



THE

Gill Newsletter

Fall 2017 Issue

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Gill's 225th Anniversary

September 28, 2018 will mark the 225th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Gill. We've started brainstorming ideas for celebratory events to hold throughout the year. If you'd like to be part of the planning, please contact Randy Crochier at 413-863-2353 or hxydad77@yahoo.com

Town's Website – New & Improved

The Town's new website is up and running. Check it out at www.gillmass.org

Fall is the Perfect Season to Volunteer

Now that the summer weather and all its fun distractions are behind us, think about filling some of your free time by volunteering for one (or more!) of the town committees with vacancies. There are openings on the Board of Assessors, Agricultural Commission, Capital Improvements Planning Committee, Energy Commission, Finance Committee, and Recreation Committee. If any sound interesting, and you want to learn more, contact the Chair (names & numbers on the website), or call Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Town Clerk, at 863-8103 or Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant, at 863-9347.

Winter Parking Ban

Gill's wintertime parking ban begins on November 1st and runs through April 15th. There is NO on-street parking allowed between the hours of 1 AM and 6 AM. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant

Board of Assessors

The Gill Board of Assessors is working on several projects which continue the process toward the finalization of assessment of values for interim Fiscal Year 2018.

Fiscal year 2019 is also our focus as DCR applications are reviewed and liens are created to assign use to vacant land throughout the town. The liens will be filed at the Registry of Deeds by January 1, 2018 to establish land value on these properties.

It is with regret that we have accepted the resignation of Nancy Griswold. Nancy was an assessor for the Town of Gill for 10 years. We thank her for her work on the Gill Board of Assessors.

The Board of Assessors meets alternate Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM. If you are interested in being on the Board, please contact the Board of Assessors office. An interim appointment can be made as an opportunity to learn more about the position before running as a candidate at the 2018 election next May.

Pam Lester attended and passed the UMASS Class 101 training in August. Congratulations Pam! This training is

Check in with the Gill Website

www.gillmass.org
for up to date news,
announcements and
contact information!



offered to all new Assessors.

If you have any questions please call the Assessors' office at 863-0138.

Assessors' Clerk office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:30 AM. to 12:30 PM.

Board of Assessors' meetings are alternate Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM.

*Board of Assessors:
Bill Tomb, Chair; and Pamela Lester*

Police Department

Sergeant Christopher J. Redmond, a 25-year veteran of the Gill Police Department, was appointed Acting Police Chief on September 1, after the retirement of Chief David Hastings. More details on the status of this appointment will be available in the next newsletter.

Firearms Permits

Officer Schreiber will be available at the police station for firearms permit processing on the following Mondays. No appointment is necessary; simply show up.

November 20, 2017 4:30-6:30 PM
December 18, 2017 4:30-6:30 PM
January 15, 2017 4:30-6:30 PM

The goal is for the department to be available for permit processing on the third Monday of every month. Times are subject to change. Please contact Officer Schreiber directly if your permit will expire prior to the appointment times listed to make an alternative plan. She can be reached at by calling or texting 603-903-9853.

Free Gun Locks

The department has received some free gun locks courtesy of projectchildsafef.org. If you need gun locks please come to the police station at 196B Main Road.

Energy Commission

We have updated the town website and retroactively added the 2017 summer newsletter including all the resources for energy-saving options. You can review the newsletter and access LIVE links here: gillmass.org/files/GillNews_2017_3SUMMER.pdf

Gill Montague Education Fund

2018 GMEF Annual Gala

A Tribute to the Music of John Denver featuring Jim Curry & his band



On Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 7 PM tribute artist Jim Curry, whose voice was heard in the CBS-TV movie *Take Me Home: The John Denver Story*, will make a rare New England appearance at the Gill-Montague Education Fund Annual Gala. Jim's uncanny ability to mirror John's voice and clean-cut look takes you back to the time when "Rocky Mountain

High" "Sunshine" "Calypso" and "Annie's Song" topped the charts, and his popular music had the heartfelt message of caring for the earth and caring for each other.

"As John Denver's former drummer and percussionist, working with Jim Curry has kept alive for me how it was playing with John. Jim has stayed true to John's music and vision. It is a pleasure working with Jim and Anne Curry."

—Richie Gajate Garcia

Advance tickets are now available at the GMEF website. Advance tickets are \$20 – At the Door \$25.

Our collaborative effort with Underwriters, Sponsors, Advertisers, and Tier-givers have resulted not only in quality entertainment for our communities but also made available more than **\$106,950** of student enrichment grants.

For more information about our Annual Gala, Tickets, and Student Enrichment Grants go to our website: www.thegmef.org

Gill Historical Commission

Celebrate Gill's 225th anniversary! *In 2018 the Town of Gill will celebrate its 225th anniversary. Originally included within the plantation of Deerfield, then divided off as part of Greenfield in 1753, the Town of Gill was incorporated as a separate entity in 1793. The land that was to become Gill had been*



allotted by the Deerfield Proprietors as early as 1736, though according to Ralph M. Stoughton's *History of the Town of Gill*, allotments were taken up and houses were built at that early date. The first documented settler was John Munn who arrived in 1742 and was followed by several other families during the 1750s and 1760s. In 1775 about fifty families were living in what was to become Gill.

The town center consists of an 18th century mill site, 19th and early 20th century buildings and out-buildings in the Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Two war memorials face the green on the south. Together these resources represent Gill's residential, commercial, religious, educational, government buildings and commemorative monuments, thereby constituting the town's Center. Clapboard-sided, wood frame buildings dominate, while a masonry library adds diversity to the Village's building materials. During the Federal period (1776-1830), the Center grew considerably with light industry and commerce. In 1794 Samuel Janes settled and began his saw and grist mill on Woodward's Brook near its outlet into the Connecticut River. The Center also had a potash works and blacksmith shop, a general store in 1801-03, a tannery in 1814, a schoolhouse, more than one tavern, a post office, and roads were laid out to enclose the green. - Taken from the forms filed with Massachusetts Historical Commission to nominate the Center of Gill to the National Register of Historic Places.

Gill Historical Collection to Re-open in 2018. The collection in the Riverside Municipal Building will re-open in 2018 with new displays and renovations. The Gill Historical Commission is also planning displays in a variety of locations during the anniversary year and several celebratory events. Watch for upcoming details!

Great Falls Battlefield Forum
 Kevin McBride, lead researcher on the Great Falls Battlefield project, has recently written this update. "This is a quick update on the survey in the Factory Hollow area. In the interim report I reported that after several days of surveying in the Factory Hollow area we had not found anything. That all changed yesterday [August 26]. We picked up the route of retreat identified by the recovery of 45 musket balls in an area we refer to as "The Valley." It is a fairly steep swale oriented north/south with steep slopes to the west and east that act a bit like a funnel. The swale empties out onto a flat terrace where we found four musket balls in June. Assuming the Horse Tie-Down Area is still on the west side of the Fall River the pattern of musket balls may point to it. It seems incredulous that all of the fighting we have documented between the Wagon Wheel restaurant and the Valley is associated with the twenty English soldiers who lagged behind at the CT River after the village attack, but it is possible. If so, they must have taken a lot of casualties. The 270 yard stretch between the Fall River and The Valley will be extremely difficult to survey given the amount of iron in

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the area from factories and other structures. In the two days we spent in that area, we did not recover a single 17th century object. Given that we now know the corridor, we can focus on that area and hope for the best. As it looks now, we will be in the Factory Hollow area for a few more days and continue to "chase" the musket ball distribution to the north, hoping it will lead to the Horse Tie-Down Area."

For more information, go to www.kpwar.org or contact the Gill Historical Commission.

Summit/Mobil Project

With the expertise of Lynn Stowe Tomb, GHC has digitalized and refined 60 pictures of Gill sites for Summit to use in historical wallpaper in the new store. We look forward to seeing the results of this effort to bring local history details to the store.

Riverside Book Available for Holiday Giving

Riverside, Life Along the Connecticut in Gill, Massachusetts (4th printing) is available. If you would like a copy of the book or want to gift a copy for the holidays, please reserve a copy as soon as possible. You may find an order form at the Town Hall or on the

Town of Gill website <http://www.gillmass.org/historical.php> or email: Lstomb@gmail.com or call 413-863-4170.

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM, unless otherwise posted, in the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. The GHC is charged with planning for the preservation of Gill's historical sites and records as well as educating residents about the history of their town. The GHC maintains records and artifacts of Gill in the Riverside building. If you have questions or information, please contact Ivan Ussach (chair), Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Pam Shoemaker, Lynn Stowe Tomb, or Bob Perry (alternate).

Editor's note – there is a bumper crop of acorns and maple helicopters in our yards this fall, and with this bounty comes squirrels and chipmunks with bulging cheeks. This delightful and wise poem was written by a Gill resident in 1892, showing that some parts of life here have stayed exactly as they have ever been.

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*To A Red Squirrel
Barking At Me While Passing Through A Wood*

Good conscience! what can be the matter
To call forth such an awful clatter!
Dost think that I am come to scatter
Salt on thy tail?
About thy head and ears to patter
The leaden hail?

You don't insinuate, I hope,
I'm some defaulter on the slope,
Or some poor brain-bewildered mope
Whom you can hector,
One thing is sure, -- there's no "soft soap"
About your lecture.

Just stop awhile your saucy din,
And think about the heinous sin
Of judging people, kith nor kin,
Before you know them;
If thoughts are in your squirrel skin,
Then you may show them.

How many, blest with reason's light,
Have passed wrong judgment at first sight
And poured unwittingly their spite
Where least deserved,
And fawned on those who from the right
Have basely swerved!


With lies, poor Kit, I will not cheat thee;
The time has been when thus to meet me
Were to meet death: but now I'll treat thee
Just as one should,
That oft hereafter I may greet thee
Here in the wood.

You seem to feel quite safe; -- you are;
I would not harm of thee a hair;
But I've a word or two to spare
By way of stricture:
Of impudence thou art a rare
And striking picture!


Take my advice; don't imitate
The human race at such a rate!
Your consequence may e'en be great,
Though one must doubt it:
For man, like thee, may storm and prate,
Yet be without it.

Could he who speaks for Bunkum stand
And hear thee rate and reprimand!
His frothy speeches sagely planned,
You'd plainly show him;
He fills with nonsense all the land, --
You fill my poem.

*From Connecticut River Reeds, Poetry of the Farm and Rural Life by Josiah Dean Canning
Gill on the Connecticut, Franklin County, Mass. 1892*



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