



THE

Gill Newsletter

Summer 2016 Issue

Disclaimer:

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Town Hall

Highlights from the Annual and Special Town Meetings

This year's Annual Town Meeting was a one-night affair, with 47 voters gathering on May 9th and conducting all of the business in just under two hours. Among the highlights:

- Authorized the Selectboard to purchase for \$1 the Riverside Cemetery from the Riverside Cemetery Association.
- Authorized the Selectboard to negotiate a Payment In Lieu Of Taxes agreement with Borrego Solar Systems for a proposed solar photovoltaic power plant to be constructed and operated by Borrego on land they will lease from the Northfield Mount Hermon School.
- Authorized the Selectboard to work with officials from the Gill-Montague Regional School District to explore potential building repair projects at the Gill Elementary School that could be eligible for grant funding from the Mass. School Building Authority. Such projects are generally limited to replacing windows & doors, roofs, and heating systems.
- Unanimously approved the Town's Fiscal Year 2017 operating budget of \$1,497,042.74 and the Town's \$1,593,022.00 assessment for the Gill-Montague Regional School District.
- Approved a Fiscal Year 2017 operating budget of \$3,600 for the Recreation Committee, which organized and became active again in the Fall of 2015.
- Placed \$2,000 into the Energy Stabilization Fund, an amount that is roughly 40% of the estimated \$4,800 of annual savings created last year when the Town converted its street lights to energy-efficient LEDs.

The Special Town Meeting on June 28th lasted for 75 minutes and was attended by 39 voters. Highlights include:

- Authorized spending up to \$60,000 to purchase a used backhoe for the Highway Department.
- Approved \$16,636.80 to make the first of three annual payments on the loan for the Public Safety Complex roof replacement project.
- Approved \$38,825 to purchase a new police cruiser, contingent upon passage of a debt exclusion referendum. (See below.)
- Approved the PILOT agreement between the Town and Borrego Solar Systems. If the solar photovoltaic system is constructed, the Town will receive \$14,938.86 in the first year, with total payments of \$362,974.99 over the 20-year agreement.

Thanks again to each and every person who attended and participated in the governance of his/her town.

Police Cruiser - Debt Exclusion Referendum

On Thursday, September 8th, the same day as the Massachusetts Primary Election, there will be a debt exclusion referendum vote to decide if the Town will purchase a new police cruiser and pay for it with a temporary increase to the

Check in with the Gill Website

www.gillmass.org
for up to date news,
announcements and
contact information!



tax rate. The voting hours and location are the same as for the Primary Election.

Because of wording requirements established by the Mass. Department of Revenue, the debt exclusion question only asks for approval of the “amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a police cruiser and associated equipment for the police department.” No dollar amount can appear in the question.

At the June 28th Special Town Meeting, voters approved an article authorizing up to \$38,825 to purchase a cruiser, however, the vote was contingent upon passage of a debt exclusion. The current estimate is that if the debt exclusion is approved, the new cruiser would add 9-cents to the tax rate, and cost the average homeowner \$18.40 per year for three years.

Town Financial Audit

A team of six auditors from Scanlon & Associates recently completed four days of work at the Town Hall as part of a triennial financial audit. Their work focused on Fiscal Year 2015, and included reviewing and testing account balances, examining Town Meeting minutes, verifying budgets, and tracking receipts and expenditures. The final report is expected by the end of August.

Common People Concert Series

There should still be one or two concerts remaining by the time you receive this newsletter. Come check them out; it's always a fun time.

August 2 Gillbilly Name That Tune & Sing-Along ~ Led by The Damons

August 9 Jason Koerber Jazz Combo ~ Jazz Standards on the Gill Common

Where? On Gill Common. If the weather is yucky, concerts will be held in the Gill Congregational Church.

When? Summer Tuesday Evenings at 7 PM

Cost? None, but Friends of Gill will sell refreshments at each concert!

Why? Because Gill deserves lots of very good music.

More info? Contact Steve at anaturalmusicschool@yahoo.com

The concert series is sponsored by a grant from the Gill Cultural Council.

Cable Advisory Committee

There is an opening for a new member on the Cable Advisory Committee. If you are interested in learning more about the Committee and/or being a member, please contact the Chair, Tom Hodak, at 863-4227 or contact Ray Purington at the Town Hall, 863-9347.

The primary role of the Cable Advisory Committee is to negotiate cable TV licenses and renewals with Comcast. The current license was signed on May 17, 2016 and is a 10-year license. However, the Committee continues to explore ways to bring cable and/or broadband service to homes in Gill that are unserved. In addition, committee members can choose to be involved in producing and filming town meetings and other Gill events for later broadcast on MCTV.

Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant

News from the Town Clerk

State Primary Election

The State Primary will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at the Gill Fire Station, 196A Main Road from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. The deadline for registration to vote at the State Primary will be August 19, 2016 from 2-4 p.m. and from 7-8 p.m. at the Gill Town Hall. Absentee Ballots will be available for this election so please call the Town Clerk for more information about both.

Election Workers

I would like to welcome new election workers Carol Lafleur and Robert Koolkin who will be joining our team at the polls. Also I am pleased to announce that Robert Perry has accepted an appointment as Election Constable.

Please feel free to call with any questions about this election or the Presidential Election to be held November 8, 2016

Vacancy

The Town of Gill is looking for a representative to the Franklin County Technical School District School Committee to be appointed by the Moderator. These meetings are held the second Wednesday from September to June. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the FCTS. There are 19 district towns that participate. Please contact the Town Clerk with any further questions.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk

Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors continues its work in the community, recording and updating property changes throughout the town. The Assessors are very busy now and have been over the past three months collecting information for the Fiscal Year 2017 Triennial Revaluation. The department would like to extend its thanks to the residents for their cooperation with the process of reviewing assessments. Also, we would like to extend thanks and welcome Bill Tomb who has just accepted an appointment by the Selectboard as a member of the Board of Assessors.

*Board of Assessors
Ray Purington, Chair
Nancy Griswold
Bill Tomb*

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.



Gill Selectboard meetings coming to your living room

The Town Hall now has a modern, multi-camera AV system for recording Selectboard meetings and other events at Town Hall. If you find video and broadcasting exciting, contact Janet Masucci and get involved. No age requirement or video experience is needed, but some computer skills are necessary. A small stipend is available for recording meetings.

MCTV broadcasts its meetings on Channel 17; check the schedule in the Recorder. If you have internet access you can also watch the meetings anytime by going to <https://vimeo.com/mctvchannel17>.

For those who have cable, MCTV is also working with the Cable Commission to help broadcast meetings live to Channel 15. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the Cable Commission will have signed a contract with Comcast to bring cable and internet to even more Gill residents. Contact: jmasucci@msn.com 413-863-8694

Agricultural Commission Seeking Input

In an effort to promote agriculture and to serve the town, the Gill Agricultural Commission, would like to find out if there is an interest in preparing a "Community Garden" space for use by town of Gill residents. We are also looking for information about planting trees on town land and direction about any other agriculture-related interests.

Please feel welcome to contact the Commission at a regular scheduled meeting or contact a member. Meeting times are posted on the Town of Gill website and on the bulletin board at Town Hall. Contact info for our members also appears on the website.

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its annual household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, October 1st at GCC Main Campus and Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register between August 25 and September 26. Online registration forms may be completed at that time: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html. Paper registration forms will be available at participating town offices and transfer stations. Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring wastes to the collection; appointment time will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of the following towns: Athol, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. Barre, Gill, Orange and Sunderland residents must pay to participate in the 2016 collection.

Greenfield and Leyden residents are not eligible; call 772-1528 for info on year round disposal in Greenfield.

Businesses must pay for disposal costs. For business registration call 772-2438.

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, fluorescent lamps, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. For a complete list of acceptable items, see: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html.

For more information, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438, email info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, or visit: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

Energy Commission

The Gill Energy Commission has been hard at work to reduce energy use and save the town money. This winter the street lights in town were changed to high efficiency LED light bulbs. In addition, instead of continuing to lease the street lights from Eversource, the town has purchased the streetlights, eliminating the lease fees. At the most recent Selectboard meeting, it was announced that bill for the streetlights for May 2016 was \$48.47. In comparison, in May of 2015 the bill was \$446.53. This is an amazing 89% reduction! A special thanks goes to Tupper Brown for doing all the research and negotiating required to make this project come to fruition.

There are a number of other projects that we have done to reduce energy use and save money for the town. Stop by the Slate Library and look at the new Indows (interior window inserts). This helped to reduce the drafts in the library and makes the library feel more comfortable.

We are in the early stages of applying for a grant to investigate the feasibility of replacing the heating system at the Town Hall with a super-efficient geothermal system. If you are inspired by our work and would like to help, there is an opening on the Energy Commission. Please be in touch with Ray at the Town Hall if you are interested: 863-9347.

Call 866-527-SAVE (7283) to schedule your no-cost Home Energy Assessment with a Mass Save Energy Specialist or have a Mass Save Participating Contractor start the process for you.



Girl's Softball State Champions

Congratulations to Gill students, seniors Mackenzie Phillips and Gabby Arzuaga, 8th grader Alyson Murphy and 7th grader Olivia Whittier who helped the Turners Falls High School Softball team win its 8th State Championship, their third in four years.

Honor Roll

3rd Quarter

Frontier Regional School

Grade 11

High Honors: Ashley Levasseur

Grade 10

High Honors: Joseph Lawton-Curtis

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 12

High Honor: Julia Wallace

Honor: Eric Shutta

Grade 11

Highest Honor: Amelia Pelletier

Grade 9

Honor: Jake Wallace

Grade 7

Highest honor: Sydney duKor-Jackson,

Brian Peila Jr. and Emaline Relyea-Strawn

High Honor: Jacob Smith

Turners Falls High School

Grade 11

First Honors: Bryn Kruzlic

Second Honors: Tahner Castine,
Kaili Lynch and Jeremy Wolfram

Grade 10

First Honors: Kyle Kucenski

Second Honors: Branden Chapin,
Noah Courchesne, Kylee Mason and
David Tricolici

Third Honors: James Vaughn

Grade 9

Second Honors: Reilan Castine

Third Honors: Bryce Waldron

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

Second Honors: Alyson Murphy and
Lindsay Whiteman

Grade 7

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

Second Honors: Julie Sprankle

4th Quarter

Four Rivers Charter Public School

Grade 11

Honors: Jake Wallenius-Duda

Grade 10

Honors: Abby Milewski

Grade 9

Honors: Paige Molongoski, Chelsea
Parzych and Maddie Wallenius-Duda

Grade 8

High Honors: Ella Bathory-Peeler and
Maddie Tombs

Frontier Regional School

Grade 11

High Honors: Ashley Levasseur

Grade 10

High Honors: Joseph Lawton-Curtis

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 12

High Honor: Julia Wallace

Honor: Bradley Hastings

Grade 11

Highest Honor: Amelia Pelletier

Grade 9

Honor: Rylie Zager

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Sydney duKor-Jackson
and Emaline Relyea-Strawn

High Honor: Brian Peila Jr.

Honor: Jacob Smith

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

Second Honors: Nadia Hasan

Grade 11

First Honors: Bryn Kruzlic

Second Honors: Tahner Castine,
Kaili Lynch and Jeremy Wolfram

Grade 10

Second Honors: Branden Chapin,
Noah Courchesne, Kyle Kucenski and
John Wheeler II

Third Honors: David Tricolici

Grade 9

Second Honors: Reilan Castine

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

Second Honors: Alyson Murphy and
Lindsay Whiteman

Third Honors: Ethan Courchesne

Grade 7

First Honors: Taylor Murphy, Karissa
Olson, Leah Timberlake, Luke Timberlake,
Hailey Wheeler and Olivia Whittier

Second Honors: Julie Sprankle

Preventing Mosquito Bites

West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE or "Triple E") are warm-weather threats in Massachusetts. These viruses, which are spread to people through the bite of an infected mosquito, can cause illness ranging from a mild fever to more serious disease like encephalitis or meningitis. While these illnesses are not common, preventing mosquito bites in the first place is the best defense. Steps that "fight the bite" include:



- Applying insect repellent when outdoors: Repellents with DEET, permethrin, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 are effective. Be sure to use these according to the instructions on the product label and note precautions for use on infants and children.
- Avoiding outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours: The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes.
- Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors: Covering up helps keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- Draining standing water where mosquitoes lay their eggs: Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in birdbaths frequently.
- Installing or repairing screens: Keep mosquitoes outside by having screens on all of your windows and doors.
- Protecting your animals: Flush water troughs at least once a week and keep horses in indoor stalls at night with lights off to reduce their exposure to mosquitoes.

Zika virus, Dengue fever and Chikungunya are other mosquito-borne diseases you can get when traveling abroad. At this time, only people traveling to places with ongoing Zika virus outbreaks or engaging in sexual activity with someone who has traveled to these places are at risk for getting these infections. For up to date information about where Zika virus is occurring:
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.

For more on WNV, EEE, repellent use and other mosquito borne illness prevention visit www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito or contact Lisa White, Regional Public Health Nurse at 413-665-1400 x114

Greetings from Gill Church.

As we begin our 21st year, we want to share our excitement over the building's facelift — with thanks to Renaissance Builders for the good job and professionalism — and some upcoming events and new prospects involving our ministry. Worship services begin at 10 AM on Sundays; we invite all in our community to visit. You will find a casual and friendly atmosphere within an approach to faith and worship that is traditional along fundamental guidelines. Sunday school is at 9 AM, and though it is geared toward adults, we think children would enjoy the open discussion, casual atmosphere, refreshments, videos and other activities. In addition, Merri Bourbeau leads a ladies' bible study every other Wednesday at 11 AM, with a potluck luncheon to follow.

We are occasionally visited by our friends from the Agape Baptist Church (Moldovan) in Greenfield. The youth choir ministers to us with great music, both traditional and praise, in English and Romanian. We will host a youth rally on Saturday, September 24, at 5 PM. There will be a bible-based message, refreshments, and lots of music, and will include members of the Agape Church youth choir. All the youth of any age in our community are invited, and adult staff will be on hand from both Gill Church and Agape. Parents are welcome to observe and enjoy.

We are exploring the possibility of establishing an ongoing youth group, which would meet on Friday or Saturday evenings. Our hope is to offer a fun, safe environment at the church where young people can enjoy a bible-based message, some uplifting praise music, singing, and refreshments. There may also be short bus trips to other youth events. Families interested in these activities should contact us for further details.

Dr. C. Wayne Johnson is expected to visit Agape Baptist Church where he will be speaking and teaching. He will probably visit the Gill Church on the last Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning in October. On Saturday we hope to have a gathering for music and singing, fellowship and refreshment, and a message from Dr. Johnson. On Sunday he would be part of regular worship service. Dr. Johnson, mission pastor at his home church in Medora, Kansas, is President of Missions Revival, involved in planting churches, training pastors and rallying churches worldwide. He has ministered around the U.S. and in several other countries including Moldova, and is missions pastor at Christian Bible Church in Saipan. He is also Vice-president of Eucon International University and a Bible teacher at Central Christian School in Hutchinson, Kansas. Dr. Johnson has a Doctorate of Ministry from Pensacola Theological Seminary and other pastoral and ministry degrees. We are looking forward to his visit and know he will inform and inspire listeners with the news of his ministries, the message he brings forth, and the service and fellowship between the Gill Church and the Agape Church.

Keep an eye on the weekly religion section of *The Recorder* for current information on these programs and events; or call or email Gary Bourbeau: 413 768-9543, gryngill@yahoo.com. Better yet, bring your family and visit us for church on Sunday.



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Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of the summer months at 5:30 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.

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After almost two years of researching and writing, the GHC's Riverside publication is going to the printer the first week of August 2016. Look at the box in this issue for distribution dates and details. Please contact one of the members if you have questions. We thank everyone who has contributed to Riverside, Life Along the Connecticut River in Gill, Massachusetts.

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The GHC has been busy with several other projects. We are pleased that the National Park Service has approved a grant to support Phase 2 of the Great Falls Battlefield Project, which will focus on archaeological field work using metal detectors but only on sites where the landowner has provided written permission. Many Gill landowners in Riverside provided such permission last year and will be contacted in a few months.

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The GHC has also been participating in the review process for the proposed expansion of the Riverside Mobil station and addition of a convenience store. We provided comments during the ZBA's public hearing and are now working to ensure that the planned Phase 1 site survey to identify the potential for existing archaeological and cultural resources underground is done according to the

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highest standards, reflecting the enormous stature of the area as one documents to contain evidence of 10,000 of continuous human occupation.

As part of First Light Power's relicensing application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the GHC is now reviewing the company's plans for managing historical properties affected by their Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage and Cabot Station power generating facilities.

The NHC has received revised forms nominating some of the Riverside section to the National Register of Historic Landmarks, and GHC waits further MHC action. The nomination papers for the Gill Center were filed a year or so ago, and results are pending in what is generally over a two-year process. We remind you that the National Register does not impose limitations on property owners and is purely an honorary designation.

Other plans are forming for GHC projects in the next year. We hope to finance some new display cases and exhibits at

PICK UP YOUR BOOKS
Riverside, Life Along the Connecticut in Gill, Massachusetts
 A publication of the Gill Historical Commission

If you have ordered and prepaid for copies of the new book, you can pick them up at a book signing at the Riverside Municipal Building on Fri., Sept. 9, 6–9 p.m. or Sat., Sept. 10, 9–12. There will be some copies for sale for those who have not preordered.

Questions? Lstomb@gmail.com or 863-4170.

the RMB collection and have more open times at the collection. Events to digitalize the collection will continue. Are there other projects you would like to suggest to GHC? Is there interest in an inventory of mill sites? Of stone walls? What are your suggestions?

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