



THE

Gill Newsletter

June 2009 Issue

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Town Hall News

Annual Town Meeting

The first half of the Annual Town Meeting was held May 4. Those present heard a brief presentation from the Commission for Education in Gill on their findings. Following the presentation, voters approved articles to form two committees to study the issue further (see “Committee Volunteers Sought”). The third article placed on the warrant by the Commission, one requesting the Gill Montague Regional School Committee to draw up amendments to the regional agreement setting forth the terms of Gill’s withdrawal from the district was passed over on a recommendation from the Commission. The Commission explained that the process the School Committee would have to undertake to accomplish that task would be large and expensive and is probably premature. The article can be included on the warrant of a future special town meeting should the Town choose to pursue it.

Town Meeting voters adopted a Massachusetts statute allowing the Selectboard to appoint a town administrator, but does not dictate that they must. Should the Board choose in the future to revert back to hiring an administrative assistant they would be allowed to do so. During the Board’s regular meeting on May 11, they voted unanimously to appoint the current administrative assistant, Tracy Rogers, as the Town’s first town administrator.

The two articles proposing to declare two town parcels as “surplus” were both defeated. The first addressed the Riverside Municipal Building on French King Highway. Though the article was defeated,

what was approved was forming a committee to study possible future plans for the building. The second article addressed the Boyle property at the corner of Center Road and Lyons Hill Road.

Monetary articles were not addressed on May 4, given the lack of final figures for state aid and the Gill Montague Regional School District at that time. The meeting was continued until June 16, 7 PM, at which time monetary articles, including the omnibus, will be voted on.

Special Town Meeting June 16, 6 PM

Preceding the continuation of the Annual Town Meeting will be a special town meeting necessary to clean up a few items from the current fiscal year. In addition, Tighe & Bond will present their progress on conducting a market study and creating conceptual designs for the Mariamante parcel and voters will consider accepting a gift of protected land known as the “Sandri property”.

Continuation of Annual Town Meeting – June 16, 7 PM



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



Committee Volunteers Sought

Three new ad hoc committees were created during annual town meeting and the Selectboard is now seeking volunteers to serve on those committees.

The first two committees were recommended by the Commission for Education as a way to further study the public education alternatives available to Gill. One is charged “to study and recommend for consideration possible changes to the Gill Montague Regional School District Agreement” and the other is charged to “to study the fiscal and educational advisability of joining the Pioneer Valley Regional School District or adding any towns to the Gill Montague Regional School District”.

The third committee is charged with studying future uses of the Riverside Municipal Building.

Though not a committee, the Town is also seeking trained mediators who would be willing to volunteer their time to assist in settling neighbor disputes that arise from time to time.

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, or as a volunteer mediator, please contact Tracy Rogers.

Gill Receives Award with Distinction from Common Cause

In March, the Selectboard received news that Gill had won an award with distinction from Common Cause, a “nonpartisan, nonprofit, government watchdog, dedicated to citizen participation in an open, honest, and accountable govern-

ment.” Only 49 communities among the 351 in the state received this award. The award recognized Gill’s website for having a multitude of documents available for the public to review, such as zoning bylaws, town bylaws, annual reports, and meeting agendas and minutes. Tracy is currently working with the Agricultural Commission to put a “virtual tour” of Gill farms on the site. We are constantly trying to improve the website and welcome any suggestions. Please contact Tracy at administrator@gillmass.org with suggestions.

Invitation for Bids

Town of Gill Surplus Supplies

The Town of Gill will accept sealed bids for sale of the items listed below until June 22, 2009 at 4:30 PM, at which time they will be publicly opened. Bids must include a signed non-collusion form. Bids may be submitted to the Office of the Selectboard, 325 Main Rd, Gill, MA 01354-9758, ATTN: Surplus Supplies.

1989 Ford L8000 single axle dump truck. Mileage is approximately 120,618; hours are approximately 8,385. Item may be inspected at the Gill Highway Department, 196 Main Rd, by calling (413) 863-2324 to schedule an appointment. Minimum bid suggested at \$5,000.

2004 Konica 1290 photocopier. Item may be inspected at the Gill Police Department, 196 Main Rd, by calling (413) 863-9398 to schedule an appointment. No minimum bid suggested.

Wooden desk. Approximately 53”l x 29”w x 30”h, 7 drawers in working

condition. Needs light refinishing. Item may be inspected at the Town Hall, 325 Main Rd, Monday - Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM; no appointment necessary. No minimum bid suggested.

Payment for the photocopier and desk may be made in cash, cashier’s check, or personal check. Payment for the dump truck may be made in cash or cashier’s check only.

Items must be removed by August 13, 2009.

The surplus supplies will be awarded to the responsive bidder offering the highest price for the items described. The Selectboard reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to dispose of the items through a negotiated sale, provided that the negotiated sale price is higher than the highest bid received from a responsive bidder.

For a non-collusion form or further information, please contact the Town Administrator at (413) 863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.

Town Offices Closed Monday, July 6

In observance of Independence Day, all town offices will be closed on Monday, July 6.

*Tracy Rogers,
Town Administrator*

From the Collector of Taxes

Demand Fees for Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes will be increased from \$5 to \$10 effective July 1st, 2009.

*Veronica LaChance, Tax Collector
and Treasurer*



MassSAVE

Energy Bills too high? Not sure where to start? Get a Home Energy Audit! MassSAVE offers a no-cost home energy assessment to help homeowners make home energy improvements that save money and energy. CET carries out most of MassSAVE's energy services in western Massachusetts. CET's expert staff will help you identify and prioritize cost-effective improvements for your home, and let you know about incentives to make it more affordable. Making your home energy efficient is easier than ever with great incentives from MassSAVE:

* Save up to \$2,000 on home energy upgrades. Through MassSAVE, you can take advantage of a 75% reduction on the cost of adding insulation and sealing air leaks in your home.

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Your first step to qualify for incentives is to schedule a no-cost MassSAVE home energy assessment. Call 1-866-527-7283 to schedule or visit MassSave.com to learn more.

Gill Elementary School

It is hard to imagine that the school year will draw to a close on June 17th. This has been a very busy and energizing year at Gill Elementary School. We have welcomed many new students and their families into the Gill School community and throughout the year, through a variety of community events, we have knit ourselves into a very friendly and supportive place for everyone. We still have a few events planned and we invite all community members to come and celebrate the end of the year with us.

On Tuesday, May 26 we will raise a new flag. Our Third Grade teacher, Sue Smith, noticed one day that our current flag was showing signs of wear. She contacted John Olver's office and arranged for us to receive a new flag, donated free of charge. In addition, the flag that we are receiving is special in that it has briefly flown over the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. We will receive our new flag at a ceremony that is scheduled for 2 PM. Steve Damon, our music teacher, is teaching our students special patriotic songs for this occasion. The flag will be raised for the first time by a member of a staff who is also a veteran of our Armed Forces.

On Friday, June 5 we gather for an evening event that we call

JOIN FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
For an afternoon of family fun at the

PICNIC ON THE COMMON

Sunday, June 14th

Starting at Noon

Rain Date – Saturday, June 20th

FOOD!

available Noon—3 PM

Hamburgers	Coffee
Cheeseburgers	Chips
Hotdogs	Cold Drinks
Strawberry Shortcake	French Fries

MUSIC and FUN!

12:30–2:30 PM

Fall Town String Band

Fire Trucks

Horse Drawn Hayrides

Children's Sawdust Coin Hunt
(at 2:30 PM)

Sponsored by the Friends of Gill

*Music is made possible through a grant from the Gill Cultural Council,
a local agency which is supported by
the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.*



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“Arts and Eats”. The PTO puts on a barbeque for the community. After eating, people enjoy the wonderful display of children’s art that adorns the hallways and cafeteria. It is very special to see the artistic creativity of our students. Please plan on joining us for the food and the arts.

For our 6th grade students and a few of our 5th grade students, the end of the school year also means that their time at Gill Elementary is drawing to a close as they will graduate and move on to different schools. We have planned a graduation ceremony for June 16. No event can really capture the profound change that happens for children as they grow from curious Kindergarteners to mature children with keen intellects and sharpened academic skills. Our staff at Gill Elementary School is proud and humble to be part of this transformative process. We thank the entire Gill community for your on-going support of education here at Gill Elementary School. It is your effort and support that enables us to do our work.

Gill Students

HONOR ROLL Third Quarter

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 12

Honor: Nils Albert Johnson

Grade 11

High Honor: Nicholas Duska

Grade 9

High Honor: Jacob Levin

Honor: Mary Kate Duska

Grade 8

Highest Honor: Jaclyn Lafleur, Emily Messer, and Kevin Wang

High Honor: Raleigh Yates

Honor: John Arena, Aaron Milewski, and Kaylyn Tognarelli

Grade 7

Highest Honor: George Atkins

Frontier Regional School

Grade 9

High Honors: Ben Lawton



Slate Library News

Slate library is busy getting ready for the summer reading program. We have lots of fun workshops for children to attend this June and July, and lots of new books for them to check out as well. This year the Massachusetts Library Association has chosen the theme of outer space and Slate library is hoping to provide a fun filled educational summer for the children of Gill. New titles include *11 Planets: A New View of the Solar System* as well as *When is a Planet Not a Planet?: The Story of Pluto*. Look at our upcoming events!

STARSHIP ADVENTURE AT YOUR LIBRARY

Slate Library's Summer Reading Program

Saturday June 20 at 10:30 AM
Summer Reading Kick-off Party!

Come register for our summer reading program. Pick up your game board and get ready to read.

11 AM - Tim Van Egmond Concert

Folksinger and storyteller Tim Van Egmond will perform a family concert of legends and songs about the "Sun and Moon and Stars". Find out how the Big Dipper is a bear that falls over and rises again with the seasons, the Pleiades are seven dancers in the sky, and more! Van Egmond will accompany himself on a variety of traditional instruments, including guitar and dulcimer

Saturday June 27 at 10:30 AM
Space Toys from Recycled Materials

Come create space ships and robots from recycled materials. Using cardboard, metal tins, glitter and glue make a fun construction that is out of this world!

Thursday July 2 at 6 PM

Sock Puppet Aliens *(Please note this workshop is on a Thursday due to the 4th of July)*

Come make a night of it with your family and have fun with markers, pompoms, fabric and buttons and create an alien sock puppet. Your imagination is the limit!

Saturday July 11 at 10 AM
Mad Science Rocket Building Workshop

This is your chance to be a rocket scientist! Investigate the four forces of flight with the help of a Unique Flying Object!

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Explore the science involved in rocket construction as you build your own Skyblazer II Rocket™ that you can take home! (Pre-registration is required)

Saturday July 18 at 11 AM
Outer Space Maps

Come draw a magical fantastical map of outer space. Using ink and colored pencils we'll let our imaginations run wild, drawing planets, galaxies, and creatures like you've never seen before. A fun filled morning for children of any age.

Saturday July 25 at 11 AM
Rosalita's Puppets

In this story Rosalita discovers a new planet in her telescope. She then travels on an adventure into space to find it and prove it does exist. Enjoy watching Rosalita going boldly where no puppet has ever gone before, to seek out new land and new puppet civilizations. Includes scientist, silly robot aliens, time traveler and space ship. This delightful marionette show is brand new for 2009 involving singing, audience participation and a whole cast of hand made marionettes.

Doug's Auto Body

Doug Smith - Owner



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Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Riverside Building on Route 2. The Commission is charged with planning for the historical preservation of sites and records within Gill. In addition to its other projects, the Commission maintains records and artifacts of Gill history in the Riverside school building; the collection is open at advertised times as well as by appointment. 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.

In a recent issue, we shared 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 neighboring Bernardston. J.B.'s father-in-law, Obed Morgan, had re-married 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 1823 house after several generations of the Marbles.

ALAN D. WALLACE

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The Marble farm on River Road is now the Girard farm. In this issue, we return to the Marble diary after a spring month from the Chandler Munn diary at the north end of town. All of these entries show the men's work in an agrarian Gill of the mid-19th century. We hope that as we turn to summer in much of the same weather as 1866, you will appreciate the agrarian landscape and places of our history.

Joseph B. Marble's Diary

May 1866

Monday, May 28, 1866.

Some cloudy and several times hard shower in the afternoon; went to Greenfield and carried **Isabel** (Isabel is J.P. Marble's daughter.)

Thursday 29

Morning pleasant some cloudy and windy in the afternoon Sowed some corn for fodder and worked about the house

Friday, June 1, 1866.

Pleasant and rather cool for the season at work about the house in the forenoon laid a hog pen floor for **Father** in the afternoon (Father is Obed Morgan.)

Saturday 2

Pleasant in the forenoon a light thunder shower in the afternoon at work about the house in the forenoon went to the river in the afternoon

Sunday, June 3, 1866.

Cloudy foggy and rather damp all day

Monday 4

Rained quite hard this morning and another shower in the afternoon went to Greenfield

Tuesday 5

Cloudy muggy and damp all day
Commenced hoeing corn for the first time

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Wednesday, June 6, 1866.

Rained some by spells all day at work about the house most of the day went to the Sawmill in the afternoon

Thursday 7

Some cloudy part of the day rained a little once; went to **Mr Platts** and the Falls hoed corn in the afternoon

Friday 8

Some cloudy all day rained several times and rather cool finished hoeing corn for the first time and had **Father** to help

Saturday, June 9, 1866

Some cloudy and rather cool all day; got some shingles from the mill in the forenoon and worked in the ? rest of the day

Sunday 10

Some cloudy in the forenoon clear in the afternoon and very cold for the season



Monday 11

Pleasant and rather warm all day went to Greenfield and carried **Father** in the forenoon and hoed potatoes in the afternoon

Tuesday, June 12, 1866.

Forenoon pleasant and rather warm some cloudy at night; worked for **Father** in the forenoon and plowed my tobacco land in the afternoon

Wednesday 13

Cloudy in the forenoon. Commenced raining at noon and rained some most of the afternoon at work fitting (?) tobacco land **the teacher** came here to board at night

Thursday 14

Cloudy all day commenced raining at 4 PM and rained quite hard fitting land for tobacco and hoed some potatoes and worked in the garden

Friday, June 15, 1866.

Foggy in the morning cleared off pleasant and very warm all day; Finished fitting land for tobacco Shower at the south at night

Saturday 16

Pleasant and very warm all day Mowed the back yard and chopped wood at the (?) went to the ferry for **Mary**

(probably Morgan's ferry, formerly Stacy's ferry, at the end of River Road; Mary seems to be a relative who may have lived in Irving.)

Monday, June 18, 1866.

Rained very hard in the night and this morning the hardest rain of the season; went to Greenfield came home by **Doctors** and got tobacco plants and set them in the afternoon

Tuesday 19

Cleared off pleasant and warm all day Commenced hoeing corn the second time had **Father Morgan** to help

Wednesday 20

Pleasant but rather cool all day finished hoeing corn the 2 time

Thursday, June 21, 1866.

Pleasant and verry warm all day went to **the Doctors** for tobacco plants earley this morning and finished setting for the first time

Friday 22 - (missing)

Saturday 23

Pleasant and verry warm all day; set over tobacco this morning worked in the garden

Sunday, June 24, 1866.

Pleasant and verry hot all day

Monday 25

Some foggy and damp this morning cleared off verry hot the hottest day of the season; went to Greenfield and carried **John and George Robberts** Hoed some in the garden in the afternoon

Tuesday 26

Pleasant and hot in the forenoon quite a shower in the afternoon at work on the tobacco in the forenoon helped **Father** get the hay in the afternoon

Wednesday, June 27, 1866.

Pleasant and hot in the forenoon quite a shower in the afternoon at work on the tobacco in the forenoon helped **Father** get the hay in the afternoon

Thursday 28

Some cloudy and a little rainy by spells all day set some tobacco and worked in the garden

Friday 29

Pleasant and a little cooler; at work hoeing tobacco all day

Saturday, June 30, 1866.

Pleasant and rather cool in the forenoon some thunder bursts in the afternoon finished hoeing tobacco in the forenoon got in some hay for **Father** in the afternoon

Sunday, July 1, 1866.

Pleasant but rather cool all day

Monday 2

Morning rather cool pleasant and rather warm all day; went to Greenfield in the forenoon carried **Holland Baldick (?) and J.N. Bales (Bates?)** commenced mowing below the barn

Tuesday, July 3, 1866.

Pleasant and verry warm all day mowed in the orchard and worked at haying all day

Wednesday 4

Morning pleasant and verry warm afternoon showers with strong south wind one shower went to the North at work haying got in two loads of hay

Thursday 5

Thunder heads in sight most of the day sprinkled a little at night at work haying got in two loads of hay from the orchard





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

July 15th for the August Issue.

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