Eall 2018 Issue

Disclaimer:

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Town Hall

Gill 225

Looking Back and Moving Forward

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As 2018 starts to wind down, the Town's 225th anniversary year also comes to a close. I want to thank the awesome committee members who organized many events throughout the year, as well as all the community members who came out and participated in our year-long celebration. Never did I imagine all the fun we would have.

Our committee went into 2018 thinking about community, and our goals always included community building and reaching a diverse group of participants. The year started with a New Year's Day sing-along in the Town Hall attended by townspeople of all ages, from pre-schoolers to members of the Greatest Generation. What a great time that was!

Community building has been at the core of all our events, and we don't want to stop building community simply because the anniversary year ends. We will keep the committee alive, with a new name but with the same overarching goal of "celebrating the family of community" in Gill.

Just as the 225th year started with a sing-along, we will continue 2019's celebration of community in the same way. We invite you to join us and start your year off in a joyous event. There will be other great events periodically throughout 2019. Watch the newsletter and Facebook for updates.

If you are interested in being part of the committee, or interested in putting on

a community event, please feel free to contact us. New members, new ideas, and new events are always welcome. The only experience really required is passion. When passion for your community is combined with passion for the event you want to plan, the result will be success.

Randy Crochier (413-863-2353 or hxydad77@yahoo.com)

Job Opening: Administrative Clerk (Part Time)

The Town is accepting applications for the Administrative Clerk position established at this year's Annual Town Meeting. It is part-time, averaging 15 hours per week, with a rate of \$17.45/ hour. Attendance at some evening meetings is required.

The Administrative Clerk provides support and assistance to the Town Administrative Assistant, Board of Health, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Conservation Commission, and other Town Boards and Departments as directed by the Town Administrative Assistant.

A partial list of responsibilities includes: compile Annual Town Reports; attend evening meetings of the ZBA



Check in with the Gill Website

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





and Planning Board and take and transcribe meeting minutes; prepare and collate handouts for meetings; provide customer service in person and on the telephone and respond to inquiries regarding town services; organize and file all records for Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board; update information on town website; and prepare articles for the newsletter and local newspapers.

Qualified Gill residents are encouraged to apply. A complete job description and application form are available at Town Hall and online at www.gillmass.org/jobs. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Riverside Sewer Rates

As reported in the two local newspapers, the Town of Montague has adopted substantially higher sewer rates, including the rate charged to the Town of Gill for waste from the Riverside sewer system pumped to Montague for treatment.

A rate increase of this magnitude will require Gill to increase its sewer rate as well as hold a Special Town Meeting to adopt a higher budget for the Riverside Sewer System. A date for the Special Town Meeting has not yet been set, but will be announced on the Town's website and in newspapers once it is known.

Gill's Sewer Commissioners, who are the three members of the Selectboard, held a preliminary discussion on Gill's sewer rate increase during their October 29th meeting. The formal vote to adopt a new sewer rate most likely will take place at the Selectboard's meeting on Thursday, November 15th at 6:30 PM.

Information about Montague's rate increase was included in the sewer bills mailed on October 17th, and can also be found online at www. gillmass.org/news.

Highway Department Personnel

Congratulations to Eddie Ambo who retired from the Gill Highway Department on July 30th after 37 years of service to the Town. Thank you for all that you did for the Town and its residents, Eddie, and best wishes to you for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Please give a warm Gill welcome to Brandon Ovitt, the newest member of the Highway Department. Brandon comes to Gill from a similar position in the Highway Department of Winchester, NH, where he also lives and is a member of that town's Fire Department. Welcome aboard, Brandon!

Bid on Surplus Equipment

The Town is accepting sealed bids for the following surplus equipment, all offered "AS IS":

2008 Crown Vic police cruiser, V8, approx. 140,000 miles

1986 Ford E350 cutaway van, V8, Braun body, 25,000 miles, generator, winch

1979 Galion rubber tire roller Model 3500 w/ Waukesha RD310 engine

1986 Woods MC72-1 3-point hitch mower

1986 Motrim arm mower

Bid forms, along with additional information about the items, are

available at Town Hall and online at www.gillmass.org/bids. Bids must be received at Town Hall by November 13th at 2:00 PM.

Fall is the Perfect Season to Volunteer

Now that the summer weather and all its fun distractions are behind us, think about filling some of your free time by volunteering for one of the town committees with vacancies. There are openings on the Agricultural Commission, Capital Improvements Planning Committee, Council on Aging, Energy Commission, Finance Committee, and Historical Commission. If any sound interesting, and you want to learn more, contact the Chair (names & numbers on the website), or call Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk, at 863-8103 or Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant, at 863-9347.

Winter Parking Ban

Gill's wintertime parking ban begins on November 1st and runs through April 15th. There is NO on-street parking allowed between the hours of 1 AM and 6 AM. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Tax Bills

The first tax bills for FY19 were mailed on October 15th, with a due date of November 19th . Residents are reminded that tax bills are not sent to mortgage companies. It is your responsibility to notify your mortgage company and ensure an on-time payment. If you use your bank's online bill payment to send a check, be sure to include the Bill # as part of the memo line.



If you mail in your tax payment, include the bottom tear-off portion of the bill, and write the Bill # on the memo line of your check.

Thank you, Ronnie LaChance, Tax Collector

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Notice

Pursuant to G.L. c. 40 Section 32, notice is hereby given to the inhabitants of the Town of Gill, Franklin County, and others that may be concerned therein, that on October 3, 2018 the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved the adoption of amendments to the by-laws as adopted in Articles 5 and 6 of the warrant for the Gill Annual Town meeting that convened on May 7, 2018.

RE: Gill Annual Town Meeting of May 7, 2018 – Case # 9098 Warrant Articles # 5 and 6 (General)

Articles 5 and 6 - We approve the amendments to the Town bylaws adopted under these Articles on the warrant for the Gill Annual Town Meeting that convened on May 7, 2018.

Article 5: Agricultural

Commission- By allowing the membership to be a range, a quorum is then considered to be a majority of the appointed members. So if, for example, there are nine appointed members, the quorum is five. If there are only four members, the quorum is three. Motion: It is moved the Town vote to delete the first sentence of the second paragraph of the Town's Agricultural Commission bylaw and replace it with "The Commission shall consist of between three and nine members appointed by the Moderator, of which the majority of the membership shall be substantially engaged in the pursuit of agriculture.", and further delete the second sentence of the fourth paragraph and replace it with "The Moderator shall appoint additional members to initial terms of one, two, or three years and three thereafter, in such a way as to maintain a balance of the number of members' terms that expire in any given year." Motion declared unanimous YES

Article 6: Finance Committee

- The reason for this article is to more reliably achieve a quorum to allow the FinCom to meet and conduct business.

Motion: It is moved the Town vote to delete the first sentence of the Town's Finance Committee bylaw and replace it with "The Finance Committee shall consist of **between five and nine** members, appointed by the Moderator for three year overlapping terms.", and further delete the second sentence of the bylaw.

Motion declared unanimous YES

A copy of the approved bylaw revisions and the Attorney General's decisions are available at the Gill













Town Clerk's Office, the Gill Slate Library, the Riverside Municipal Building Display case, the Gill Police Station and the Turners Falls Council on Aging Senior Center.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo Town Clerk

Roll Call

College Graduates

Taylor Kay McNamara graduated from the University of Massachusetts this spring.

Dean's List

Greenfield Community College: Kori Nicole Wileman made the President's List earning a GPA of 4.0 at the term's end. Marc A. Brown and Tahner J. Castine were named to the Dean's List achieving a GPA of 3.50 or higher but less than a 4.0 at the term's end.

Colgate University in New York: Zachary Leeds was awarded the Dean's Award with Distinction. Zachary, who is graduating in 2020, is majoring in neuroscience.

Christmas Bazaar

The Gill-Montague Senior Center will hold its annual bazaar on Saturday, November 17th from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Center at 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls. There will be a raffle of three prizes: 1st prize \$100 worth of scratch tickets, 2nd prize a \$200 gift certificate to Food City, and 3rd prize a \$100 gift certificate to Food City. Raffle chances are \$1 for one and \$5 for six. There will be crafts, food and gifts for sale at the Center.

Energy Commission

The Gill Energy Commission has been hard at work finding ways to save money for the town. We spent much of the past year preparing the required materials for a competitive grant from Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). We were excited to be awarded \$68,465 towards energy savings projects at the Slate Library, Town Hall, and the Riverside Municipal Building. Look for an update on these projects in the next Gill newsletter in early 2019!

Jim Barry, the Green Communities coordinator for Western MA has provided information about an exciting new program funded by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (CEC) and the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Solar Access is an innovative new renewable energy program for middle-income homeowners in Massachusetts that is being offered by the nonprofit Center for EcoTechnology (CET). CET has partnered with SunBug Solar and Girard Heating and Air Conditioning to bring affordable, renewable energy to those who may not readily be able to purchase this technology. Working with CET experts, eligible residents will be guided through the program which adds a special Solar Access subsidy to the existing combination of electric utility, state, and federal incentives for renewable energy. By enrolling in a UMass Five College Credit Union loan, participants will own new solar panels and heat pump heating and cooling for less than they spend now. If you want more information, please contact

the Gill Energy Commission at encom@gillmass.org.

The Energy Commission is eager to welcome another member or two to our committee. We are an extremely efficient group and we meet monthly for an hour. Occasional work is done between meetings, but we try hard to accommodate everyone's schedule. If you are interested, please send an email with contact information to encom@gillmass.org.

Vicky Jenkins (chair), Claire Chang, Tupper Brown, Janet Masucci, Alden Booth, and Andy Cole

Slate Library

The Slate Memorial Library will be closed for renovations from October 18th until sometime in mid-December. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we are excited about the work being done.

Thanks in large part to \$42,838 of funding from the Green Communities Competitive Grant Program, our Library will receive a new heating system (air source heat pumps, aka "mini splits"), insulation of the attic floor and sloped ceiling, and new LED lighting. As part of this work, the drop ceiling will be removed, and the balcony and high ceiling will be visible again.

We hope to re-open sometime in December and celebrate with everyone in our refurbished library in the New Year!

You may continue to return overdue books in the book drop.



Board of Assessors

FY 2019 Tax Preparations

All data collection for visits related to Building Permits taken out in 2017, and Personal Property locations, have been completed and entered into the data for FY2019. The Preliminary Tax work of recording information on Form of List submissions, as preparation for the tax bills to be mailed out by the Tax Collector, has been completed. Remember to contact the Assessors' office regarding any changes related to tax bill addresses. We appreciate your assistance in keeping our records up to date.

Board of Assessors, 863-0138

Mobile Food Bank

From 1:30-2:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, the parking lot of the Gill-Montague Senior Center at 62 5th Street is transformed into a pop-up food market where everyone is welcome and everything is free! Thanks to a collaboration between the Gill-Montague Council on Aging, the Franklin County Community Meals Program, and a crew of volunteers organized by Kim Malcolm of Northfield Mount Hermon, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts' Mobile Food Bank program now makes a monthly appearance in downtown Turners Falls.

2019 GMEF Annual Gala

"The Best of ABBA" Featuring Dancing Dream ABBA Tribute Band

Come experience the glitter and glamour of the '70s with 'Dancing Dream' on Saturday, April 27, 2019 @ 7:00pm. Of all the treasures Sweden has heaped upon the world - from Volvos and tiny, fish-shaped candies to Björn Borg — no gift has touched more people more profoundly than the music of ABBA. Now Dancing Dream brings the brilliance of the pop sensation to the Turners Falls High School Theater. Expect to hear hits like "Dancing Queen," "Take a Chance," "Fernando," "Mamma Mia" and many more at this high-energy concert filled with lush harmonies, elaborate costumes and iconic choreography.

Advance tickets are \$25, available November 1st on the GMEF website – <u>www.thegmef.org</u>.

Our collaborative effort with Underwriters, Corporate Sponsors, Advertisers, and Tier-givers have resulted not only in quality entertainment for our communities but also made available more than \$119,480 of student enrichment grants.

Visit our website - www.thegmef. org to watch a Dancing Dream video, and discover the depth and variety of our Student Enrichment Grants.

225th Calendar

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap – November 3, 10:00 AM – Noon, Library. Bring your adult and children's puzzles (in good condition and with all the pieces) and exchange them for some new challenges.

Heirloom Apple Talk - November 4, 3:00-4:00 PM, Town Hall. Pioneer Valley resident Russell Steven Powell will share his knowledge of apples. He>s the guy who wrote the book on apples. Really - he is the author of Apples of New England: A User's Guide. He will be armed with bushels of information and apple samples, too.

Free Spirits - November 16, 7:00-9:00 PM, Town Hall. Come watch Bruce Geisler's documentary on the Renaissance Community. After the viewing we will have a discussion with Bruce and some former members of the Community. Bring a snack to share.

Community Skate - December 30, 2:00-4:00 PM, NMH's McCollum Arena. Gill slides and skates out of its 225th anniversary year at NMH's skating rink. Although we encourage you to bring your own skates, there will be a few pairs available to borrow. Rumors of hot cocoa are floating around.

Remember to Vote! November 6, 2018

7 AM to 8 PM 196 Main Road Gill Fire Station













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

Town Forest

So much beauty on an October afternoon in the Blake Town Forest of Gill. Ducks and geese, lilies and cattails on Otter Pond, fallen leaves across the path. Sun in the upper field above the Falls River. Man-made beauty, too— Maia Castro-Santos's mural for the kiosk at the main parking lot. Come and walk the trails and see for yourself.

Historical Commission

Around Gill Center

A number of the vintage photographs that hung in the Town Hall in celebration of Gill's 225th Anniversary are now displayed at the Gill Tavern until next spring. They include pictures of the early Gill store and the center of Gill. The rest will be hung in the Riverside collection.

On September 12, the Massachusetts Historical Commission's State Review Board approved Gill's application for the center of town to be included on the National Register of Historic Places. The descriptive forms have now been sent to the National Park Service for final approval. The Gill Center Historic District will join the previously approved Riverside Village District on the National Register of Historic Places. The Gill Historical Commission is looking at options and costs for signs to be placed in both districts. Ideas for signage designs are welcome.

Riverside Book

A few copies of the Riverside book (fifth printing) remain for sale. If you would like a copy, you may find an order form at the Town Hall or on the Town of Gill website or email:Lstomb@gmail.com.

Thank you

Volunteers Terri Rice, Bob and Anne Perry, Jake Bezio, and Lynn and Bill Tomb spent a few hours cleaning around the Red Bridge anchorage at Riverside. Efforts are now underway to repair the Red Bridge painting that stands next to the anchorage with its embedded mud balls.

Thank you also goes to Ed Gregory, John Fellows, and Harry Starbaugh who hosted the Jurassic Road Show at the Riverside building for the 225th town anniversary on October 13. GHC members Bob and Anne Perry, Bev Demars, and Lynn Stowe Tomb also served as hosts.

The GHC has gratefully accepted several new contributions. Dick French has contributed a hand fan collection from Ruth (Blake) Cook, and they will be displayed in the historical collection. Laurel Lussen and Wendy Crowell have contributed tiles and written memories for the Robert Darr Wert collection and display.

The Gill Historical Commission

Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM, unless otherwise posted, in the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. The GHC is charged with preserving Gill's historical sites and records as well as educating resi-



dents about the history of their town. The GHC maintains records and artifacts of Gill in the Riverside building. If you have questions or information, please contact Kit Carpenter, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo (alternate), Bob Perry, Pam Shoemaker, Lynn Stowe Tomb, or Bev Demars (alternate).

Membership

If you are interested in membership on the Gill Historical Commission, please contact any member for more information. GHC currently has several openings and is looking for residents who are interested in Gill's history and participating in projects to preserve and educate about it.

Milk Bottles from Gill Farms

"At one time, Gill was primarily a farming community. In the earlier years most families had a cow or two, some chickens, perhaps a pig, and the milk, butter, eggs, meat and produce were used by these folks in the home. Those making their livelihood from farming were mostly dairy farmers growing their own feed, while several grew primarily crops." - Shirley Flagg in The History of Gill, vol. 2, p. 1

The bottles here are described by long-time collector Ed Potter of Turners Falls. If you have additions or corrections, please let us know.

J. Baranowski (West Gill Road) – Quart bottles are embossed with the name, address and "Pure Milk."

Boyle (Cross Road) - William Glen Boyle had a few cows and sold milk and cream. Most Boyle bottles are half pint. **Eddy Farm** (Main Road) - The Eddy Farm was operated by brothers Malcom and Luther with their father Peleg.

Bottles exist in all three sizes but were never used because milk was sold wholesale to the Greenfield Dairy Co. When the farm was dispersed, several cases of empty bottles were auctioned off. The cartons were from Thatcher Mfg. Co. addressed to the Gulo Hardware Store in Turners Falls.

Louis Koch (Riverside) - Listed on the street lists as a milk dealer from 1908 to 1915 and as a grocer selling milk from 1916 to 1927 from his 136 L St. residence. He also had a milk route. Koch used embossed bottles.

George J. Koch (Riverside) – A milk dealer listed in Turners Falls.

John Krejmas – He had a milk route and used bottles with his name and address embossed on them.

John Silva, Oakdale Farms – The farm name is embossed with the words "Raw Milk."

Mount Hermon School – This boys' independent school maintained a farm that provided milk and other products for the school residents. The students all had non-paid work jobs, many of which were on the farm. The early bottles in 1909 had block letters MT. HERMAN. Another style with MT. HERMAN BOYS SCHOOL, and a third style, MT. HERMAN BOYS SCHOOL AGRI. DEPT.











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November 2018

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