

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2010

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Present

Ann Banash, Nancy Griswold, and John Ward, Selectboard members; Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant

Others Present

Doria Kutrubes, Radar Solutions International; approximately 40-50 other guests from Gill, surrounding towns, and Native American tribes; David Detmold, Montague Reporter; Arn Albertini, The Recorder; Rick James, MCTV

Preliminary Findings from Ground Penetrating Radar Study at Mariamante Property

Doria Kutrubes made a 1-hour presentation on the ground penetrating radar data that RSI and 20 volunteers collected at the Mariamante property in October 2009. She gave a brief overview of the site using historical topographic maps, and explained key terms and technologies of GPR. The goal of the study is to characterize the site to determine the presence of any features of archeological and/or historical importance.

GPR data was collected from an area east of Main Road between the road and the cemetery wall, from beneath Main Road and along its west edge, and from the roughly 10-acre field. In all, nearly 1 Terabyte of data was collected.

Doria stated that she has only reviewed 5% of the raw radargram files. Before she can make confident conclusions about any potential features, she wants to review 90-95% of the radargrams. This is expected to take at least 3 more months.

As preliminary observations, Doria offered that a depth of 3 ½ - 5 feet is the likely region of human activity, and features found at depths below 6 feet are probably due to geologic and natural formation.

Doug Harris, the Preservationist for Ceremonial Landscapes for the Narragansett tribe, suggested that once Doria's final report is complete, an appropriate next step would be to do "ground truth" work – to conduct a professional archeological study (test pits) to determine what certain types of radargram shapes really are. Doria also suggested that in certain areas of the field, it might be useful to do another radar study using higher frequency radar that would provide higher resolution signals and more detailed radargrams.

The presentation and question & answer session concluded at 7:30 p.m. After allowing time for the audience to mill around and chitchat, the Board regrouped at 7:50 p.m.

Town Hall Use Request

Ray presented a request from Dee Dee Mares on behalf of the US Census Bureau to use Town Hall for 2 hours in the morning of each of the four Fridays in February. Town Hall personnel have no objections to the use, and Ray will provide coverage, as he will be there anyway. The Board approved the request.

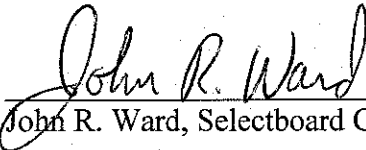
Sewer Tax Commitment

Acting as Sewer Commissioners, Nancy made a motion, seconded by John, to sign the sewer tax commitment to the Tax Collector. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative, and the commitment was signed.

Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by John Ward



John R. Ward, Selectboard Clerk