



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

September 8, 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

- 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, 8/24, 8/31
- Agricultural Commission – Request to establish an ad hoc Municipal Farmland Protection Planning Process (MFPPP) Study Committee
- Mayors for Peace initiative – discussion and possible vote on Town of Gill joining the organization
- RMB Roof Committee – updates
- RMB Use Committee – updates

New Business

- Offer of a Gray Wolf mosaic to be installed on wall of the Gill Elementary School
- Application for One-Day Beer/Wine/Cider License by Hélène Grosvenor, 10 Cross Rd. for acoustic music concert, max. 150 attendees, on September 26, 2026
- Fire Department topics
 - Appointment of a Junior Firefighter
 - Request for permission to ask FirstLight Power for a donation to purchase an all-weather aluminum Rescue Boat with enclosed cabin, dual outboard motors, fire pump, equipped with search and rescue equipment.
- Appointment – Daniela Jacobson, 26 Oak St, to the Cultural Council through September 8, 2029
- 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 #05 – Vendors (\$65,332.38) & Payroll (\$35,111.68) – reviewed/signed on 8/24
 - FY27 #06 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 9/21	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall
Mon 10/05	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	Town Hall

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2026

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:33 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; Tim Batchelder, Kate Savage, Janet Masucci, Erin-Leigh Hoffmann, Bruce Stedman, Kit Carpenter, Joan Pillsbury, Holly Grosvenor, Terri Rice, Bob Perry, Ann Perry, Ray Steele, Anna Steele, Tom Chabot, Chris Redmond, John Richardson, and Jim Asbel

Review of Minutes: Garbiel made a motion, seconded by Waldron, to approve the minutes of August 10, 2026. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

RMB Roof Committee: Garbiel reported the committee's next meeting is August 25th at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall.

RMB Use Committee: Waldron reported the committee had its first meeting on August 19th. She was elected Chair and Chris Pelletier was elected as Clerk. Among the topics the committee discussed was a request and subsequent motion and vote to ask that Wi-Fi internet access be provided at the building as soon as possible. For the Selectboard, Waldron made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to turn on Wi-Fi at the RMB as soon as possible. During discussion Purington agreed to contact Comcast this week to start the process and explained a Digital Equity grant will cover the first 4-6 months of access at approximately \$100/month. The operating budget for the Town Hall & RMB will cover the balance of the cost for the rest of the fiscal year. It was noted the building has multiple users and uses that will benefit from having Wi-Fi, including the Historical Commission, the RMB Use Committee, the Riverside Water District, a "Smart" water flow meter, and Wi-Fi enabled mini-splits. The Selectboard's motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Waldron also noted the Use Committee will be meeting frequently to complete its study in an expeditious manner. Their next meeting is on August 25th and will include presentations on a possible use for the building as a museum and the Historical Commission's vision for the space.

Mayors for Peace: Bruce Stedman, the New England representative for the Mayors for Peace organization met with the Selectboard to explain more about the group. A June 30, 2026, letter from the Leverett Selectboard and a desire for more information led to Stedman's presentation in Gill. Stedman explained that the goal of Mayors for Peace is to abolish nuclear weapons worldwide. Membership is open to more than just mayors, costs \$13 per year per community, and there are currently more than 8,500 cities and towns worldwide that belong to the group. The group sponsors three types of activities: growing seeds from trees that survived the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, hosting children's art contests, and hosting poster exhibitions.

Ward commented there is a definite link between nuclear arms and nuclear power. Garbiel asked if the plan to abolish nuclear weapons is just gaining momentum in the United States, or if the effort extends to countries around the world. Stedman responded there is a worldwide effort, but it will take many years to reach the goal. With respect to Gill joining the Mayors for Peace organization, the Selectboard decided to take the matter under advisement and will revisit the issue at their next meeting in two weeks. Stedman left the meeting at 6:09 PM.

Police Appointment: Police Chief Chris Redmond introduced Gill resident Tom Chabot and recommended Chabot be appointed as a part-time police officer for the Town. Garbiel disclosed he used to be Chabot's neighbor when they both lived in Turners Falls. Chabot, who has 12 years' experience as a police officer and is the sergeant in Bernardston, explained he recently stepped down from full-time to part-time in Bernardston for family reasons and to continue his education, and he has time available to work shifts in Gill. Waldron made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to appoint Chabot as a part-time police officer through June 30, 2027. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Handle with Care MOU: Redmond presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Gill Police Department, Montague Police Département, Gill-Montague Regional School District, and Franklin County Technical School. Per the MOU, when the Department becomes aware of a child who has been involved in a traumatic event, a confidential alert will be provided to the school system. No details of the traumatic event will be

supplied, but it will allow school personnel to be aware the child may need additional support and to be on the lookout for signs the support is needed. The Selectboard expressed support for the new program. Waldron made a motion, seconded by Garbiel, to approve the MOU and authorize Redmond to sign the MOU. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Possible Change in Historical Commission's Use of 3 Rooms at the RMB: It was explained this topic was placed on the agenda as a direct follow-up to a question posed by the Historical Commission during the "Other business" portion of the Selectboard's August 10th meeting. Since the question did not appear on that agenda, there was only limited discussion and no votes were taken.

Waldron explained that, with the Use Committee currently studying possible uses for the entire RMB, she had hoped the Historical Commission's plans and efforts to expand into all three of the classrooms could be placed on a hiatus until the Use Committee finishes its work, a pause until roughly January 2027. An audience member stated the Historical Commission is on pins and needles about its future with the Town and doesn't understand what is meant by "hiatus."

Bob Perry, a member of the Historical Commission, stated that a "time out" to put the horse before the cart, so to speak, is doable, meaning the Commission could pause its expansion and keep one room available for the Use Committee meetings. He stated the building should not be used for public rental until the various code compliance needs are addressed. The Commission had a plan to gradually sort through all the items that were stored in the office space used by the Riverside Water District and assimilate those materials into the collection room, but then the roof leak happened last fall. He also noted that if the Commission's space in the building is ever downsized to just two rooms, those rooms need to be contiguous. All three classrooms are the same size.

Perry also reported that he and Ray Steele attempted to cover a recently discovered hole in the roof's valley by the east end (roughly over the bathroom). The attempt failed because the shingles are too brittle to be manipulated. He described the entire roof as a "ticking timebomb."

Gill Indivisible Group Parking at RMB: The Selectboard approved by consensus a request from the Gill Indivisible Group for its members to park personal vehicles at the RMB on August 29th. The group is holding a gathering at a member's home in Riverside and extra parking spaces are needed.

The Selectboard paused its meeting at 6:55 PM so that members could participate in a Sewer Commission meeting originally scheduled for 6:30 PM. All guests left the meeting. The Selectboard meeting resumed at 7:50 PM. Ward left the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Warrants: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2027 warrant # 05 with totals of \$65,332.38 for vendors and \$35,111.68 for payroll. Waldron's son Mitchell, a Gill firefighter and part-time police officer, appeared on this week's payroll warrant. Due to the conflict of interest, Waldron would normally abstain from signing the warrant. However, since two signatures are required to approve the warrant, the Board invoked the Rule of Necessity, which permitted Waldron's participation and allowed the Board to act upon the warrant.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 09/08/2026

Jenn Waldron, Selectboard Clerk

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 31, 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; and Tim Batchelder.

Special Election for vote on 6 Town School Regionalization: The Selectboard reviewed an August 27, 2026, memo from the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB) advising the Selectboards of the Towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield and Warwick of a vote by the STRPB to recommend the establishment of the Great River Regional School District consisting of either six or five towns. The memo requests each Selectboard schedule a special election to present the question of approval of the new regional school district to the voters in each town. In the memo the STRPB requested the special election be scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2026.

A formal motion on calling for the election was provided by the STRPB. The motion was made by Garbiel and seconded by Waldron.

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2026, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts signed Senate Bill No. 3181, "An Act providing equal opportunity for residents to vote on establishment of the Great River Regional School District" ("S.3181" or "the Act"), which is now law; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that the Town of Gill place on the ballot, at the first annual or special town election held after the Act's effective date, the question of accepting the establishment of the Great River Regional School District; and

WHEREAS, the Six Town Regionalization Planning Board has recommended that the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield, and Warwick hold this vote on a single, coordinated date - Tuesday, October 6, 2026, the same date already scheduled for the Franklin County Technical School district's special election, with polling hours of 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in order to avoid voter confusion and reduce administrative burden on the Town Clerks; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Selectboard holds the authority to call a special town election and to set its date, hours, and location;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED that the Selectboard of the Town of Gill hereby calls a Special Town Election to be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, with polling hours of 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of submitting to the voters the question of accepting the establishment of the Great River Regional School District, in accordance Special Legislation S.3181 "An Act Providing Equal Opportunity For Residents To Vote On Establishment Of The Great River Regional School District," enacted on August 25, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER MOVED that the Board directs and authorizes the Town Clerk, in consultation with town counsel, to prepare the official warrant and notice of election - including the ballot question language required by S.3181 and to take all other steps necessary to post, notice, and administer said election in accordance with law; and

BE IT FURTHER MOVED that the Selectboard is authorized to sign the warrant for said election.

There was no discussion on the motion other than an expression of relief that the matter is finally coming to a vote after seven years of study.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote and the Selectboard signed the warrant for the election. The meeting adjourned at 5:33 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 09/08/2026

Jenn Waldron, Selectboard Clerk

9/8/2026

Municipal Farmland Protection Planning Process Study Committee

The Gill Agricultural Commission requests that the Selectboard appoint an ad hoc committee (the MFPPP Study Committee) to work with FRCOG on a municipal farmland protection planning project as described below.

Overview

FRCOG received a Farmland Partnership Program grant (a new MDAR program as of 2025) to pilot a model *Municipal Farmland Protection Planning* Process with two towns in Franklin County. The overarching goal of the grant program is to facilitate and accelerate the pace of farmland protection in MA by using statewide partnerships to tackle actions in the [Massachusetts Farmland Action Plan](#). The two other Western MA regional planning agencies are partners on this grant and the collective recommendations to MDAR will be based on the planning experiences from all six pilot towns.

This grant project ends October 31, 2027.

In the Spring of 2026, the Ag Commission accepted the proposal to work with FRCOG and presented the proposal to the selectboard on July 13, 2026.

This document constitutes a formal request to establish the ad hoc committee

Goals of Project/Plan

- Identify farmland assets in town and their characteristics. This will hopefully include a full inventory of the farmed parcels and farms in town, identifying which lands are leased and which lands are owned by out-of-town farmers. It will also include underutilized lands. (See also the Draft List of Maps on the next page.)
- Act as a guide for the Town to better position itself to support land protection projects. The plan can be a helpful resource if a farmer is interested in protecting land, and can clarify the Town's role in and procedure for the Chapter 61/61A right-of-first-refusal process. The goal is NOT to force land protections. (See also the Draft Outline on the next page)
- Identify opportunities to support viability and access so that farmland can continue in agricultural production.

Project Process

- The Ag Com will present a list of proposed committee members to the Selectboard for approval. Committee size is anticipated to be between 5 and 9 members, and membership will include:
 - Agricultural Commission member(s)
 - representatives from other Town committees, depending on interest and including but not limited to the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Assessors, and Selectboard
 - farmers, including at least one farmer meeting the [USDA definition \[nracs.usda.gov\]](#) of a historically underserved farmer.
- Five total committee meetings—four in fall 2026 – spring 2027 (e.g., October, December, February, April) and one wrap-up meeting in summer. Meetings will be posted and open to the public.
- One focus group and one public forum to collect feedback from the broader community.
- Committee members will contribute to the process by

- Helping to structure the planning process
- Providing information for the plan, including farmer contacts, farming and land protection history, threats to farms and farmland, municipal roles and strategies, recommendations, and more.
- Putting FRCOG staff in touch with farmers for the farm and farmland inventory
- Reviewing plan and map drafts
- Going through a farmland prioritization exercise if the committee chooses to
- A quorum of the committee shall be a majority of the appointed and sworn members serving on the committee.

DRAFT Outline of Municipal Farmland Protection Plan

- Introduction
- Regional Context
- Community Context
 - Farmland Inventory & Analysis
 - Farmland Environmental Analysis
 - Farmland Protection Prioritization Exercise
 - Local Farmland Protection Findings
 - Opportunities to Support Local Farmland Preservation
 - Goals & Strategies
 - Recommendations and Implementation Strategies Table

DRAFT List of Maps to be Included

- Context/Inventory:
 - Regional farmland
 - Active farmland w/ farm names and production type (protected & unprotected)
 - Active farmland leased vs. not leased
 - Potential & inactive farmland areas
- Environmental:
 - Agricultural soils (incl. which parcels have 50% ag soils)
 - Flood Zones/areas prone to flooding
 - Environmental restrictions
- Development pressure factors

List of Potential Members:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zoe Fox ○ Dan Flagg ○ Tom Chalmers • Con Com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brian Donahue • Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tim Storrow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selectboard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TBD • Board of Assessors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TBD • Farmers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sam French ○ Keith Lilly ○ Others? |
|--|---|

Fwd: Mosaic at Gill School

From Lindsey Spencer <lindsey.spencer@gmrds.us>

Date Fri 9/4/2026 5:33 PM

To Ray Purington/Gill Town Administrator <administrator@gillmass.org>

Hi Ray-

Please see the attached email from Bob regarding the answers to your questions. I talked with Justin this morning about it, and he is ready to move forward if we can get approval from the Selectboard. The one other question I am going to ask Bob is in regards to it being mounted right onto the brick, how easily it can be removed if need be. Justin hasn't decided on a spot but we looked a little this morning at there are a few places on the outside front of the building that look like they could be ideal. A couple ideas were right outside the front door, to the side of it, or the front of the building where the few parking spaces are. But nothing set in stone yet, this is able to be talked about.

Thanks so much for your help!!

Lindsey

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Robert Markey** <markeyrobert@yahoo.com>

Date: Fri, Sep 4, 2026 at 9:40 AM

Subject: Re: Mosaic at Gill School

To: Lindsey Spencer <lindsey.spencer@gmrds.us>

Hi Lindsey,

The wolf mosaic is 3' high and 2' wide.

I don't know where it will be mounted, I assume the school can decide where they want it. It has to go on a brick wall, which I assume most or all of the outside walls are brick.

The edges are not sharp, I use mortar around the outside edges so there are no sharp edges.

I would mount it directly on the wall. That is the way I always do my mosaics.

I hope these answers help and they will want it installed.

Thanks so much for doing this.

Bob

Robert Markey

robertmarkey.com

The choice is, and always has been, between compassion and greed.

On Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 05:02:32 PM EDT, Lindsey Spencer <lindsey.spencer@gmrds.us> wrote:

Thank you Ray! My friends name is Robert Markey & he lives in Ashfield. He gave me his website in case you or the select board would like to see anymore of his work. It's Robertmarkey.com

As soon as I get his answers I will send them on to you. Thanks again!
Lindsey

On Thu, Sep 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM Lindsey Spencer <lindsey.spencer@gmrds.us> wrote:

Hi Bob - here is the chain of emails & includes the questions so far. Other than answering where it would be mounted, could you answer the others so I can get it back to Ray?

Thank you!!

Lindsey

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ray Purington/Gill Town Administrator** <administrator@gillmass.org>

Date: Thu, Sep 3, 2026 at 4:15 PM

Subject: Re: Mosaic at Gill School

To: Lindsey Spencer <lindsey.spencer@gmrds.us>

One more question - what is the artist's name?

From: Ray Purington/Gill Town Administrator <administrator@gillmass.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 4:08 PM

To: Lindsey Spencer <lindsey.spencer@gmrds.us>

Subject: Re: Mosaic at Gill School

Hi Lindsey,

It was great chatting with you this afternoon. And please let your friend know his mosaic is quite handsome!

I can ask the Selectboard - it will be on their agenda for September 8th. I have several questions, but they might come up with others. Mine are:

1. What is the overall width and height of the mosaic?
2. Where on the building will it be mounted?
3. Are the pieces or edges sharp enough that the mosaic should be mounted up high, out of the reach of little fingers and bare arms in t-shirts?
4. Will it be mounted to a board, and the board mounted to the wall? Or installed directly onto the wall?
(The board method is probably preferred; in the event the mascot ever becomes something else.)

Also, I'd suggest Justin check with Tari Thomas and Joanne Blier, in case either of them needs to give permission or the School Committee needs to give its blessing.

If you can get back to me with answers to the questions before Tuesday afternoon, that would be great. And I'll send you an email Wednesday to let you know how the discussion turned out.

Ray

Ray Purington
Town Administrator
Town of Gill
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354

P: [413 863 9347](tel:4138639347) F: [413 863 7775](tel:4138637775)

administrator@gillmass.org www.gillmass.org

From: Lindsey Spencer <lindsey.spencer@gmrds.us>

Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2026 11:06 AM

To: Ray Purington/Gill Town Administrator <administrator@gillmass.org>

Subject: Mosaic at Gill School

Hi Ray-

We have communicated before, I am an employee at Gill Elementary. I have a family friend who is an artist & lives in Ashfield. He has made a mosaic of a gray wolf & is looking for a place to mount it. I expressed interest to him to have it placed on the front of our school since our mascot is the gray wolf. I have talked with Justin Mickiewicz & he is in favor of this, but I was guessing that since the building is owned by the town we would need approval. I'm attaching a picture for you to see what it looks like. If there is anything else I need to do, or anyone else I need to contact please let me know.

Thank you,

Lindsey Spencer



TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

SPECIAL & ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION FORM

CHECK ONE

☒ Application by a manager for one day special license for the sale of BEER & WINE to be drunk on the premises.

☐ Application by the manager of a nonprofit organization for one day special license for the sale of ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR BEER & WINE to be drunk on the premises.

DATE OF EVENT BEING APPLIED FOR: Sept. 26, 2026

1. Full name, address and phone number(s) of the organization and authorized representative making this application:

Helene G. Grosvenor (individual, not non-profit)

2. Full name, address and phone number(s) of manager who shall be responsible for the license:

Helene G. Grosvenor

10 Cross Rd.

Gill, MA 0354

401-662-5291

3. Nature of Event and Number of Attendees:

acoustic music concert, max 150 attendees

4. Is the applicant a non-profit organization duly registered with the Secretary of State and/or the Attorney General's Non-Profit Organizations/Public Charities Division? If Yes, please **attach** appropriate documentation. YES NO

N/A

5. Address and Location on the property where event shall be held:

10 Cross Rd.
Gill, MA 01354
(see attached property map)

6. Has the approval of the property owner been obtained? ☒ YES ☐ NO

7. Exact times of the license: FROM 12 o'clock AM ☒ PM (circle one)

TO 7 o'clock AM / ☒ PM (circle one)

8. Has the applicant been issued similar licenses in Gill in the past 12 calendar months?

☒ YES ☐ NO

If Yes, when?

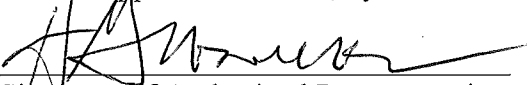
Oct. 4, 2025
~~Oct. 4, 2024 Sept 26, 2024~~

9. Does the applicant have an application for a license to sell alcoholic beverages pending before the Licensing Authority of the Town of Gill? YES ☒ NO

10. **Attach** a plan of the parking area, showing the number of parking spaces available and adequate space for emergency access.

11. Proof of Liquor Liability Insurance provided? YES ☒ NO Date:

Beer & Cider provided by licensed distributor to TIPS certified servers etc
The applicant hereby states that the applicant has received a copy of the Licensing Authority's regulations pertaining to Special and One Day Liquor Licenses and is aware of and shall comply with all applicable statutes, by-laws and regulations.


Signature of Authorized Representative
of Applicant

property owner
Title

9.2.2026
Date

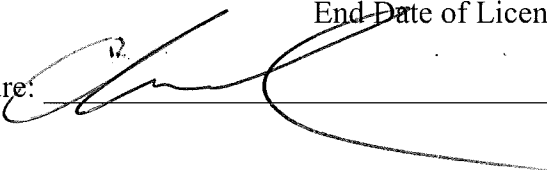
Office Use Only:

Date Approved: _____

Days Permit Issued For: _____

Start Date of License: _____

End Date of License: _____

Police Chief Signature: 

Selectboard Authorized Signature: _____

