— Dr. David Crisafulli

## **Gill Riverside Cemetery Commission's Annual Meeting**

The Gill Riverside Cemetery Association raised the price of their cemetery lots and elected new officers at their annual meeting. The association voted to raise the price of a lot to \$400.00, starting July 1. Until that time lots can still be purchased for \$300.00. Anyone interested in purchasing a lot may call 863-9295 or 863-9394.

Elections for officers and trustees were held with the following results:

President - Robert Perry

Vice President - Brad Stone

Sexton/Secretary - Sandra Weller

Treasurer - Carole Lafleur

Trustees: Mike Hisz, Don Worden,  
Charlie Shebell

The contract for the lawn care maintenance was given to Art Kaczinski at Artscape Landscape & Design in Erving. Starting immediately, Snow & Sons of Greenfield will be handling all full earth burials. Those individuals requesting inurnment



of cremative remains are to contact Sandra Weller, Sexton/Secretary.

The association recognized Richard Bassett for his many years of service and dedication to the cemetery, and thanked Ethel St. Germain for a gift to the cemetery.

## Hometown Students

### Pioneer Valley Regional High School

#### Honor Roll

#### 3rd Quarter Marking Period

##### *Grade 9*

Honor: Nicholas Duska

##### *Grade 8*

Highest Honor: Patrick Arena

High Honor: Savannah Yates

##### *Grade 7*

Highest Honor: Mary Duska

### Turners Falls High School

##### *Grade 12*

First Honors: Benjamin Garber

Second Honors: Ashleigh St. Peter and Haley Trenholm

##### *Grade 11*

First Honors: Abbey Daniel-Green, Amanda Golembeski, Molly Perry, & Alexander Tufano

Second Honors: Zachary Little

##### *Grade 10*

First Honors: Angela Marguet

Third Honors: Eric Dumas & Allison Giknis

##### *Grade 9*

First Honors: Danielle Dolhenty, Mackae Freeland, Matthew Garber, Kathleen Rinaldi, & Sarah Underwood

Third Honors: Scott Brown

### Great Falls Middle School

##### *Grade 8*

First Honors: Makayla Dolhenty, Brooke Hastings, Julie Howard-Thompson, Jack Hubert, Joseph Lafleur, Andrew Turban, & Natasha Vaughn

Third Honors: Rachel Arial

##### *Grade 7*

First Honors: Jane Booth, Christopher Gordon, Lily Kane, Malik Odeh, Todd Richardson, & Samantha Shaw

Second Honors: Colton Hallett

## **B.P. Jacobsen**

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## Northfield Mount Hermon

### Winter Term

#### *Grade 12*

Highest Honors: Grace Booth, Ceridwyn Ely, and Ashley Storrow

Honors: William Ward

#### *Grade 11*

High Honors: Spencer Hattendorf

Honors: Julian Findley

#### *Grade 10*

High Honors: Harriet Booth and Alejo Irurueta

#### *Grade 9*

High Honors: Kevin Pratt, Bradford Ward, and Faith Weis

### Dean's List

Wesley Becko is on the deans's list for the fall semester at St. Michael's College, Vermont.

### College Graduates

Stephanie Brown graduated from Keene State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

### Sports

Senior Max Fish is playing in the outfield and freshman Jared Towne joins him on the Pioneer Regional School varsity baseball team as a backup infielder.

Junior Zachary Little has been pitching for the TFHS baseball team this year.

Seniors Ashleigh St. Peter and Haley Trenholm and junior Chelseigh St. Peter, have been banging in the runs along with sophomore Angela Marguet for the TFHS softball team. Sophomore Jodi Hallet and freshman Katie Rinaldi and are also on the varsity team and seeing action.

The TFHS tennis team has juniors Molly Perry and Abby Daniel-Green, and sophomore Betsy Giknis playing on their doubles teams

Danielle Dolhenty and Scott Brown compete for TFHS on the track team. Scott's older sister Kellie Brown continues her softball career at American International College. Her hitting includes two grand slam homeruns this year.

Spencer Hattendorf and Eli Pack row on the Northfield

Mount Hermon crew team while Erika Loomer participates in the javelin and discus events on track and field. Rachel Koh is on the girl's prep water polo team and Bill Ward has been pitching for the NMH baseball team and recently gave up only one hit pitching the entire game. NMH won 11-1

Seventh graders Jane Booth and Chris Gordon in Mr. Jack Czajkowski's science class at Great Falls Middle School were recently highlighted in The Republican. The science project was a lesson in food traveling through our digestive system with the students expressing their thoughts in haiku, rhyming verse, rap songs, or action adventure stories. Excerpts of Jane's and Chris's work were featured in the newspaper article.

## Gill Recreation Commission

Our 6th Annual Red Sox trip is sold out! On Saturday, June 30th, 105 residents and family members will be going to Fenway Park on two of Travel Kuz's luxury coaches to watch the Boston Red Sox take on the Texas Rangers. This is a 7 PM game; departure is at 3:30 PM from the Travel Kuz parking lot. As always we sell out quick, sorry to anyone who missed out this year. Next year we are hoping to do two Red Sox trips. Any questions call Nate Duda at 522-3209. Go Sox !!!



Baseball / Softball season is off to a great start now that the weather has warmed up. This year we are blessed with the most coaches Gill has ever seen in one season.

At the T-Ball level we have Tony Zager introducing the joy and fundamentals of baseball to our preK and K kids. This is his first year coaching in Gill but it looks like he's been coaching for years. At the Farm level (K to 2nd grade) we have Gary Parzych, Mark Almeida,



Rose Levasseur and Alex Urgiel. At the Pee-Wee level (2nd to 4th) we have Charlie Malcolm, Greg Leeds, Nathan Duda, Paul Nicolson and David Shutta. At the Youth level (4th to 6th) we have Tom Levasseur, Fred Bezio and Brian Bodell. Our softball coaches are Brian Bodell (he just can't get enough) with assistance from his wife Dawn, Rolie Weld, Katherine Weld, and Mike Phillips. Returning for another year of umpiring our home games is Gill's very own Iron man of Umpiring, Tom Bergeron. This will be his 8th season behind the plate. John Duda will fill in behind the plate for Softball when we have home games on both ball fields. Brandon Rawson covers the bases hoping to someday to become the next Iron man in Gill.

On June 2nd Gill will be hosting the Tri-County all-star games for the Pee-Wee and Youth level. We will host the Championship games as well. We have received the green light this year to have a

portable structure on the school grounds from which to vend food. We are hoping in time to accumulate enough funds and donated material to build dugouts for both fields. If interested in helping with this or donating materials, please call Nate Duda.

We are in the works of a new and improved Summer Program. We are very pleased to announce and welcome Lori Rinaldi and Patricia Shilo as our new Summer Program leaders. They both have many years of teaching experience and a lot of new ideas for the Summer Program. We will be placing a suggestion box at the Gill School as well. Lori and Pat are also very interested in the parents input towards the Summer Program. We plan to run the Summer Program till the 2nd week in August and will be offering a full time 8 AM to 4 PM or part time 8 AM till noon or noon to 4 PM. Cost will be \$35 for part time and \$70 for full time. The camp will be open to any children K to 6th grade. You can watch the Gill School newsletter or check on our website at [www.gillmass.org/recreation.html](http://www.gillmass.org/recreation.html) for more information as the end of the school year gets closer for registration forms. Any questions or concerns please call Nate Duda at 522-3209. Have a great summer.

## Slate Library News



Perhaps you have driven by and seen the new swinging sign out in front of Slate library?

Our sign lets you know about the many exciting events in store for Gill this spring and summer. Two days after we put it on the lawn we had 17 people in attendance for our pre-school story hour! We are happy to let you know about upcoming events at the library.

Jeannie Hunt, a Northampton book artist is visiting Slate on May 26. Last summer Jeannie came and made Butterfly books as part of the **“What’s Buzzin’ in your Library”** summer reading program. This spring, thanks to the Gill Cultural Council, Jeannie is presenting a workshop entitled **“Magical Map Books”** for children ages 8 and up.





For adults, we are offering a workshop entitled “**The Art of Pastel,**” taught by Holyoke resident and artist, Gregory Maichak. Greg Maichak is nationally known for his pastel portraits and landscapes and has won many national awards. This workshop has also been funded by the Gill Cultural Council and will be held on June 7 from 6-8 PM.

Upcoming events include our summer reading program for children. This year’s theme, chosen by the Massachusetts Library Association is “Catch the Beat!” We have a super summer lined up for you, beginning with our Kick-off party where kids can collect their game boards, check out some new books and get ready for a fun-filled summer of reading and music!



## Catch the Beat at Slate Library *Summer Reading Events*

*June 23th:*

**Summer Reading Kick-Off Party**



*June 30th:*

**Ceara Aislingeach, Celtic Musician** — **Celtic Concert and Workshop for Kids.** Ceara sings traditional songs from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man. An international performer based in Boston, Ceara’s singing has been compared to Moira Brennan of Clannad, and Loreena McKennitt. She will perform a concert of traditional and original folk songs as well as hosting a musical workshop for children in Irish Gaelic. This should be an amazing morning at Slate Library and definitely not to be missed.

*July 7th:*

**Children’s Rhythm and Dance Party** with Gretel Schatz, instructor of dance at Northfield Mount Hermon. Come play improvisational instruments (drums big and small, pots and pans!) and learn some cool new dance moves on the lawn at Slate library in the center of Gill!



*July 14*

**Henry Lappen, Juggler Extraordinaire**

Henry the Juggler is considered armed (and legged) and dangerous. He is known to cause spontaneous outbursts of laughter. He speaks little, but says a great deal through his expression and body language. He has in his possession **BALLS, CLUBS, RINGS, TORCHES** and other

apparatus of his trade. He is capable of walking on a thin wire high above the ground. He is known to change his height through he use of stilts. Join us for this fun filled morning at Sunny Slate library!

*July 21*

**Caravan Puppets of Amherst**

“Timeless Tales”, a collection of multicultural folktales from around the world. Audiences are treated to a wide diversity of puppets and puppetry styles. Come listen to stories and songs from China, Haiti and Europe and be swept away to the land of imagination!

*July 28*

**The Springfield Symphony Musical Petting Zoo**

Have you ever wanted to play the oboe or the clarinet? Try out the saxophone or the tuba! Experiment and improvise with a wealth of different instruments, assisted by Springfield Symphony musicians.



*August 4*

**Percussionist Otha Day hosts a Community Drumming Circle!**

Come play with percussion (drums, shakers, bells, claves, etc.) Through drumming participants use and understand the rhythm of words and conventional phrasing. We will learn several songs from other cultures in their native language and put the rhythm of it to the drums. Join us for a rocking circle of sound and energy in the center of downtown Gill.



## The Unforgettable Harriet Tidd

by Joseph A. Parzych

Harriet Tidd died on April 1st. Though I attended her funeral and saw her casket go into the ground, I still find it hard to believe she's gone. Harriet Tidd led a long and productive life, despite serious health problems and is missed by all. She liked to appear tough, but she was a push-over.

I will never forget the day I asked to get a copy of our plot plan. She announced that she would not do it, but would show me how.

"First, you have to look it up like this," She said, looking it up. "Now you need to turn on the copy machine, like this," she said. "Next, you put a piece of paper in the copier," she said. "Now get the page set on the copier," she said. "Now, just push this button, like this." I thanked her for showing me how to do it myself.

When the Friends of Gill sponsored a surprise retirement party for her in the Gill Congregational Church community room, the potluck celebration brought a great response, especially since, obviously, there could be no publicity. Harriet liked to take pictures, but hated to have her picture taken. I took photos during her party without a flash, so that it would not be too obvious. I did what she would have done — anything, to get the picture. I did not take a photo facing her directly, not wanting to catch her glaring at the camera, though she still glared at me, until I approached her to wish her well.

People often forgot, or didn't know, that she wasn't a Gill native. Probably because she knew more history of the town and the townspeople than anyone in town. She had an incredible memory. Her years as a correspondent for the *Greenfield Recorder*, her years of town government and librarian, gave her an intimate knowledge of many Gill residents. I miss calling her up to ask about people, places or things that

happened, long ago. When she was the town librarian, she once told me that you could learn a lot about a person just by the books they read. You can also learn a lot about a person by what they do. Harriet was a feisty woman, with a sense of duty, and a sense of humor. I like to think she picked April 1st to play an April fool joke on the folks in Gill who thought she would live forever. After 50 or more years of service to the community, perhaps she felt it was time to leave her tired old body. I hope Harriet knows that she continues to live in the hearts and minds of people who knew and loved her.

## Historical Commission Report

The Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in Riverside School on Route 2. The Commission maintains the Gill Museum in an effort to preserve 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.

Our April meeting consisted of conversation about possible exhibits for the next year. We hope to mount an exhibit or two that may be viewed during the summer open museum times and in the fall during the Gill Craft Fair. Stay tuned for announcements.

Our May meeting centered on plans for the May 23rd visit of the Gill School students from kindergarten, and the first and second grades. Bob Perry will present history on the log drives on the Connecticut River and into Barton Cove and the Turner's falls. He will have information, stories, logging tools, and a log to walk. Bev DeMars will show various items of interest from the Gill Museum to the children.

Here's a passage from L.G. Sorden and Jacque Vallier's *Lumberjack Lingo: a Dictionary of the Logging Era* that the children will de-code with Bob's help:

"It's five a.m. and the Gabriel blows. The bark eaters fall out of their muzzle loaders and head for the chuck house to bolt down a pile of stove lids with lots of black-



strap, some fried murphys or Johnny cake and maybe some logging berries. They dunk their rolling stock into their jerk water, growl at the hash slinger, pull up their galluses and head for the tall timber.”

“At five a.m. the Gabriel was blown or an iron was struck with a stamping hammer and you crossed the dingle or raced to the cook shack, if the buildings were separated. You took the same place at the same oilcloth-covered table for all meals. You had to hurry or be the last one to leave the table. Some men could eat and run in five minutes; everyone was through in fifteen minutes.

Chewing your food was a mistake — you had to learn to bolt it. The cookee had the table set with tin plates and cups, knives, forks, and spoons, and no one left the table hungry.”

“Pies were made for the midday meal and sauce was served for supper. One camp cook told us his routine: custard pie on Monday, raisin pie on Wednesday, dried apples with raisin sauce for Thursday supper, and prune pie on Saturday. He also said prunes made better apple pies than peaches did.”

## Common People Concerts 2007

The Concerts will be held on the Gill Common at 7:00 PM on the following dates and are funded by the Gill Cultural Council. In case of rain they will be held in the Gill Congregational Church. For further information, contact Steve at [demons\\_of\\_gill@yahoo.com](mailto:demons_of_gill@yahoo.com).

**May 29:** Metro Sax Quartet ~ Eclectic Class from the Boston Area

**June 5:** Greenfield Military Band ~ Favorite band pieces and more

**June 12:** King Bees ~ “Hip Shakin’ Blues”

**June 19:** The Country Players ~ *The Wizard of Oz* Preview

**June 26:** Community Drum Circle

**July 3:** Light Amber Brass Ensemble ~ “A Patriotic Celebration”

**July 10:** Jeff Brewer ~ Folk and Jazz Singer/ Songwriter

**July 17:** Staphanie Marshall ~ Country Music

**July 24:** Eric Goodchild ~ Bagpiper

**July 31:** Western New England Double Bass Society ~ “Big Strings Attached”

**August 7:** Barry Higgins ~ Native American Flutes

**August 14:** Denise Gendron ~ Folk singer with Guitar and Cello



## Subscriptions

Know anyone no longer in town who would like to receive the Gill Newsletter? For \$7.00 per annum, we will mail out six issues. Please send subscription name, address, and a check payable to the 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

July 15th for the August Issue

Gill Fire Dept.  
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Gill, MA 01354

U.S. POSTAGE  
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