



THE

Gill Newsletter

Spring 2019 Issue

Disclaimer:

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Town Hall

Retirement & Party for Ronnie LaChance

As reported in the local newspapers, Tax Collector and Treasurer Ronnie LaChance has retired from the Town of Gill. Ronnie began working for the Town on July 1, 2002 as its Tax Collector, and added the Treasurer position on September 1, 2005. Her retirement on February 20, 2019 ended a distinguished career managing tax collections and financial matters for the Town. She was unopposed in every election, a fact in which she takes great pride.

“Ronnie played a key role in the operation of Town Hall,” Town Administrator Ray Purington comments. “For parts of three decades she was a familiar face for residents who came to Town Hall to pay bills or get information. She especially loved to welcome new residents, and always had a smile for any children who tagged along with their parents. Her retirement is well- deserved. She will definitely be missed.”

“I have always been so impressed by Ronnie’s work ethic,” Town Clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo adds. “She would go to extreme lengths to give the Town and its residents her very best effort. Her work day ended only after she was able to balance every penny for that day.”

Of her many accomplishments, one of the ones of which she was most proud was the construction of offices at Town Hall for the Town Clerk and Tax Collector/Treasurer. The new offices — with actual walls, and doors that lock — replaced fabric-panel cubicles that lacked privacy and security. Ronnie championed the project and oversaw every step of

the construction process that turned her dream into a reality. “Ronnie is a good motivator, and has a knack for finding ways to make things happen,” says Hodsdon Mayo. “We will miss having her here at Town Hall on a daily basis.”

There will be a retirement party to honor Ronnie on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Gill Church, located at 6 Center Road. Please come by, say hi, and wish her the very best.

New Tax Collector and Treasurer

The Selectboard has appointed Tom Hodak of West Gill Road as Tax Collector for the remainder of the term for that position, through the town election on May 18, 2020. Peter Turban of Main Road has been appointed as Treasurer through the town election on May 20, 2019. Turban returned nomination papers for Treasurer and will be on the ballot in the May 20, 2019 election. Office hours for Hodak are Monday through Thursday, 12:30 – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment, and his email address is taxcollector@gillmass.org. Turban’s office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday 12:30 – 7:00 p.m. or by appointment, and his email address is treasurer@gillmass.org. The two share

Check in with the Gill Website

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



the office phone number of 413-863-2105.

Annual Town Meeting

This year's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, June 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. As the meeting warrant, motions, and explanations become available, they will be posted to the Town's website and on our Facebook page. The deadline to submit petition warrant articles is Thursday, May 9th, and the form is available on the website.

Lost & Found

Someone left a gray sweater outside the Town Hall during the weekend of April 6-7. It's made by Mossimo Supply Co. and the size is XL. If it is yours, please come to Town Hall to claim it.

Regional School District Planning Committee

At its March 12th meeting the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee received a report that looked at the preliminary results of the fiscal impact of a 6-town regional school district composed of Gill, Montague, and the four towns in the Pioneer district (Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick). The report was prepared as part of a state-funded grant to explore ideas to provide financial stability and continued educational excellence to the two districts plus the Franklin County Technical School.

The report was discussed further at the April 12th meeting of the G-M Civic Leaders group, which is composed of an assortment of Gill and Montague Selectboard members, Finance Committee members, and Town Administrators, G-M School

Committee members, and the GM Superintendent and the Director of Business & Operations. While the analysis in the report raises many more questions than it answers, the consensus from the meeting was it appears a 6-town district could be educationally beneficial and financially feasible, and warrants further study.

The process to study the formation of a new regional school district is laid out in Chapter 71, Sections 14 – 14B of the Massachusetts General Laws. The first step in the process is for each interested town to establish a Regional School District Planning Committee, which the Gill Selectboard voted to do at their April 16th meeting. The RSD Planning Committee is appointed by the Moderator and has three members, one of whom must be a member of the school committee.

The RSD Planning Committees from two or more towns may join together to form a RSD Planning Board with the legal duty to "study the fiscal and educational advisability of establishing a regional school district, its organization, operation and control, and of constructing, maintaining and operating a school or schools to serve the needs of such district; to estimate the construction and operating costs thereof; to assess the educational soundness of establishing such school or schools, to investigate the methods of financing such school or schools, and any other matters pertaining to the organization and operation of a regional school district; and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the selectmen of the several towns."

By no means is a 6-town school district a foregone conclusion. Much must be analyzed, many questions must be answered, and input must be gathered from all the stakeholders. This is the start of a process that may produce great change, some change, or no change at all, depending on what is felt to be the best solution for educating our children.

If you are interested in serving on Gill's RSD Planning Committee, please contact the Moderator, Isaac Bingham, at 863-4431 or the Town Administrator, Ray Purington, at 863-9347.

From the Town Clerk

Voter registration session will be held at the Town Clerk's office on April 30 for those who are not registered to vote. Registration hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Remember that you can come to the Town Clerk's office anytime it is convenient for you, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. before May 1st, to be qualified to vote at Town Election this year.

To register to vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Gill and at least 18 years old on or before the date of the town meeting/election. (May 20). You may register in person or by mail which must be postmarked no later than the final registration date.

Annual Town Election

The annual Town Election will be held on May 20, 2019 from noon to 8:00 p.m. at 196A Main Road, the Town Municipal Building, in the Fire Station.



You may vote absentee if you are unable to vote at the polls on election day due to (1) absence from Gill during normal polling hours, (2) physical disability preventing you from going to your polling place; or (3) religious belief. To vote absentee at Town Hall, contact the office to make arrangements to vote at a time that is convenient for you or to have a ballot sent to you.

Town of Gill 2019 Ballot

The offices on the ballot this year include:

Selectboard, Sewer Commissioner, three year term, currently held by Randy Crochier

Assessor, three year term, Bill Tomb

Cemetery Commissioner, three year term, currently held by Gary Bourbeau

Board of Health, three year term, currently held by Doug Edson

Library Trustee, three year term, Peter Weis

Treasurer, three year term, Peter Turban

The School ballot will also include:

Town of Gill

Jane Oakes
Bill Tomb

Town of Montague

Heather Katsoulis
Mike Langknecht
Thomasina Hall

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk

Office hours are Monday-Thursday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Monday evening 4:00-5:30 p.m. and other times by appointment. 413-863-8103

Fire Department

The Gill Fire Department is planning to undertake a project this spring to put up reflective number signs at each address in town. These will be done with no cost to the residents as it is being funded from a State Grant and the Gill Firemen’s Association. These will be put on posts that we will supply or on existing mail posts. If you have any questions please contact the Fire Department at (413)863-8955 and leave a message.

Slate Memorial Library Reopens

On Saturday, May 4, the Slate Memorial Library Trustees will host an Open House to celebrate the completion of numerous renovation and restoration projects and officially reopen Gill’s quintessential small town library. Library Director Jocelyn Castro-Santos is “excited to see the books back on the shelves and to welcome people into the library after the long winter.” The renovations restore the rustic charm, transform the atmosphere, and reveal the previously hidden assets of this historic building built in 1921. These projects represent a collaborative effort between members of the town’s Energy Committee and the Slate Memorial Library Trustees.

In July of 2018, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources awarded the Town of Gill a \$68,465 competitive Green Communities grant to support an overall 20% reduction in energy use in the town’s buildings. \$39,325 of the grant, along with \$16,000 matching funds approved by Gill voters,

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paid for the removal of the library's drop ceiling, new spray insulation thermal barrier for the roof and two peak-end walls, and installation of energy-efficient lighting and a new air-source heat-pump system. The newly installed mini-splits means that the library will be comfortably air-conditioned during the summer months and warm next winter for library patrons. The Slate Library Trustees would like to particularly thank Vicky Jenkins, chair of Gill's Energy Committee, for her dedication to the administration and oversight of the grant-supported part of these renovations.

After the renovation phase, Library Director Jocelyn Castro-Santos and Slate Library Trustees, Megan Bathory-Peeler, Kim Sprankle and Barbara Watson, oversaw the much-needed restoration work that included interior and exterior painting, refinishing of the hardwood floors, care of the collection, and the purchasing of new furnishings to make the library an even more welcoming place for people to visit and linger, and for groups to gather.

The public is invited to celebrate the reopening of Gill's Slate Memorial Library on Saturday, May 4 anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The Slate Library is located at 332 Main Road in Gill. Regular library hours will resume in May: Tuesdays, 2-6 pm; Wednesdays, 3-7 pm; Thursdays, 2-8 pm; Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm. Please stop by and see us!

Gill Church

Summer is coming, the earth is turning green, and flowers are beginning to bloom. With that scene in mind, the Gill Church

would like to invite the community to visit the Scatter Garden Cemetery behind the church. This space-saving, cost-wise and environmentally sound approach to burial is available for use to anyone who wishes to memorialize those that have passed.

We also invite you to join us on Thursday, July 4th at noon to participate in the reading of the Declaration of Independence from the church steps, followed by the ringing of the church bell — 243 peals, of course. The plan is to have pre-designated sections of the Declaration read, and then share the task of pulling the rope to ring the bell. If you wish to participate, arrive a short time before noon, and help us ring in Independence Day.

Gill Neighbors

Last summer a group of Gill residents met to begin a discussion about how to assist their neighbors who are aging and want to stay in their homes. There is a movement of organizations across the U.S. whose missions are to help seniors who want to remain in their own homes as long as possible. The Gill Neighbors committee has been meeting since last September to discuss the possibilities of creating a network of volunteers to support seniors in our town. Discussion has focused on transportation, medical appointments, assistance with small household tasks, technical support for those who use computers, and companionship. All of this is in the early stages of development but the committee will be reaching out to Gill residents to get a sense of their needs and whether there is any interest in having volunteers help

them in their homes or with transportation needs.

Keep an eye on the newsletter and we will keep you informed as this neighborhood support project develops. If you have an interest in being a part of the conversation as a volunteer, a recipient of services or as a member of the committee, contact Susan LaScala 863-2435 or Emily Samuels 863-9446.

Music in Gill

Antenna Cloud Farm - Gill's own summer music festival and artists' retreat - is gearing up for its third season. Curated by musicians Michi Wiancko and Judd Greenstein, this home-grown operation will run this year from late July through mid-October bringing in a diverse array of top-notch musicians from all around. Stay tuned in early May, when the brand new season will be announced on their website at www.antennacloudfarm.com.

Board of Assessors

May 1, 2019 at 5 p.m. is the deadline for FY2019 Real Estate or Personal Property Abatement Applications or Exemption Applications to be submitted for Assessors' determination. These applications can be found at the Gill web site.

The Board of Assessors will begin preparations for valuation of properties for FY2020. Consultants will be working in Gill to update information related to Building Permits taken out during 2018.

Bill Tomb, Chair

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Clerk

Pam Lester, Board Member

Tim Storrow, Board Member



Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Assessors' Clerk can be found in the Town Clerk/Assessors' office on the first floor in Town Hall. Board of Assessors meet alternate Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. 863-0138

Veterans Benefits Seminars

On Wednesday, May 22, the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service office will be conducting two benefits seminars for local veterans. The first seminar will be at the Turners Falls branch of the Greenfield Savings Bank from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The second seminar will be conducted at the Montague Center Library from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please call (413) 772-1571 for more information and to register for the seminar. The Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service Office will be changing its outreach times at the Gill Montague Senior Center. We will no longer be there on Wednesdays as of July 1, 2019. The new veterans outreach at the Gill Montague Senior Center will be on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Chris Demars,
Veterans Service Officer, Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services

Member Towns: Ashfield-Bernardston-Buckland-Charlemont-Colrain-Conway-Deerfield-Erving-Gill-Greenfield-Hawley-Heath-Leverett-Leyden-Monroe-Montague-New Salem-Northfield-Plainfield-Rowe-Shelburne-Shutesbury-Sunderland-Warwick-Wendell-Whately

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee would like to welcome a new member, Tony Zager, who came on board in March. We appreciate his willingness to serve and we look forward to working with him in the future.

Also, the Committee would like to invite everyone in town to the Memorial Day services on Sunday, May 26. Services will begin at 10 a.m. at the Gill Church and then will continue across Main Road at the Veterans Monuments. Please join us in honoring all those who have given their lives in service to our country.

*Gary and Merri Bourbeau
Doug and Elaine Smith
Chet Kuzontkoski
Tony Zager*

Energy Commission

The Gill Energy Commission is pleased to announce that it has completed the projects for which it was awarded the 2018 Competitive Grant by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). The completion of these projects is a result of a multi-year effort on the part of the Energy Commission to research, gather bids, write the grant, and answer follow-up questions from DOER before we were awarded the grant last summer. The past seven months have been spent getting the projects completed.

The grant allowed for a significant increase in insulation in Town Hall and Slate Library. The Town Hall insulation project supplemented the insulation in the exterior walls on the first and second floors. Four-inch dense pack cellulose with an

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Douglas Shebell

Douglas Shebell, who lived in Riverside for over 60 years and now lives in a group home in Orange, had a display of his recently completed and framed puzzles at the Athol Public Library celebrating National Puzzle Day on January 29th. A reception was held for Doug on January 22, 2019. His puzzles are always 1000 pieces or more. Doug always enjoyed nature and wildlife and his puzzles are usually of nature scenes and animals.



R-value of 14 was blown in and will provide a 20% reduction in heat loss.

A 2017 assessment completed by UMass Clean Energy Extension found that Slate Library had the highest Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of all Gill town buildings. Much of this was due to the fact that the ceiling and walls of the concrete block building were not insulated. Funding from the grant allowed for insulating the sloped ceilings with 7 inches of spray foam closed cell with an R-value of 49.

The insulation project led to the restoration of the building to its original historic design by removing the drop ceiling. The ballasted fluorescent tubes were taken down and replaced with LED lighting. The new lights will provide better lighting for the library visitors as well as reduce energy, improve efficiency, and reduce maintenance needs. The grant funded an air source heat pump for the library which allows the town to heat the library without burning fossil fuel.

Replacing the oil-fired furnace will reduce overall energy consumption, and the ASHP will also allow for air conditioning in the summer months, reduce greenhouse gases, and reduce the carbon footprint.

Finally, the Riverside Municipal Building which houses the Four Winds School has now been fit with Indows - indoor storm windows for the beautiful 4' by 7' windows. The Indows will reduce energy use for heating by 10%, improve efficiency, and save money for the town.

The Commonwealth Woodstove Change-Out program, a partnership between MassCEC, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Energy Resources, offers rebates to assist Massachusetts residents in replacing non-EPA-certified wood stoves with cleaner, more efficient EPA-certified wood or pellet stoves. Details online www.masscec.com/commonwealth-woodstove-change-out?utm_source=Woodstove%20Change-Out%20Announcement&utm_campaign=Woodstove%20&utm_medium=email

Eversource R2 low income discount rate for electricity

Anyone eligible for fuel assistance or other low income programs may apply with the form that will be available at the literature stand in the Town Hall lobby. The R2 rate will discount your electricity rate by 32%. Also check Eversource.com, western Mass, my account and help pay my bill. A discount rate form available in PDF.

Mass Save Energy Audits

Even if you've already had an energy audit, consider getting another audit to take advantage of current available incentives and programs. www.masssave.com/en/saving/energy-assessments/

Mass Save Residential Rebates

Includes air source heat pumps to supplement electric baseboard heating, propane or oil heating www.masssave.com/en/saving/residential-rebates/

Mass Save Heat Loan program

0% interest rate loans up to \$25,000 for heating/cooling and energy efficiency projects.

www.masssave.com/en/saving/residential-rebates/heat-loan-program/

All these links are also available on the Gill Energy Commission website.

Prevent Tick Illness

While ticks can bite at any time of year, the warmer temperatures of spring are sure to bring an increase in tick activity. Here are some steps you can take to prepare for a safe season:

- Pre-treat shoes and outer clothes with PERMETHRIN. It protects for 70 washes!
- DIY or send out kids' camp clothes to be treated.
- Be sure pets are protected from Lyme disease and wear a repellent.
- Be vigilant about checking daily for ticks.
- If bitten: grab with pointed tweezers very close to skin, near or on the head, and pull straight out. Wash skin after removal.
- ID ticks: Only black legged deer ticks transmits Lyme. Generally, it takes more than 24 hours attachment for disease transmission to occur.

Two great references for more info: www.tickencounter.org and www.mass.gov

Tick identification cards and other informational materials are at the Town Hall for pick up. Larger quantities are available.

Lisa White, RN, regional public



health nurse provides direct assistance to individuals and their family members to be effective managers of their own care. Free to residents, this service is provided through the Town's membership in Franklin Regional Council of Governments Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS).

- Blood pressure screening
- Health information
- Help connecting with services
- Sharps collection/box exchange

A monthly Walk-in Wellness Clinic is held each Second Friday at Stoughton Place from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. For more information, call Lisa at (413) 665-1400 x 114.

Spring "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling

Franklin County Solid Waste District's Spring "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day is Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, at three locations. The three drop-off sites are: **Mohawk Trail Regional School (temporary location for May collection only)** at 26 Ashfield Rd (Route 112), Northfield Highway Garage at 49 Caldwell Rd., and Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane.

Residents from any Solid Waste District member town may bring bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible. Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register for the collection.

Disposal fees, cash only, apply for most items. A complete list of prices for the most common items is online at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html, and will also be available at participating town halls, town transfer stations, and the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

Clean and dry (bagged) textiles and books accepted free for reuse or recycling.

Did you know? Staples accepts computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge: call store for details and volume limits. Various charities and non-profits accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Before loading up your car, always call these sites to ask if they can accept your item.

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).

The District is an equal opportunity provider.

2019 GMEF Annual Gala

"Dancing Dream – ABBA Tribute Band"

On Saturday, April 27, 2019 @ 7:00pm at the TFHS Theater, "Dancing Dream – ABBA Tribute Band" brings the brilliance of the pop sensation ABBA to the Gill-Montague Education Fund Annual Gala. 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 available at these locations: Hillside Pizza in Bernardston; Weatherheads/Dunkin Donuts in Erving; World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield; Scotty's Convenience Store & Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls; by calling Sandy at 863-7296 or at the GMEF website – www.thegmef.org. Advance tickets are \$25– At the Door \$30

The GMEF would like to recognize some very special people who help make our Gala possible!

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The Montague Elks Lodge 2521

Deans' List

James DeMailly was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2018 Fall semester for the environmental sustainability, health and safety program.

Julia Wallace was named to the Dean's list for the Fall 2018 semester at High Point University in North Carolina.

Bailey McNamara and Zachary Rutz were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2018 semester at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.



Honor Roll

2nd Quarter

Franklin County Technical School

Grade 12

Honors: Emily Minor

Grade 10

Honors: Brian Piela and Luke Timberlake

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Grade 12

High Honor: Jake Wallace

Honor: Rylie Zager

Grade 9

Highest Honor: Issac Damon and Meena Relyea-Strawn

Grade 8

High Honor: Anna Baskowski

Honor: James Staelens

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

Second Honors: Reilan Castine

Grade 11

First Honors: Alyson Murphy

Second Honors: Mason Kucenski

Third Honors: Zachary Mason

Grade 10

First Honors: Karissa Olson, Leah Timberlake and Olivia Whittier

Second Honors: Taylor Murphy and Hailey Wheeler

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

Second Honors: Adeline Riley

Grade 7

First Honors: Regan Marshall

Third Honors: Owen LaValley

Grade 6

Second Honors: Josiah Little and Zachary Zilinski

3rd Quarter

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

Second Honors: Reilan Castine

Third Honors: Bryce Waldron

Grade 11

Third Honors: Mason Kucenski and Alyson Murphy

Grade 10

First Honors: Leah Timberlake and Olivia Whittier

Second Honors: Taylor Murphy

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

Third Honors: Adeline Riley

Grade 7

First Honors: Regan Marshall

Third Honors: Owen LaValley

Grade 6

First Honors: Zachary Zilinski

Third Honors: Josiah Little

Turners Falls High School Awards, First Semester

Reilan Castine received English Awards for Academic Excellence in 20th Century American Literature and the Award in Academic Excellence in Special Effects.

Leah Timberlake received Social Studies Awards in Academic Excellence in History, U.S. History I, Mathematics Awards in Academic Excellence in Honors Algebra I, Science Awards in Academic Excellence in Honors Biology, and Awards in Excellence in Yearbook.

Alyson Murphy was given Awards in Academic Excellence in Honors Filmmaking and Academic Excellence in Special Effects.

Bryce Waldron was given an Academic Excellence Award in Special Effects.

Hailey Wheeler received an English Award in Academic Excellence in Honors, English 10.

Historical Commission

Red Bridge Anchorage

Last fall some GHC members and volunteers worked to clear the property around the Red Bridge anchorage on Riverview Drive in Riverside. An accumulation of leaves, weeds, sticks, and litter was removed from around the structure and from its top. Some re-pointing of the stones is planned for the near future. The painting of the Red Bridge was distressed and so GHC removed it for repair. The original artists Jeanie Schermesser and Bryant Stewart of Farley are restoring the painting. GHC expects to have an installation and re-dedication of the site this summer.

An Attic Find

The Perry family has found hidden treasure in an attic. Approximately 100 glass negatives in various conditions record family members, neighbors, and places in Gill. Working together, Bob Perry and Lynn Stowe Tomb have unpacked the delicate plates and will scan them so that the digitized images may be preserved, identified, and reproduced. More details will be coming as this project develops. GHC hopes that spring cleaning may unearth more pieces of Gill history, and we can scan or photograph items if you want to share them in the Gill historical collection.



A Bit of Gill History – Roy Hatch

Writing for *The Greenfield Recorder* in August 1954, Harriet A. Tidd captured the legendary Roy Hatch. Coming to Moody’s school in 1894, “his duties were around the grounds and on the farm but in 1897-98 he had charge of the dormitories and the dining hall. In 1898-1906 he went into the science department as a laboratory assistant; in 1911, he became a science teacher and in 1936 was named head of the department. He served under five headmasters.” Hatch retired in 1940 and again in 1949.

Moving from teamster to department head, Hatch was largely responsible for overseeing the electrification of the campus and the development of a water system. When kerosene and gas illumination in the buildings ended and a power house was built in 1909 Hatch supervised the wiring and installation of transformers. The catch with his design for electricity was that he never documented it but just kept the details in his head; when a problem occurred later, he had to be called to explain the design. Roy Hatch became the overseer of the construction of the Riverside School in 1926.

One of Hatch’s stories illustrates the changes he saw in his years at Moody’s boys’ school. “He remembered that a stone mason and his son travelled from Greenfield to Mount Hermon by horse and buggy in the early 1900’s, worked 10 hours and received \$3 for a day’s work. The going wage for laborers on the farm was \$1.50 for a 10-hour day or 15 cents an hour.”

Among Hatch’s duties in retirement was the supervision of the clocks. He checked the master clock at Silliman Hall, which was connected to all the class clocks, and tried to have the eight-day manually wound clock in the 87 foot Chapel tower keep pace with all the other clocks on campus.

Coming to Mount Hermon as an uneducated farm boy from Ohio, Roy Hatch became a fine teacher of science and brought the Mount Hermon campus physically into the 20th century. He also knew Dwight L Moody and the early days of the school. He told this story to Harry A. Erickson in June 1966. “I was asked by Mr. Kelly, foreman at the Mount Hermon Farm, to go to New Hampshire for a railroad car load of cattle. When I got to Bellows Falls, the station agent said that I could not unload the cattle there but had to go to Brattleboro. When I reached Brattleboro, the freight superintendent told me that I had to unload the cattle since it was Saturday night, but there were no accommodations for them at the station. I protested that I had no way of caring for these cattle in Brattleboro until Monday. So I went to a telephone in town and notified Mr. Kelly who was expecting to hear from me. When he heard of the predicament, he telephoned to Mr. Moody who was home at the time. Mr. Moody said that we should stand by while he called the superintendent of the freight yards in New London, Connecticut. Mr. Moody got in touch with the superintendent who contacted the president of the Central Vermont Rail Road, telling him how.

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Within half an hour, a telegram reached the freight supervisor in Brattleboro; it directed him to make up a special train in order that the car load of cattle might be sent on immediately to South Vernon. Annoyed by all this special treatment, the supervisor shouted, 'If it was anybody else besides Mr. Moody, these damn cattle would have to wait here until Monday.'

When the cattle arrived at South Vernon, Mr. Kelly was there to receive them. He had a Democrat wagon with a calf tied on behind. That was all that was necessary to get the entire car load of cattle to follow obediently the six miles to Mount Hermon."

Riverside Book

A few copies of the Riverside book remain for sale. If you would like a copy, you may find an order form at the Town Hall or on the town website (www.gillmass.org/historical.php) or email: Lstomb@gmail.com.

The Gill Historical Commission

Meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:30 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 residents 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, Terri Rice, Pam Shoemaker, Lynn Stowe Tomb, or Bev Demars (alternate). **Membership** - The GHC welcomes new members and volunteers to help with projects.

Gill Right To Farm By-Law

Section 1 Legislative Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this by-law is to explain the existing Right to Farm accorded to all citizens of the Commonwealth under Article 97 of the Constitution and all state statutes and regulations thereunder including but not limited to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3, Paragraph 1; Chapter 90, Section 9; Chapter 111, Section 125A; and Chapter 128, Section 1A. We the citizens of Gill restate and republish these rights pursuant to the Town's authority conferred by Article 89 of the Articles of Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution ('Home Rule Amendment').

This General By-law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Gill by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies. This By-law shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the Town.

Section 2 Existing Definitions

The word 'farm' shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land or water bodies used for the primary purpose of commercial or non-commercial agriculture or accessory thereto.

The words 'farming' and 'agriculture' or their derivatives shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil;
- Dairying;
- Production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural,

or horticultural commodities;

- Growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land and any other forestry or lumbering operations;
- Keeping and raising of poultry, horses, swine, cattle, bees, ratites (such as emus, ostriches and rheas) and camelids (such as llamas and camels), and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes.

'Farming' shall encompass activities including but not limited to the following:

- Operation and transport of slow-moving farm equipment over roads within the Town;
- Control of pests, including but not limited to insects, weeds, predators and disease organism of plants and animals;
- Application of manure, fertilizers and pesticides;
- Conducting agriculture-related educational and farm-based recreational activities including agri-tourism, provided that the activities are related to marketing the agricultural output or services of the farm;
- Processing and packaging of the agricultural output of the farm and the operation of a farmer's market or farm stand including signage thereto;
- Maintenance, repair or storage of seasonal equipment or apparatus owned or leased by the farm owner or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management, or sale of the agricultural products; and
- On-farm relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operations.



Section 3 Right to Farm Declaration

The Right to Farm is hereby recognized to exist in the Town of Gill. The above-described agricultural activities may occur on holidays, weekdays, and weekends by night or day and may include the attendant incidental noise, odors, dust, and fumes associated with normally accepted agricultural practices. It is hereby determined that whatever impact may be caused to others through the normal practice of agriculture is more than offset by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community, and society in general. The benefits and protection of this By-law are intended to apply exclusively to these commercial agricultural and farming operations and activities conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. Moreover, nothing in this Right To Farm By-law shall be deemed as acquiring any interest in land, or as imposing any land use regulation, which is properly the subject of state statute, regulation, local zoning law or other local by-laws or regulations.

Section 4 Disclosure Notification

Within 30 days after this bylaw becomes effective the Select Board shall prominently post in the Town Hall and make available for distribution the following disclosure:

It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products and for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy is within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include but are not limited to activities that cause dust, noise and

odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that the location of property within town may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations.

In addition this disclosure notification will be made by the Agricultural Commission to the town residents each fiscal year via a town mailing or newsletter.

Section 5 Resolution of Disputes

Any person who seeks to complain about the operation of a farm may, notwithstanding pursuing any other available remedy, file a grievance with the Select Board, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, or the Board of Health, depending upon the nature of the grievance. The filing of the grievance does not suspend the time within which to pursue any other available remedies that the aggrieved may have. The Zoning Enforcement Officer or Select Board shall forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent, which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance involving all concerned parties and report its recommendations to the referring Town authority within an agreed upon time frame.

The Board of Health, except in cases of imminent danger or public health risk, shall forward a copy of the grievance to the Agricultural Commission or its agent, which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance involving all concerned parties and report its recommendation to the Board of Health within an agreed upon time frame.

Section 6 Severability Clause

If any part of this By-law is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this By-law. The Town of Gill hereby declares the provisions of this By-law to be severable.

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