



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

July 28, 2025

***Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting
bold underlined time = invited guest or advertised hearing
(all other times are approximate)

Location: Town Hall, 2nd floor meeting room, 325 Main Road, Gill

5:30 PM Call to Order (If the meeting is being videotaped, announce that fact. If remote participation will occur, announce member & reason, & need for roll call voting)

Old Business

- Review of Minutes: 3/24/25, 4/7/25, 4/22/25, 5/5/25, 5/20/25, 6/2/25, 6/16/25, 6/30/25, 7/14/25

New Business

- Update from Gill Elementary Roof Building Committee on schematic design & project timeline
- North Cross Road Bridge over Dry Brook
 - MassDOT routine inspection 5/14/25 determined immediate attention required
 - Per conversations with & recommendations of MassDOT, barriers have been erected to reduce bridge to a single traffic lane.
 - Temporary signs are in place, awaiting approval of MassDOT for permanent signs & line marking
 - Complete bridge replacement will be needed; funding options being explored
 - Consider approving “emergency” Chapter 90 project to cover costs of barriers, signs, markings
- 2025 Public Gathering Permit for Turners Falls Schuetzen Verein (clam bakes, car shows, and grounds rentals)
- Joint EMS Advisory Committee Appointments
 - Charles Garbiel through 5/18/26
 - Mitchell Waldron through 6/30/26
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
- Warrants
 - FY25 #28 – Vendors (\$111,839.87) & Payroll (\$8,529.20) – reviewed/signed on 7/14/25
 - FY26 #02 – Vendors (\$87,702.86) & Payroll (\$27,638.30) – reviewed/signed on 7/14/25
 - FY26 #03 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Mon 8/11 | 5:30 PM | Selectboard meeting | Town Hall |
| Mon 8/25 | 5:30 PM | Selectboard meeting | Town Hall |

Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard <administrator@gillmass.org>
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 2:26 PM
To: Charles Garbiel (charlesgill42@yahoo.com); 'Greg Snedeker (gksnedeker@gmail.com)'; John R Ward (johnrward.ward54@gmail.com)
Cc: Gill Highway Dept (highway@gillmass.org)
Subject: FW: North Cross Road Bridge

Importance: High

We've all driven over plenty of one lane bridges, especially driving through West County. Well, very soon Gill's only town-owned bridge will be one lane.

Last week I forwarded you the state's bridge inspection report for our bridge on North Cross Road. The report and email seemed fairly innocuous, but then we received a followup email... The two outer beams (they run the length of the bridge on the upstream and downstream sides) have deteriorated to the point where the bridge must be reduced to one lane for safety. John Miner met yesterday onsite with MassDOT officials, and has come up with a plan to make the lane reduction at the lowest possible cost and in a manner that can be quickly implemented, i.e. next week. John will attend your meeting on July 28th to answer questions.

John's notes say that MassDOT will investigate funding sources for the eventual total bridge replacement. I can reach out to peers in Charlemont and Colrain to see what they've done. And it's a great topic to include for December 1st when Jo Comerford attends the Selectboard meeting.

Ray

From: John Miner / Gill Highway Superintendent [mailto:highway@gillmass.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 2:11 PM
To: administrator@gillmass.org
Subject: North Cross Road Bridge

Good afternoon Ray,

I just wanted to give you and the board a summary of my meeting this morning while it is still fresh in my head.

Let me know if there is a meeting Monday night and I will gladly attend for discussion.

The reasoning on purchasing the barriers so quickly, Jeff from MassDOT stressed that we needed to get this done asap. The water barriers that they suggested are the same cost as the concrete jersey barriers, my thought is if they are going to be there for multiple years, the concrete barrier will hold up better than plastic and when the project is completed, we still can use the jersey barriers for something else.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

John

Summary of Meeting: North Cross Road Bridge over Dry Brook (Built 1940) – July 17, 2025

Background and Urgency

The North Cross Road Bridge, spanning Dry Brook and built in 1940, was discussed during a meeting on July 17, 2025, attended by Highway Superintendent John Miner and MassDOT's Jeff Hoynoski. The meeting was prompted by a May 14, 2025, inspection in which MassDOT stressed that "the bridge needs attention immediately," due to significant safety concerns.

Options for Keeping the Bridge Open

Two alternatives were explored to ensure the bridge remains safely open to traffic:

Option 1: Structural Shoring

- Hire a structural engineer to draft shoring plans for the east and west ends of beams 1 and 5.
- Contract a MassDOT pre-qualified contractor to complete the work.
- This would require significant time for both design and execution.

Option 2: Installation of Barriers (In-House)

- The town could install concrete barriers themselves over beams 2 and 4, directing traffic onto the structurally sound center of the bridge using a single, 12-foot-wide lane.
- Barriers would be set at an angle from the existing guardrails starting 20 feet before the bridge and extending 20 feet past it.
- Calculations showed that six 10-foot barriers are needed per side (a total of 12 barriers).
- Barriers were bought from Graves Concrete at \$345 each (picked up in East Templeton), notably cheaper than the \$608.24 per-unit quote from Washburn Vault in Winchester, NH.
- The Highway Department collected and delivered the barriers to the bridge on July 17, 2025, with installation planned for the following week.

Traffic Management

- Traffic lights were considered to handle the single-lane setup, but John proposed—and MassDOT approved—a simpler method: a stop sign on one end of the bridge and a yield sign on the other.

Engineering and Regulatory Requirements

- With the barriers in place, a structural engineer's shoring plans are not currently required.

Future Bridge Replacement and Funding

- Ultimately, complete bridge replacement will be necessary.
- The bridge is listed in the National Bridge Inventory (NBI), making it eligible for federal funding. MassDOT will investigate funding sources and update the town accordingly.

TOWN OF GILL

The Board of Selectmen, Town of Gill, received an application for a Public Gathering Permit from Turners Falls Schuetzen Verein on June 18, 2025.

A public hearing is scheduled to be held on July 28, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall

A copy of this application has been submitted to the following departments for review and comment:

Returned (X)

Health (X)

Fire (X)

Highway ()

Inspection (X)

Police (X)

As a result of a Public Hearing and comments received, this application is hereby:

Approved ()

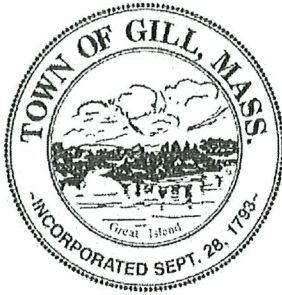
Denied ()

Subject to the following:

- Event calendar should be shared with Board of Health and health agents
- All fire lanes must be kept open at all times for access by fire & medical services
- Per past practice (a police detail for crowds over 300 people), except the monthly car show shall have a detail officer as may be required by the Police Chief
- Maintain egress pathways and emergency lighting if required

Date: July 28, 2025

Gill Selectboard



memorandum

To: Building Inspector, Board of Health, Highway, Police and Fire Departments

From: Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Date: July 11, 2025

Re: Public Hearing on Gathering Permit Application

The attached application requires your review per Town bylaw. Please indicate conditions that may be applicable, endorse and return to me before the Selectboard's public hearing scheduled for Monday, July 28, 2025.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Reviewed by Jasmine Ward

Date: 7/14/25

Are there any licenses or permits required to be issued by you for this gathering. (X) Yes () No

Have any licenses or permits been applied for and issued? (X) Yes issued on 5/14/2025 () No

Are sanitary facilities adequate? (X) Yes () No

Recommendations/comment_ Event calendar should be shared with BOH/ Agents

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Reviewed by _____

Date: _____

Recommendations/comments: _____

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Reviewed by Chad

Date: 7-16-25

Is parking adequate? (X) Yes () No

Crowd Control (X) Yes () No

Security (X) Yes () No

Recommendations/comments: Per past practice (a police detail for crowds over 300 people), except the monthly car show shall have a detail officer as may be required by the Police Chief.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Reviewed by W. Purington

Date: 7-21-25

Is fire protection adequate (X) Yes () No

Recommendations/comments: All fire lanes must be kept open at all times for access by fire & medical services; Maintain egress pathways and emergency lighting if required

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Reviewed by John

Date: _____

Do the proposed structures, enclosures, etc. comply with applicable building code? () Yes () No

Recommendations/comments: _____

APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC GATHERING PERMIT

1) Name of Applicant/s Turners Falls Schuetzen Verein
Address 55 Barton Cove Road Phone 413-863-2686

2) Name of Sponsoring Organization Turners Falls Schuetzen Verein
Address 55 Barton Cove Road Phone # 413-863-2686

3) Purpose of Gathering Various Grounds Rentals/Clam Bakes/Car Shows

4) Date/s of Gathering Clam Bakes-5/18/2025, 9/21/2025. Car Shows-5/15,6/19,7/17,8/21,9/18

5) Location of Gathering Club Grounds

6) Gathering Start Time Clam Bakes noon-Car Cruises 4pm Ends 8pm

7) Is entertainment provided? Yes () No (X) If yes, describe in detail the entertainment and equipment to be used: _____

8) Number of people expected: Bakes 600
Cruises 300 Are tickets being sold? Yes (X) No () Bakes Yes
Cruises No
If Yes, where are they being sold? Members
How many have been printed? 600

9) Describe sanitary facilities to be used Club exterior bathrooms and one handicapped portable unit

10) Is food to be provided or sold? Yes (X) No () If Yes, described the food and kitchen facilities to be used to provide safe and sanitary storage and preparation of all foods: Clubs Comercial Kitchen

11) Describe all buildings, tents or other structures to be used, including whether the buildings, etc. are fire resistant, number of exits and seating capacity: 2 Rental Tents

12) Describe proposed parking site Club Owned 3 Acre Site

How many vehicles can be parked safely? 250 What precautions will be taken to ensure vehicles park only in designated locations? Members directing vehicles

Will there be any off road parking? Yes () No (X)

What are the main points of access to and from the site: Route 2 to Barton Cove Road leading to grounds

13) Who will provide crowd control and security coverage: _____

Membership/Police Detail if crowd is larger than Town By-Law Limit _____

14) Are alcoholic beverages to be sold or furnished Yes (X) No () If Yes, Describe _____

Alcoholic beverages supplied via seasonal all-alcohol liquor license issued annually by the Town _____

15) Other information needed to completely describe the proposed activity and its effect on the public's health, safety and welfare: _____

The undersigned hereby applies to the Selectboard of the Town of Gill, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354 for a Public Gathering Permit pursuant to the provisions of the Town bylaw as follows:

PUBLIC GATHERING

Passed October 24, 1978
Amendment Passed May 12, 1979
Amendment passed November 6, 1989
Amendment passed April 10, 1990
Amendment passed June 7, 2004

No individual, group of people, or corporation shall conduct or participate in any gathering of more than three hundred people unless a permit for such gathering has been obtained from the Board of Selectmen. A written application for a permit shall be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the proposed gathering on a form provided by the Selectmen. Payment of Thirty-Dollars (\$30.00) shall accompany the application.

The Selectmen may send a copy of the application to the Board of Health, Highway Superintendent, Fire Department, Police Department and Building Inspector for their review and comment. The Board of Selectmen shall hold a public hearing on the application within 21 days of the receipt thereof and shall grant the permit unless it determines that the proposed gathering would threaten the public health, safety or welfare.

The Selectmen shall given written reasons for any permit application that is denied by them and shall have the right to revoke any permit if the applicant does not abide with the conditions attached to it or if the application failed to completely and accurately describe the proposed activity and its effect on the public health, safety, and welfare. Whoever violates any provisions of this bylaw shall be punished by a fine of \$200.00 for each offense. Each day that an individual, group of people, or corporation violates this bylaw shall constitute a separate offense.

The Select Board shall have the authority to issue a permit to an applicant which authorized the applicant to conduct a limited or unlimited number of gatherings during a period up to but not to exceed twelve (12) months in duration.

Approved by Attorney General January 12, 1979
Amendment approved by Attorney General July 3, 1979
Amendment approved by Attorney General February 6, 1989
Amendment approved by Attorney General June 8, 1990
Amendments approved by Attorney General July 19, 2004

By signing this application, the applicant states that the information supplied is true and complete and accurately described the proposed activity.


Signature/s

413-834-1251

Telephone #

John Miner
Print name

johnpminer@comcast.net

Email address

5/4/2025
Date