



THE

Gill Newsletter

Spring 2016 Issue

Disclaimer:

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Town Hall

Annual Town Meeting: This year's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 9th at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. As the meeting warrant, motions, explanations, and budget figures become available, they will be posted to the Town's website and on our Facebook page.

Agricultural Commission Seeking

Members: The Agricultural Commission has two openings. The principal purpose of the AgCom, according to our Town Bylaw, is to "support agriculture and other farming activities in the Town of Gill." The group generally meets once per month. If you are interested, please contact Ray Purington at Town Hall (863-9347), or any of the AgCom members listed on the Town website.

News from the Town Clerk

Reminders: Some residents have not yet responded to the census. This information is important to keeping the town's records complete. Remember also to get your dog licensed for 2016 if you have not already done so.

Annual Town Election: The Annual Town Election will be held on May 16, 2016 from noon to 8:00 P.M. in the Fire Station at 196A Main Road, the Town Municipal Building. The deadline for voter registration to vote at the Annual Town Election will be 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday April 26, 2016 at the Town Clerk's office.

The offices and candidates on the town ballot this year include:

- Selectboard, Sewer Commissioner, three year term, Randy Crochier, Incumbent.
- Assessor, three year term, Vacant
- Cemetery Commission, three year term, Gary Bourbeau, Incumbent

- Board of Health, three year term, Douglas Edson, Incumbent

- Library Trustee, three year term, Kathleen Raczynski, Candidate; Barbara Watson, Candidate

- Treasurer, three year term, Veronica LaChance, Incumbent

The offices and candidates on the school ballot this year include:

- Gill-Montague Regional School Committee, three year term, Jane Oakes, Incumbent

Absentee ballots will be available for anyone unable to be at the polls on election day due to hardship or because they are out of the town. Please contact the Town Clerk. Also, remember that the town has the Automark voting assistance machine for those with physical impairment or disabilities. It provides easy access by allowing voters to be seated as well as being able to listen to the options and simply point to their choices on the screen. Voters who used the machine at the last election found it helpful. Assistance will be available for those who wish to use the machine.

Election Workers: If you have ever thought about working at the polls, this year would be a great time to start. There are two elections this fall and we could use more help. Please call the Town Clerk if you would like to know more.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk



Check in with the Gill Website

www.gillmass.org

for up to date news,
announcements and
contact information!





Collector of Taxes

2016 Real Estate Taxes and Personal Property Taxes are due on Monday May 2nd. The office will be open 9 AM to 6:30 PM. Payments need to be in my office on the due date. If payments are received after May 2nd there will be a demand fee and interest added to the bill. I do not accept post marks after the due date.

Any questions please call Ronnie LaChance at 413-863-2105.

Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors continues its work in the community, recording and updating property changes throughout the town. Fiscal Year 2017 is a Triennial Revaluation year, so this work becomes especially important to the process of establishing a fair base of comparison for the determination of fair market value in the town of Gill. If you have any questions about this process please call the office at 863-0138.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Assessors' Clerk

Office hours: Mon. ~ Thu. 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Board of Assessors meetings: alternate Mondays at 6:30 P.M.

Gillbilly Bike & Boat

Come to the Second Annual Community Paddle down the Connecticut River, from Munn's Ferry to Barton Cove, on Saturday, July 16th. Ray Steele will launch us with a "bang" at 9AM. A Prize of FREE trash stickers will be awarded to the boat that collects the most trash by weight! For those interested in completing the loop by bicycle, a trailer will carry bikes from Munn's Ferry down to Barton Cove, and boats and people back to Munn's Ferry as needed. If you need a boat or paddling partner, or have any questions, contact Isaac Bingham isaacbingham@gmail.com or 413-863-4431.

Dean's List

Haley Short, attending Tufts University, Medford, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2015 semester.

Jennifer Tufano, a senior at Elms College, was named to the Dean's List for the 2015-16 semester.

Honor Roll

2nd Quarter

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 12

Highest Honor: Julia Wallace;

Honor: Bradley Hastings;

Grade 11

Highest Honor: Amelia Pelletier;

Grade 9

Honor: Rylie Zager;

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Sydney duKor-Jackson
Brian Peila Jr., and Emaline Relyea-Strawn; High Honor: Jacob Smith

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

Second Honors: Nadia Hasan;

Grade 11

First Honors: Kaili Lynch

Second Honors: Tahner Castine, Bryn Kruzlic and Jeremy Wolfram

Grade 10

Second Honors: Branden Chapin, Kyke Kucenski and John Wheeler II

Third Honors: Noah Courchesne and David Tricolici

Grade 9

Third Honors: Reilan Castine and Jovanni Ruggiano

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Alyson Murphy

Second Honors: Lindsay Whiteman

Grade 7

First Honors: Taylor Murphy, Karissa Olson, Julie Sprankle, Leah Timberlake, Luke Timberlake, Hailey Wheeler and Oliva Whittier.

Turn the Key Be Idle-Free

Have you noticed that folks leave their engines running even though they are often not going anywhere? Shutting your car or truck off prolongs engine life, saves money, conserves fuel, protects our environment, and eases discomfort from asthma. Since excessive engine idling is harmful it makes sense that Massachusetts and other states prohibit idling but the law is rarely enforced.

Engines don't need to be "warmed up" and in fact the best way to get your engine up to running temperature is to immediately start driving because harmful carbon deposits build up much faster in a cold, idling motor. And if you think that starting an engine uses more gas than idling it, here's a key fact: Idling for over 10 seconds uses more gas than it takes to start an engine. This means if you leave your vehicle running for just 3 minutes it will burn almost 20 times more gas than if you had just turned it off, translating into more than a tank of gas a year up in smoke. Here are a few things you can do:

- Shut off your engine when chatting with a friend or when at a drive up or bank window.
- Turn off your engine when when waiting to pick up your child at school.
- Ask Gill town officials, police, fire and highway departments to adopt a "No-Idling" policy to reduce Gill's fuel budget and to show that we care about climate change and air pollution.
- Ask construction workers to please turn off their pickup truck and car engines when parked or when taking breaks.
- Don't buy a remote car starter — it's too easy to let the engine run too long.

- Alden Booth



Franklin County Solid Waste District

Battery Recycling and Proper

Disposal: Free battery and cell phone recycling is available at town hall. Place cell phones and the batteries described below (no alkalines) into the battery box at town hall. Never place batteries in your curbside recycle bins!

There are many different types of batteries and some contain mercury and other heavy metals. If improperly disposed of, batteries can release mercury, cadmium or other heavy metals into the air and water, ultimately entering the food chain and posing health threats to people and the environment. Please read below for disposal instructions for specific battery types.

Rechargeable batteries are found in all electronics and appliances that can be recharged, such as cell phones; cordless phones; ipads/tablets; laptops; power tools; Roomba vacuum cleaners, some toys; kids ride-on toys; baby monitors; some digital cameras; camcorders; and rechargeable toothbrushes, razors, flashlights, and handheld vacuum cleaners. In addition, rechargeable batteries that can be recharged with a battery recharger should also be recycled when they can no longer hold a charge. Rechargeable batteries and cell phones contain heavy metals and should never be thrown away; they should always be recycled. Cell phones and rechargeable batteries should be placed into the battery box at town hall.

The specific batteries accepted are: Nickel-cadmium (Ni-cad), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn), Lithium Ion batteries (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead (Pb). These abbreviations are printed on rechargeable batteries.

“Call 2 Recycle” boxes for free rechargeable battery recycling are available at

Home Depot, Lowe’s and Radio Shack. Rechargeable batteries can also be taken to Household Hazardous Waste Collections.

Alkaline batteries are the most common household batteries. They are available in many sizes and shapes such as AA, C, D and 9 volt. Alkaline batteries manufactured since 1996 do not contain mercury or other hazardous materials. Alkaline batteries are safe to throw in the trash, but to reduce the risk of fire, tape the contacts on 9-volts before storage or disposal. All batteries should be checked carefully before disposal, as some rechargeable and lithium batteries resemble alkalines.

If you would like to reduce the number of alkaline batteries you are using, consider purchasing an inexpensive battery charger and some compatible rechargeable batteries. These batteries can be recharged over and over again, but remember to recycle them (as above) when they cannot be charged anymore.

Carbon Zinc and Zinc Chloride batteries may be disposed of in the same manner as alkaline batteries; see above.

Lithium batteries are used many applications but most often in cameras. The word “lithium” is printed on the battery. Be sure to check all batteries; some lithium batteries, such as the AA size or the short and fat lithium batteries used in cameras, resemble alkaline batteries, but should be recycled by placing them into the battery box at town hall. Lithium batteries can also be taken to Household Hazardous Waste Collections.

Button batteries are the small round silver batteries found in watches, calculators, hearing aids, toys, remote car locks, flameless “flicker candles,” electric fence dog collars, singing greeting cards and singing balloons. Many button batteries contain mercury; therefore, button bat-


teries must be disposed of properly: put them into a plastic bag and put into the battery box at town hall. Button batteries can also be taken to Household Hazardous Waste Collections.

Lead Acid batteries from cars, trucks, kids ride-on toys, etc. must be recycled by law. Recycling programs, some for cash or credit back, are available at auto supply stores and local scrap metal recyclers. Lead acid batteries are also accepted at household hazardous waste collections.

Spring “Clean Sweep” Collection for Bulky Items:

Save the date: Spring “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Day: May 21st from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility on Rt. 112 South, the Northfield Highway Garage, and the Whately Transfer Station. Bring tires, appliances, scrap metal, mattresses, construction debris, computers and equipment, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. You can also bring clean and dry (bagged) textiles and books for reuse or recycling. Certain bulky rigid plastics are accepted for a special recycling program. Materials will be recycled whenever possible. Pre-registration is not required. Disposal fees, subject to change, are listed at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html

For more information on any of these programs or events, contact the Franklin County Solid Waste District: 413-772-2438, info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, www.franklincountywastedistrict.org



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Home Energy Conservation and Rain barrels too!

Saturday May 14 from 10 AM-Noon

Learn how to save cash, protect the environment, and be more comfortable in your home. Reducing consumption is the best way to reduce your energy costs.

The Energy Commission will be presenting a video at the Riverside Building, and an opportunity to purchase a rain barrel. The 60-minute video by Janet Masucci condenses key points, including a dozen ways to reduce your home's energy use and a brief guide through a home energy audit. The video is based on materials developed by Peter Talmage, P.E, and a workshop facilitated by Andy Cole, a local builder who specializes in building super-insulated homes. The video helps to identify low-cost solutions so you can prioritize how to best spend your resources. Zero in on the MOST expensive places where your home loses heat. Information on low cost/no cost programs and rebates is also covered.

At the conclusion of the video a limited number of rain barrels with diverter kits will be available to those who have pre-registered for the low price of \$35. To register contact Janet Masucci at (413) 863-8694 or email jmasucci@msn.com

"Like" the Gill Energy Commission Facebook page to stay updated about new postings and offerings.

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Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the Riverside Municipal Building (RMB). The GHC is charged with preserving Gill's historical sites and records and maintains materials and artifacts of Gill history in the RMB. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Pam Shoemaker, Lynn Stowe Tomb, or Ivan Ussach, chair.

After a year and a half of researching and writing, the GHC's Riverside publication is going to the printer this summer and will be ready for sale at the start of September 2016. A descriptive flyer and order form is inserted in this issue of the newsletter. Please contact one of the Commission members if you have questions. As we enter our final editing stage, we have comments from a group of historians, archaeologists, and some

descendents of Riverside families who are helping to proofread the book; "I am on a hyperactive high from reading this book." "My family is thrilled to see the comprehensive presentation of Riverside history." "I don't know any other local historical group that has done such a complete picture of a place." The GHC members hope you will be as happy with Riverside, Life Along the Connecticut River in Gill, Massachusetts.

As the Riverside Cemetery Association and the Town of Gill discuss future ownership of the Riverside Cemetery, we are including some text of the cemetery's history, taken from the new Riverside book.

"The Riverside Cemetery predates the incorporation of the town (1793), but the earliest graves were marked by field stones and have since disappeared. Captain Timothy and Mary (Wells) Childs, George and Abigail (Crocker) Howland, and the members of their families probably repose in the southwest corner, but the exact location is unmarked." [Gill History 1] The earliest remaining grave-

stone in the cemetery is for Nahum Day, who drowned at the age of 23 in the Connecticut River near Millers Falls. He was buried May 17 1802.

In the 1820's, the Riverside Cemetery became the property of the Riverside School District No. 6 for an unknown reason. While under the ownership of the district, Cornelius Allen (1838) and his son David Allen (1879) deed land to the cemetery. When the school districts were discontinued in 1882, a Riverside Cemetery Association was formed and has managed the cemetery ever since. In June and October of 1883, Timothy M. Stoughton and Leonard, Henry B. and Hattie Barton gave tracts of land separately to expand the cemetery. The last piece of land was deeded in 1932 by Philip Stoughton, T. M.'s grandson."

The Riverside Cemetery Association, created May 1, 1883, had as its charter members many familiar names from Riverside. In 2016, the process was begun to turn over the ownership of the property to the Town of Gill.

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