

# TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

*April 2, 2018*

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order by John Ward at 5:38 PM.

Members Present: John Ward, Greg Snedeker, Randy Crochier (5:48 PM)      Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant; George Brace, Janet Masucci

Review of Minutes: Minutes from 3/19/18 were not available for review.

Montague Sewer Rates: The Selectboard discussed an excerpt from the March 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the *Montague Reporter's* coverage of a Montague Selectboard meeting. A possible 45% increase in Montague's sewer rates is expected this fall, due to significant losses of operating revenue for the sewer treatment plant. While it is premature to predict the exact impact on Gill's sewer rates, it is certain a Montague rate hike of that magnitude will require a similarly hefty increase in Gill's rates. Ray will include an article about sewer rates in the next issue of the Gill Newsletter.

Gill Elementary Well: Ray reported the Town has received from DEP an Administrative Consent Order with Penalty (ACOP). Due to extensive delays in progress toward installing the treatment system at the School, DEP has proposed a \$500 penalty, with an additional \$650 penalty to be suspended if there are no further noncompliance issues during the next two years. Ray was asked to find out from DEP if the penalty can be appealed or discussed. Any answer will be brought to the Selectboard's 4/9 budget meeting.

Ray also reported he has received the updated schematic diagram from the engineer for the proposed treatment system. The equipment supplier is currently reviewing the design.

Randy Crochier and Lynda Hodsdon Mayo joined the meeting at 5:48 PM.

Gill 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: There have not been any 225<sup>th</sup> events since the last report at the 3/19 Selectboard meeting. Randy described upcoming events: the Library will host conversations with longtime Gill residents; the Town Forest Committee will offer guided walks of the Town Forest; Antenna Cloud Farm is planning one of their concerts as a benefit for the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; a warrant article for Annual Town Meeting will seek funding toward the Christmas in July fireworks show.

Appointments: John made a motion, seconded by Greg, to appoint junior firefighter Zachary Lastowski as a firefighter effective April 2, 2018 through June 30, 2018. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Greg made a motion, seconded by John, to appoint the following individuals to the Gill Board of Fire Engineers effective May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019: Marcus Aucoin, Gene Beaubien, Steve Connell, Jason Edson, Stuart Elliott, Andrew Howell, Scott Nicholas, Greg Parody, Ken Sears, and Mitch Waldron. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Composting Survey: As a followup to the Selectboard's 10/30/17 meeting with Jan Ameen of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, the Town is conducting a survey of residents to gauge interest in curbside collection of food waste and organic waste. The deadline for responses is April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Potential Articles for Town Meeting: Lynda Hodsdon Mayo presented two petition articles for the May 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting. One deals with a gift of land to the Town by resident Renee Jenkins. Jenkins wishes to "gift a piece of historically significant land on River Road, where Herbert B. Hastings's Old Blacksmith Shop used to stand. This land contains .08 acres more or less and is near Gill Center on the Beaver Brook." Hodsdon Mayo noted that the two abutters to the property have been made aware of the intent to gift the land to the Town.

The second petition article seeks to "revise the current accounting designation so that instead of one numbered account, there will be two different accounts: one for all Assessors expenses and the other for the salary of the

Assessors' Clerk." Hodsdon Mayo explained this change will make it easier for her, as the Assessors' Clerk, to track amounts remaining in the budget for her salary and expenses for the Assessors' Office. It was discussed that this outcome could also be accomplished by presenting an Omnibus Budget to Town Meeting that has two lines, one for salary and one for expenses. The matter will be discussed further at the 4/9 budget meeting when the Assessors meet with the Selectboard and Finance Committee.

Hodsdon Mayo left at 6:05 PM.

Other Warrant Articles: In a followup to the 3/19 discussion of warrant articles related to PEG Access, Ray reported the Department of Revenue will allow towns another 1-year extension to implementing the changes related to PEG Access funds. It is expected this will be the final extension, as clarifying legislation is working its way through the House and Senate. The Selectboard decided by consensus to take advantage of the extension, and there will not be PEG Access articles on the warrant.

By consensus the Selectboard supported placing an article on the warrant to have voters consider adopting MGL Chapter 64N, Section 3, which would impose a local sales tax of up to 3% on sales of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer. This is similar to the local option meals tax of 0.75%, which provides roughly \$10,000 of revenue to the Town annually. Greg suggested the Town should be reviewing its zoning bylaws in order to regulate the location and operations of recreational marijuana facilities.

Also by consensus there will be an article seeking funds from the Town as a contribution toward enhancing the fireworks display put on by the Franklin County Boat Club during their Christmas in July festivities. The Town has 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events planned for the same day. The article may be for the Annual Town Meeting, or it may be part of a Special Town Meeting.

Memorial Day Ceremonies: The Selectboard received an invitation from the Memorial Committee to this year's Memorial Day Ceremonies being held on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. The event begins with a service at the Gill Church and then continues at the Veterans Monuments across Main Road from the Town Common.

Start Times: The Selectboard meeting on 4/17 will begin at 6:30 PM. It was decided to have the Annual Town Meeting start at 6:30 PM, so long as that time is agreeable to the Town Clerk and the Moderator.

ConCom Training: Phil Gilfeather-Girton, a member of Gill's Conservation Commission, was recognized for having completed eight units of the Fundamentals for Massachusetts Conservation Commissioners training program.

George Brace left the meeting at 6:21 PM.

Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2018 warrant #21.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.*

*Signed copy on file. Approved on 04/17/2018*

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Greg Snedeker, Selectboard Clerk

planters – and what should be allowed in them – was the subject of a series of contentious meetings before the selectboard several years ago. But, Konvelski told this newspaper, once the controversy died down, there was little interest in attending meetings about planters, which are “adopted” by shopkeepers and other volunteers.

“They mostly take care of themselves,” Konvelski said of the planters and their caretakers. “I used to be in the military, and I used to say, ‘Just do it.’”

### Sewer Time Bomb

Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Bob McDonald and town accountant Carolyn Olson presented an overview of the potential budget and revenues for the town’s wastewater system in the next fiscal year. The department has lost substantial revenue from the closing of the Southworth paper plant (about \$200,000 annually) and the suspension of the “Montague process” which had allowed the facility to treat solids from other communities (about \$345,000). These losses, even when combined with proposed

budget cuts, could create a potential FY’19 shortfall of \$466,385.

McDonald and Olsen calculated that making up that entire shortfall by an increase in sewer user fees would require increasing them by over 45%. At a sewer rate hearing last September, McDonald said the average annual residential sewer bill in Montague was \$521.64.

Discussing the future of the Montague process and the impending public auction of Southworth, coming in March, Ellis noted “there are some things that are pretty big in [sewer rate calculations] that could change.” A rather sober Rich Kuklewicz noted that a new solar array could reduce electricity costs in the next fiscal year, but that interest payments for debt on new pump stations would hit the sewer budget at about the same time.

### Other Business

Tom Bergeron requested and received approval of a \$57,044 change order for sewer lining work. He also reviewed the policy of reimbursing residents for cars damaged by snow plows. For smaller amounts, residents will need to get body work

done and then submit the bill to the town. More costly damage will be handled through the town’s insurance company.

Bergeron also noted that the town had officially been informed by the state of structural instability on the Center Street bridge over the Sawmill River in Montague Center. The current plan is to make the bridge one lane, with traffic in two directions. Stop signs will be placed on either end of the bridge, unless the town decides to install stop lights.

At the request of acting police chief Chris Bonnett, the board appointed Justin Lawrence as a dispatcher.

The board also approved a revised tax agreement with the theater school Ja’Duke, which is building a new addition in the airport industrial park. The agreement had previously been approved by a Montague special town meeting.

The date for the next special town meeting, which will be devoted to funding to build a new public works facility, was set for Thursday, March 29. The selectboard’s next meeting will be held March 5.



# Board of Fire Engineers

Town of Gill  
196A Main Road  
Gill, MA 01354

15 March 2018

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Gill  
325 Main Road  
Gill, MA 01354

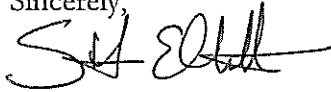
Dear Sirs,

At our monthly meeting held on 15 March 2018, the Board of Fire Engineers nominated the following individuals for appointment as members for the 2018-19 fiscal year:

Marcus Aucoin  
Gene Beaubien  
Steve Connell  
Jason Edson  
Stuart Elliott  
Andrew Howell  
Scott Nicholas  
Greg Parody  
Ken Sears  
Mitch Waldron

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Elliott". The signature is stylized and written in cursive.

Stuart Elliott, clerk

The Gill Selectboard is gathering information about adding the collection of food and organic waste to the town's curbside collection program. The town is eligible for grant funding to implement this new program. The town would supply each interested home with a small wheeled cart for food waste and other organic waste that can be composted. Residents who volunteer to participate in the program would put this food waste cart out for collection each week.

By participating in this program a household would reduce the amount of trash being generated. In order to gauge interest in this program, the Gill Selectboard is requesting you complete and submit a survey about your interest in the program. Once the surveys are counted the board will determine if there is enough interest to pursue implementing food waste collection.

You can complete and mail this form to Town Hall or complete the survey online at [WWW.GILLMASS.ORG/CURBSIDE](http://WWW.GILLMASS.ORG/CURBSIDE) or scan the QR code below using your smartphone. **ONE RESPONSE PER HOUSEHOLD. SURVEY DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018.**

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**To return by mail: 1. Fold down here**

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**If the Town of Gill offered free weekly curbside collection of food waste and other organic waste acceptable for composting, would you volunteer to participate in the program?**

**Yes, I would like to participate in a free collection of organic waste.**

**No, I am not interested in this program.**



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**To return by mail: 2. Fold up here and tape closed. Affix a First Class stamp where shown.**

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Town of Gill  
325 Main Rd.  
Gill, MA 01354

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
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PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER  
GILL, MA 01354

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Gill, MA 01354

Place  
stamp  
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TOWN OF GILL  
M A S S A C H U S E T T S



www.gillmass.org

2018 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
WARRANT ARTICLE REQUEST FORM

Articles Due to Ray Purington by Monday, April 2, 2018 at 12:00 Noon

Requested by (Person, Department, Board, or Committee): Lynda Hodsdon Mayo on behalf of  
Renee Jenkins

Please type or write the article as you wish it to appear on the Warrant - or attach a separate sheet.

Articles submitted to the Selectboard for their consideration do not need signatures, but the decision to place the article on the warrant will be made solely by the Selectboard.

Petition articles must be submitted with signatures and street addresses from at least 10 registered Gill voters. More than 10 signatures are strongly recommended in case some names are not Gill residents or not registered voters. The petition article and the signatures must be on the same sheet of paper so it is clear those who signed are aware of the article they are supporting.

Please proofread petition articles carefully, as they will appear on the Warrant exactly as they are submitted.

Who will make the motion & speak to the article at Town Meeting? Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept, for no consideration  
a gift of land from Renee Jenkins, who lives at 19 Boyle Road. She would like  
to gift a piece of historically significant land on River Road, where Herbert B.  
Hasting's Old Blacksmith Shop used to stand. This land contains .08 acres more  
less and is near Gill Center on the Beaver Brook. The land is referenced in a  
Deed recorded at the Franklin County Registry of Deeds (Book 1120, Page 18). It  
is shown on Assessors' Map 212, Lot 3.

\_\_\_\_\_ or take any action relative thereto.

Telephone 413-863-9347

325 Main Road, Gill MA 01354  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Fax 413-863-7775

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

Signature of Registered Gill Voter

Street Address

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <u>Lynda Hodsdon Mayo</u> ✓ | <u>114 Bayle Road</u>    |
| 2 <u>Thomas P. LeClair</u> ✓  | <u>53 Main Rd</u>        |
| 3 <u>Judith A. Powers</u> ✓   | <u>31 South Cross Rd</u> |
| 4 <u>Robert E. Stovius</u> ✓  | <u>79 North Cross Rd</u> |
| 5 <u>Annette C. Krizan</u> ✓  | <u>103 Center Rd.</u>    |
| 6 <u>Donald R. Phipps</u> ✓   | <u>12 Bickford Rd.</u>   |
| 7 <u>Amy Gordon</u> ✓         | <u>8 Setback Lane</u>    |
| 8 <u>Peter Conway</u> ✓       | <u>47 Pineview Dr</u>    |
| 9 <u>Eileen Palumbo</u> ✓     | <u>30 Center Rd</u>      |
| 10 <u>Allyce Shimm</u> ✓      | <u>398 Main Rd.</u>      |
| 11 <u>Jay D Bourque</u> ✓     | <u>19 Franklin rd.</u>   |
| 12 <u>Howard E. Mayo</u> ✓    | <u>114 Bayle Rd</u>      |
| 13 _____                      | _____                    |
| 14 _____                      | _____                    |
| 15 _____                      | _____                    |

This form was received on March 21, 2018 by Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

I certify that 10 or more of the signatures submitted with this petition are of registered voters in the Town of Gill.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo  
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk

March 22, 2018  
Date



TOWN OF GILL  
MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

2018 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
WARRANT ARTICLE REQUEST FORM

Articles Due to Ray Purington by Monday, April 2, 2018 at 12:00 Noon

Requested by (Person, Department, Board, or Committee): Lynda Hodsdon Mayo-Assessors Clerk

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Who will make the motion & speak to the article at Town Meeting? Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

To see if the Town will vote to revise the current accounting designation so that  
instead of one numbered account, there will be two different accounts: one for  
all Assessors expenses and the other for the salary of the Assessors' Clerk, or  
or take any action relative thereto.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, or take any action relative thereto.

# TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

Signature of Registered Gill Voter

Street Address

1 Lynda Hodsdon Mayo ✓

114 Boyle Road

2 Thomas A. Lynch ✓

513 Main Rd

3 Judith A. Powers ✓

31 South Cross Rd

4 Robert Eastman ✓

79 North Main Rd

5 Annette C. Krizman ✓

103 Center Rd

6 David A. Roberts ✓

12 Bickford Rd.

7 Amy Gordon ✓

8 Setback Lane

8 Peter J. Sawyer ✓

47 Pineview Dr

9 Eileen Palermo ✓

30 Center Rd.

10 David J. Shinn ✓

398 MAIN Rd.

11 Howard Mayo ✓

114 Boyle Rd

12 \_\_\_\_\_

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This form was received on March 21, 2018 by Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

I certify that 10 or more of the signatures submitted with this petition are of registered voters in the Town of Gill.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo  
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk

March 23, 2018  
Date

**ARTICLE.** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of General Laws Chapter 64N, Section 3, as amended by Section 13 of Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, to impose a local sales tax upon the sale or transfer of marijuana or marijuana products by a marijuana retailer operating within the Town to anyone other than a marijuana establishment at the rate of three percent (3%) of the total sales price received by the marijuana retailer as a consideration for the sale of marijuana or marijuana products; this act shall take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter following thirty days after its acceptance by Town Meeting, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Assuming adoption at the May 7, 2018 town meeting, thirty days after is June 7. The first calendar quarter after June 7 is September 1, 2018.)

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Memorial Committee

Subject: Memorial Day Ceremony Invitation

Dear Board of Selectmen,

The Memorial Committee would like to extend to you this invitation to attend the Town of Gill Memorial Day Ceremonies. Beginning at 10:00 A M Sunday May 27, 2018 at the Gill Church, and after services, continuing across main road at the Veterans Monuments. As in the past a brief opening statement by a Selectmen would be greatly appreciated at the Veterans Monuments. If you wish, a prepared statement by the Memorial Committee can be provided.

If you plan to write your statement it should be Memorial Day related. For a review of your statement by the Memorial Committee and information on procedures for the ceremony, please contact Gary Bourbeau by May 15, 2018 at 413-768-9543 Thank you.

Respectively,

Gary & Merri Bourbeau 413-768-9543  
Doug & Elaine Smith 863-3115  
Chet Kuzontkoski 863-9284

Memorial Committee