



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

August 24, 2026

***Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting
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: 2025: 3/24, 4/7, 4/22, 5/5, 5/20, 6/2, 6/16, 6/30, 8/11, 8/18, 9/8, 9/17, 10/6, 10/16, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/15, 12/29; 2026: 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/21, 5/4, 5/19, 8/10
- RMB Roof Committee – updates
- RMB Use Committee – updates

New Business

- Bruce Stedman, New England representative for Mayors for Peace – info about organization
- Police Department topics
 - Appoint Tom Chabot as a Part-Time Officer through June 30, 2027
 - “Handle With Care” Memorandum of Understanding with Gill PD, Montague PD, GMRSD, and FCTS – providing schools with a confidential alert when a child has been identified at a traumatic event
- Discussion & possible vote – amending Selectboard decision to allow Historical Commission to use all 3 classrooms at Riverside Municipal Building (RMB)
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
 - Senior Computer Tablet class in October – 4 sessions, keep the tablet if you attend all 4.
 - Senior Tech Time – 3 Tech Talks in September
- Warrants
 - FY27 #04 – Vendors (\$48,075.16) & Payroll (\$39,158.79) – reviewed/signed on 8/10
 - FY27 #05 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tues 9/1	7AM - 8PM	State Primary Election	Town Hall
Thur 9/3	6:00 PM	6-Town School Reg'l – update/info	Gill Town Hall
Mon 9/7		Labor Day holiday	
Tues 9/8	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall
Mon 9/21	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2026

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: John Ward, Jenn Waldron, Charles Garbiel

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Doreen Stevens, Tim Batchelder, and Kate Savage.

Review of Minutes: Garbiel made a motion, seconded by Waldron, to approve the minutes of July 27, 2026. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Election Topics: Town Clerk Doreen Stevens met with the Selectboard to discuss several topics related to upcoming elections in Gill. Stevens presented the warrant for the state primary election to be held on September 1st. The warrant was approved by consensus and signed by the Selectboard.

The Town has been notified by the Franklin County Technical School that all district towns will vote on a proposed new building on October 6th. Based on the last notification Stevens provided to the state Elections Division, Gill is using the Image Cast vote tabulator to count all elections. Stevens requested the Selectboard vote to hand count all elections effective August 11, 2026, as hand counting the single yes/no ballot question for the Tech School will not be complicated or time-intensive, and will save the Town money by not having to program and purchase ballots for the tabulator. The decision to switch from the tabulator to hand counting will not affect the use of the tabulator for the November 3rd state election, as the deadline to change for that election has passed. Garbiel made a motion, seconded by Waldron, to hand count all Gill elections effective August 11, 2026. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Stevens presented the dates and hours for early, in-person voting for the September 1st primary election. Early voting will be available on August 22 from 9 AM to 11 AM and 3 PM to 5 PM, August 24, August 25, and August 26 from 1 PM to 3 PM each day, and August 27 from 3 PM to 5:30 PM. The Selectboard approved the early voting hours by consensus.

Riverside Municipal Building Use Committee: Following up on the July 27th public forum on the future, needs, and use of the Riverside Municipal Building, Waldon stated the list of volunteers for the committee has been narrowed to 7 names to have a manageable sized committee. The Selectboard discussed a scope or mission statement for the committee and arrived at "To evaluate and make recommendations to the Selectboard regarding potential uses of the entire property at 54 French King Highway, inside and outside, first floor and basement, and including opportunities for Town uses, public uses, and revenue generation via events or leased/rented space(s)." Although the exact timeline for the committee to complete its work is currently unknown, it was suggested an initial report be provided to the Selectboard on September 21, 2026.

With respect to the authorization from early 2025 for the Historical Commission to use all three classrooms at the building, Waldron and Ward suggested the Commission should put any big moves on pause until the Use Committee has finished its work. Purington will relay the suggestion to the Historical Commission. This topic will be included on the agenda for the Selectboard next meeting on August 24th to allow for broader discussion and a vote, if necessary.

Waldron made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to establish the Riverside Municipal Building Use Committee with the scope as stated above, and to appoint the following Gill residents to the committee for terms through June 30, 2027: Cathy Demars, Amy Gordon, Karen Larsen, Rebecca Minor, Christopher Pelletier, Samuel Plotkin, and Jenn Waldon (as the Selectboard's representative to the Committee). The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

RMB Roof Committee: Garbiel reported the RMB Roof Committee had its first meeting on August 3rd. Members toured the building, and two members went into the attic. The Committee is exploring whether an engineer will be required for the roof replacement, given the desire to remove the large metal air duct that penetrates the roof. A member of the committee will check with the Building Inspector on this. If the question cannot be resolved, it may

be necessary to seek advice from Town Counsel. While inspecting the roof it was determined there are two layers of asphalt shingles, so the roof will need to be stripped to the wood deck before a new roof can be installed. The Committee is initially leaning toward asphalt shingles for the new roof due to the cost. The Committee is also working to get all roof surfaces (shingles, mastic, sealants, etc.) tested for asbestos so that a complete scope of work will be known before the project is estimated and put out to bid. The Committee's next meeting is August 25th.

Stevens, Batchelder, and Savage left the meeting at 6:13 PM.

Warrants: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2027 warrant # 04 with totals of \$48,075.16 for vendors and \$39,158.79 for payroll. Waldron recused herself from signing the payroll warrant, as her son Mitchell, a Gill firefighter and part-time police officer, appeared on it this week.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 08/24/2026

Jenn Waldron, Selectboard Clerk



TOWN OF LEVERETT

Massachusetts 01054

June 30, 2026

Selectboard

Town of Gill

Dear Neighboring Town Selectboard:

The Leverett Selectboard is working with the New England Peace Pagoda to reach out to neighboring communities and ask you to consider joining the Mayors for Peace organization. You can find more information about Mayors for Peace at their website at www.mayorsforpeace.org/en. Leverett is one of several communities in Massachusetts who have been members of this organization since 2005. The town pays a minimal membership fee, which equals approximately \$16.00, to support the goal of this organization. According to the Mayors of Peace website:

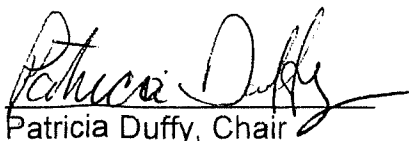
The purposes of the "Mayors for Peace" are to contribute to the attainment of lasting world peace by arousing concern among citizens of the world for the total abolition of nuclear weapons through close solidarity among member cities as well as by striving to solve vital problems for the human race such as starvation and poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation. (About Us page)

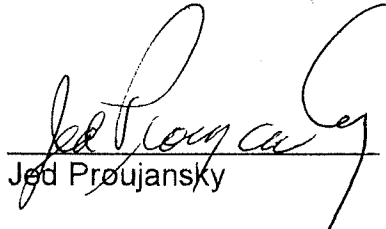
August 6th, 2026 is Hiroshima Day, marking the 81st anniversary of the atomic bombs that were dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. Leverett joins the 8,579 cities in 166 countries and regions in supporting the goal of Mayors for Peace and hopes that other towns may also join with us towards this goal.

Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions, we can be reached at selectboard@leverett.ma.us or 413-548-9699. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Leverett Selectboard


Patricia Duffy, Chair


Jed Prójansky


Thomas Hankinson

***Please find enclosed some materials from Mayors for Peace, including a Registration Form



Mayors for Peace

Secretariat

c/o Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, 1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 JAPAN
E-mail: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp Website: www.mayorsforpeace.org

March 2026

Dear Fellow Mayor,

I trust this letter finds you well.

In August 1945, two atomic bombs instantly reduced the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to rubble, taking more than 210,000 precious lives by the end of the year. The *hibakusha*—those who barely survived—still suffer from the harmful aftereffects, notably of radiation. While their minds and bodies are in pain, they continue to make their appeal that “no one else should suffer as we have.”

With our *hibakusha* aging, we are determined to have their experiences and strong desire for peace shared and wholeheartedly accepted by future generations, and to have those commitments spread throughout the world. I am convinced that spreading their message will eventually lead to the realization of their most cherished will, the abolition of nuclear weapons.

In 1982, Hiroshima and Nagasaki established Mayors for Peace to achieve this goal. It is a non-partisan, global network of municipalities that is registered at the UN with ECOSOC. Since its establishment, Mayors for Peace has expanded its membership and worked in solidarity with its member cities to call for the realization of a world free from nuclear weapons and lasting world peace. Presided by the Mayor of Hiroshima and vice presided by the Mayor of Nagasaki along with 8 other mayors of cities from across the world, as of March 1st of this year, Mayors for Peace has grown to 8,566 member cities from 166 countries and regions.

In January 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force, which is the first multilateral treaty to clearly and fundamentally define that nuclear weapons are subjected to total prohibition. This is a proof that voices of *hibakusha* and those who share their fervent wish for the total elimination of nuclear weapons pushed international society forward. In this context, Mayors for Peace has set forth three objectives in the Vision for Peaceful Transformation to a Sustainable World (PX Vision), adopted in July in 2021: “Realize a world without nuclear weapons,” “Realize safe and resilient cities,” and “Promote a culture of peace.” To achieve these objectives, we have been actively engaged in various initiatives in collaboration with our global member cities.

The growing number of Mayors for Peace member cities is a powerful force building real momentum toward peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons. To this end, I humbly ask that you share in our sincere message from the atomic bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and join Mayors for Peace to support our initiatives toward genuine and lasting world peace.

Sincerely yours,

MATSUI Kazumi



Mayors for Peace Registration Form

To Mr. MATSUI Kazumi
Mayor of Hiroshima
President of Mayors for Peace

I hereby express my city/municipality's support for the abolition of nuclear weapons and desire to join Mayors for Peace.*

Name of the city/municipality**: _____

***This is the name we will use to refer to your city/municipality in our database.*

Name of your country: _____

Mayor's name: _____

Title (Optional): ☐Mr. ☐Ms. ☐Mx. ☐Other: _____

Mayor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mayor's office address: _____

TEL: _____ FAX: _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Municipal Population: _____ (as of _____)

Contact person

Name: _____

Title (Optional): ☐Mr. ☐Ms. ☐Mx. ☐Other: _____

Position: _____

E-mail: _____

Questionnaire

How did you find out about Mayors for Peace?

☐Member City: (Name) _____ ☐Ministry of Foreign Affairs of your country

☐NGO/Organization: (Name) _____ ☐Meeting with Mayor of Hiroshima

☐Other: (please specify) _____

**This registration form implies your city/municipality's decision to join Mayors for Peace. If your city/municipality requires specific procedures, including approval from your city/municipal council, please submit this form after such procedures are completed.*

Please send this form to:
Mayors for Peace Secretariat
FAX : +81-82-242-7452
E-mail : mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp



Peace-Related Activities Offered to Members of Mayors for Peace

Upon joining Mayors for Peace, your city will have the opportunity to participate in activities and programs which reflect the ultimate goal of the Mayors for Peace Action Plan: lasting world peace. We hope you will join us and that together, we will make significant strides towards realizing our goal.

Below please find a list of activities which we offer to our member cities:

1. Seeds from Atomic Bomb Survivor Trees

Mayors for Peace distributes seeds from trees that survived the atomic bombings to all member cities who wish to receive them. It is our hope that by taking care of these trees, which serve as symbols of peace, member cities can foster the ideals of peace amongst their citizens.

Seeds are provided free of charge.



2. Children's Art Competitions

Based on the art prompt "Peaceful Towns", Mayors for Peace has held an art competition for children ages 6 to 15 in member cities since 2018 with the aim of furthering the promotion of peace education in younger generations around the world.

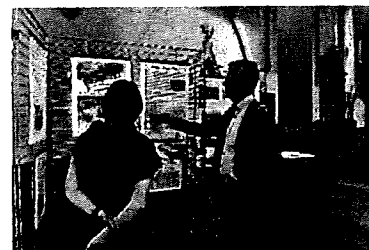


3. Atomic Bomb Poster Exhibitions

Mayors for Peace calls on member cities to hold exhibitions of Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Posters and other related materials to foster a deepened understanding of the realities of the atomic bombings and strengthen the resolve towards nuclear abolition among their citizens.

Posters are available in: Japanese, English, German, French, Russian, Dutch, Spanish, Catalan, and Portuguese

Posters are provided free of charge (files can be downloaded from the Mayors for Peace website).



4. Online *Hibakusha* Testimonies

By request, Mayors for Peace can help connect venues in member cities to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum so they can experience online *hibakusha* testimonies.

Available free of charge.



5. Peace Education Webinar

Mayors for Peace holds a Peace Education Webinar annually with the aim of stimulating youth-led peace activities in member cities. This webinar provides an opportunity for young leaders involved in peace activities to share information and engage in dialogue.



For more information, please contact:

Mayors for Peace Secretariat

c/o Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation

1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0811 JAPAN

E-mail: mayorcon@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp



MAYORS FOR PEACE (<https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/>)

* Founded: on June 24, 1982 at the 2nd UN Special Session on Disarmament held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

* An NGO (nongovernmental organization): headquartered in Hiroshima, Japan, in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

* Member cities/towns: 8,584 in 166 countries and regions / membership fee is 13 USD/year

* Member cities/towns in western Massachusetts (and year joined): Agawam (2006) / Chicopee (2007) / Easthampton (2005) / Greenfield (2005) / Holyoke (2005) / Leverett (2005) / North Adams (2007) / Northampton (2005) / West Springfield (2007).

* Mission: The purposes of the “Mayors for Peace” are to contribute to the attainment of lasting world peace by arousing concern among citizens of the world for the total abolition of nuclear weapons through close solidarity among member cities as well as by striving to solve vital problems for the human race such as starvation and poverty, the plight of refugees, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation.

* How to join: <https://www.mayorsforpeace.org/en/about-us/joins/>

(Contact the New England Representative, below; share this link with your city’s mayor or town's select board).

RECOMMENDED PROJECT: Growing Seeds from *Hibaku* trees

* Distribute and nurture seeds from atomic bomb survivor trees (*hibaku* tree): The Secretariat distributes seeds from *hibaku* trees, which stand in Hiroshima and Nagasaki as silent witnesses, to member cities. Our aim is to raise public peace consciousness through citizens, so we request member cities to plant them in places where many citizens frequent, and to encourage communities to participate in the nurturing of these trees as a symbol of peace: [Pamphlet \(12 page full color\)](#)

* How to apply (member cities/towns only): If a member city/town wants to receive seeds from *hibaku* trees and agrees to accommodate the requests above, please contact Bruce Stedman for assistance. The Western Mass Back from the Brink Hub is working with botanic gardens to help towns and cities nurture their seeds for eventual planting of samplings on town sites.

* For more information contact: Bruce Stedman, Mayors for Peace, New England Representative
Amherst, MA / 301-602-3684 / brucestedman1@gmail.com (August 5, 2026)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court (2025-2026)

Resolutions to call on the congressional delegation to support the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

WHEREAS, the existence of more than 12,000 nuclear weapons worldwide poses a grave and existential threat to the citizens of the commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the commonwealth have expressed their deep concern about this continuing threat over many decades through town meetings and city council resolutions and the filing of bills and resolutions with the general court; and

WHEREAS, the policies and actions of states may lead the way and inspire important changes nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, the commonwealth played a leading role in ending the nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union in the 1980s, by adopting a nuclear freeze resolution and encouraging other states to follow its example; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force as international law on January 22, 2021, has been signed and ratified by 70 countries; and

WHEREAS, the legislatures of California, Oregon and Rhode Island, the Maine state senate and the New Jersey assembly, and 21 cities and towns in the commonwealth have taken action to denounce the threat of nuclear war by endorsing the national Back from the Brink platform, which calls on our federal leaders to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to take immediate steps to prevent nuclear war by actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first, ending the President of the United States' sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack, taking United States nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert and canceling the plan to replace its arsenal with enhanced weapons, mindful of prioritizing national security; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the general court urges all members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation to co-sponsor House Resolution 317 and Senate Resolution 323, which call for the United States to adopt the policy provisions of the Back from the Brink platform; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the clerk of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from the commonwealth in the Congress of the United States, and to the governor of the commonwealth.



HANDLE WITH CARE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the Gill-Montague Regional School District, the Franklin County Technical School, FCTS (a regional vocational-technical school district serving 19 member towns), and the Gill and Montague Police Departments (the Parties). This MOU shall be effective as of the date of the last-executed signature below ("Effective Date").

I. BACKGROUND

"Handle with Care" is a program designed to support children exposed to trauma by providing schools with a confidential alert when a child has been identified at a traumatic event. This notification (from first responders: police or fire departments) allows schools to implement trauma-sensitive practices and provides appropriate support to the child, without needing to provide detailed information about the specific incident.

Childhood exposure to violence and trauma—without the right support—is often associated with an increased risk of poor outcomes in emotional, behavioral, and physical health that can follow a child into adulthood. Moreover, children exposed to violence and trauma also are at higher risk for poor school-related outcomes and are more likely to enter the criminal justice system later in life, which can contribute to generational cycles of violence.

II. PURPOSE

The Handle with Care Program implemented in the Gill-Montague and FCTC School Districts, will help mitigate the negative impact of trauma on a child's academic and emotional well-being by giving school staff the advance notice they need to provide on-site support to a child who has experienced a traumatic event. This simple notification process allows both District's schools to handle this child with the compassion and care the child needs throughout the school days following the traumatic event.

III. NOTIFICATION OF EXPOSURE TO TRAUMA

Acknowledging the collaborative, trauma-informed work already underway among the Gill-

Montague Regional and FCTS School Districts and first responders in the community and recognizing the importance of the social and emotional health of the children and youth within the school system, this MOU sets forth the notification process and the roles and responsibilities of the Parties when a child is exposed to trauma or violence in the home or in the community.

The phrase “trauma or violence” shall be construed broadly and shall mean and include any event where a child is a victim or witness, experiences or is involved in, or is questioned relative to any of the following:

- the abuse of a family member, loved one, or pet
- abuse or neglect
- child custody
- visitation or support or other domestic relations controversy where there is law enforcement intervention
- community violence
- the commission of a crime
- a fire where the child resides
- the loss of a family member or friend
- an overdose
- the arrest of a family member
- racism or any other form of discrimination
- homelessness
- mental illness and/or substance abuse by a parent or caregiver
- hospitalization or family illness
- incarceration of a parent or family member
- sudden, unexpected or frequent changes in caregiver, school, program or home life
- natural disasters or similar acts or experiences.

When determining whether a child has been exposed to trauma or violence, judgment should be exercised in the best interests of the child and in favor of notification.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GILL AND MONTAGUE POLICE DEPARTMENT(S)

- A. Upon identifying a child (or children) who have been exposed to trauma, send a Handle with Care notice to the School District’s designated point of contact (POC) using the District-generated Handle with Care form and QR code (or related link) stating the child’s name, approximate age, and the school attended (if known).
- B. To maintain the privacy of the child and his or her family, notifications should not contain specific information about the incident.
- C. As required by law, the confidentiality of victims, children, and families should be maintained.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

- A. Appoint a School District designated POC, who will be in charge of receiving and disseminating all Handle with Care notifications throughout the school district.
- B. Upon receiving a notification, the designated POC contacts the relevant school POCs who then disseminate the notification to the appropriate teachers, social workers, guidance counselors, and other relevant staff.
- C. *While making sure to avoid talking to the child about the incident*, school staff should watch the child for inconsistent or concerning behavior and may want to provide the child with a safe person and space where the child can receive additional support. This might include postponing a test, accepting a missed assignment, or allowing the student to rest if they are having a hard time focusing or staying awake.
- D. As requested, or required by law, provide education and training on trauma-informed care to all school personnel, parents, and guardians.
- E. Maintain the confidentiality of the child's information, including but not limited to academic records, health records, and mental health services.
- F. Notifications may be maintained for any purpose consistent with the purpose of this MOU but shall not be part of any child's permanent record.

VI. TERMINATION

Any Party has the right to cancel this MOU with at least 30 days written notice to the other Parties. Should any Party terminate this MOU, the MOU shall remain in effect as to all other Parties, unless terminated at the request of the Gill-Montague Regional or FCTS School Districts.

VII. ADDITIONAL PARTIES

Additional agencies, whether or not a law enforcement agency, may become a party to this MOU upon execution of an addendum to this MOU and shall be executed between the Gill-Montague Regional and FCTS School Districts and such agency without ratification by the Parties.

VIII. LIABILITY

Each Party shall be responsible for its or its agents' actions and/or omissions. No Party assumes any liability for any actions or omissions by any other party. However, each Party agrees to cooperate fully with all Parties in the defense of any claims made against any Party. This cooperation will include, but is not limited to the following:

- A. Immediate notification to the applicable Party of any accident or incident resulting in

personal injury, damage, or having the potential for liability.

- B. Immediate notification to the applicable Party of any claim made against it alleging liability.
- C. Permitting the applicable Party to conduct a parallel independent investigation of any incident.
- D. Making personnel and records available to the applicable Party for purposes of the investigation or defense of any claim and/or legal proceeding to the extent permitted by law.

By the signatures provided herein, the Parties agree to abide by the terms of this MOU, which shall remain in full force and effect until terminated per Provision VI.

Gill-Montague School District

By: _____
Superintendent Tari N. Thomas **Date**

Franklin County Technical School

By: _____
Superintendent Ryan Rege **Date**

The Montague Police Department

By: _____
Chief of Police Jason Haskins **Date**

The Gill Police Department

By: _____
Chief of Police Christopher Redmond **Date**