THE Gill Newsletter August 2010 Issue

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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Town Hall News

Annual Town Meeting— Highlights

Another Annual Town Meeting has come and gone. This year's event was spread out over two nights, June 21st and 28th, as voters made decisions on the 35 articles on the warrant. The warrant, motions, and minutes of the meeting are all available on the Town's website. Some of the more significant decisions are noted here.

In the areas of salaries and personnel, voters approved salary increases for the Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Tax Collector, as the three positions have been historically paid much less than the same positions in other area towns. Voters also decided to keep all three positions as elected, rather than changing them to appointed. A 3% cost of living allowance was approved for all Town employees, and voters also appropriated an additional \$14,356 to be used for parttime police officers.

For the Town buildings, \$10,000 from the Released Overlay account was approved to be used to construct office walls on the first floor of Town Hall. This long overdue project will provide private and secure offices for the Collector-Treasurer, Accountant, and Town Clerk, and will also move the Assessors Office from the basement to the first floor. As much of the work as possible will be done using donated labor and materials. (If you're able to volunteer or make a donation, please contact Ray Purington at 863-9347.) Voters also approved \$6,400 to install two backflow preventers and a new water meter at the Gill Elementary School in order to bring the water system into compliance with DEP regulations.

Equipment needs were also addressed in the special articles, as voters approved just over \$20,000 for the Fire Department to use to retrofit its air packs to be compatible with "buddy-breathing" equipment used by Rapid Intervention Teams. This important upgrade will allow Gill's firefighters to give and receive assistance in the event that a firefighter needs immediate aid and rescue. The Highway Department's 1990 dump truck will have its useful life extended because voters okayed \$9,350 to purchase a replacement body for the truck. While the engine and frame of the truck are sound (for a 30-year old hard-worked vehicle), the present dump body is rusted and unsafe. The new body should extend the life of the truck long enough for the Town to finish paying the 5-year loan on the newest truck purchased in 2008.

Of the non-money articles, surely the most special vote was to name a new scoreboard on the girls' softball field at the Gill Elementary School in memory of Jasmin Edson. Jasmin's friendly smile and love of life is sadly missed by all who knew her, and dedicating the scoreboard to her is a fitting remembrance.

fill, Massache

Check in with the Gill Website www.gillmass.org for up to date news, announcements and contact information!



Voters also adopted the so-called "Stretch Energy Code" as a new bylaw for the Town. The Stretch Code is an appendix to the Massachusetts Building Code that provides construction standards that result in greater energy efficiency in new buildings and renovations. The Stretch Code is currently optional, but with this by-law becomes mandatory in Gill on January 1, 2011. It is enforced by the Building Inspector.

Energy Savings Performance ContractTown Meeting voters approved Articles 25, 26, and 27, thereby givingapproval to the Selectboard to proceed with an Energy Savings PerformanceContract (ESPC) with Siemens Building Technologies. The contract willinclude up to \$430,000 of infrastructure improvements at the varioustown-owned buildings, including the Gill Elementary School. The cost of theimprovements as well as any borrowing costs will be paid by the energysavings plus utility rebates and grants. (See the April issue of the GillNewsletter for details on a \$150,000 grant that the Town has alreadyreceived, and that will be used as part of the ESPC to replace the agingboiler at the elementary school.)

It is important to note that this is a "Performance Contract", a type of energy conservation project with state-approved rules and requirements. The contract the Town will sign with Siemens must and will specify a guaranteed amount of annual energy savings. Siemens will guarantee a certain dollar amount of energy savings for every year of the contract (as long as 20 years). If the Town doesn't save the guaranteed amount, Siemens will pay the Town the difference. If the Town saves more than the guaranteed amount, the extra savings belong to the Town.

While the final scope of work is still not known, the types of energy conservation measures to be performed include improvements to heating and ventilation, lighting and controls, energy management systems, and insulation. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. Announcements will appear in the newspapers and on the town website.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee (Volunteers Wanted!)

As the last item of business at Annual Town Meeting, voters approved a by-law that establishes a Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) for the Town of Gill. The purpose of the committee is to study proposed capital projects and improvements, and to consider the relative need, impact, timing, and cost of each project, and its effect on the finances of the town. For purposes of this committee, capital projects must have a useful life greater than 5 years and a cost of \$10,000 or more.

Each year the Committee will prepare a capital plan that recommends capital projects and budget for the next fiscal year, and outlines recommended capital improvements for the following five fiscal years. Except for emergency situations, no appropriation shall be voted for a capital improvement unless this Committee has considered it first.

The CIPC is a seven-member committee appointed by the Selectboard, and is composed of one member of the Selectboard, one member of the Finance Committee, one member of the Planning Board, one member of the School Committee, and three members at large. Terms are for three years, with the initial terms staggered for one, two, and three years.

This new committee is an important one, and will play a critical role in Gill's attempt to meet its capital needs (building repairs, equipment replacement, technology improvements, etc.), and maintain good financial health. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact a member of the Selectboard, or contact Ray Purington at 863-9347.

Other Committees Need Volunteers Too!

Can you help? Do you have some time (or a little more time!) to give? Many of Gill's boards, committees, councils and commissions have vacancies, and could use some energetic new members to help carry out their missions. In alphabetical order, they are:

COUNCIL ON AGING (Bev Demars, Chair, 863-4792)

CULTURAL COUNCIL (Liz Gardner, Chair, 863-8626)

PLANNING BOARD (Doug Smith, Chair, 863-3115)

RECREATION COMMITTEE (Nathan Duda, Chair, 863-3791)

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE (Dorothy Storrow, Chair, 863-8452)

RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL BUILDING USE STUDY COMMITTEE (Pam Shoemaker, Chair, 863-4170)

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (Suzanne Smiley, Chair, 863-8174)

If you think you might be interested in joining any of these groups, please contact the Chair, or (is this getting repetitive yet?) contact Ray Purington.

Community Development Block Grant Application

If you received a survey from the Town in the mail, either in early June or again early July, and have not vet mailed it in, please do so soon! The Town needs a 90% return rate in order to be eligible for Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant funding for activities that will benefit the community. Your information will be kept confidential and used only by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority to compute community averages. If you have any questions about the survey or the proposed project, please call the Selectboard's Office at 863-9347.

Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding its annual hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 25, locations TBA. Because the collection is not funded through the Town's budget, residents of Gill must pay to participate in the 2010 collection. Businesses must pre-register with an inventory of their wastes and will be charged for disposal.

This annual collection provides residents an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, fluorescent lamps, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. For a complete list of acceptable items, please refer the District's website: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/ hazwasteday.html.

To participate, residents must pre-register by September 17. Registration forms will be available in local newspapers, at Town Hall, and at: www. franklincountywastedistrict.org.

"Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Collection

The District is holding its fall "Clean Sweep" bulky waste collection on Saturday, October 16th, from 9 am to noon, locations TBA.

District residents may bring a wide range of items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, monitors, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other bulky items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Residents do not need to pre-register for this collection. However, there are charges for disposal. Disposal fees, in cash only, will be collected at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items will be available at Town Hall, the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield, and on-line at: www.franklincountywastedistrict. org. Businesses may participate.

For more information on either event, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438, visit: www.franklincounty-wastedistrict.org, or email: info@ franklincountywastedistrict.org.

9-1-1 Disability Indicator

Residents with TTY telephone devices and/or a disability that may hinder evacuation or transport in the event of an emergency are encouraged to file a 9-1-1 Disability Indicator Form with Gill's 9-1-1 Municipal Coordinator (Ray Purington). The information is confidential, and will only appear at the emergency dispatcher's location when a 9-1-1 call originates from your address. To get a form or to ask questions, contact Ray at 863-9347.

Ray Purington, Administrator Assistant

News from the Tax Collector's Office

2011 Preliminary Real Estate & Personal Property tax bills will be mailed out to Homeowners on August 2, 2010. Amounts are based on one half of fiscalyear 2010 ACTUAL tax bill.If you do not receive a tax bill or have any questions regarding the taxbill please call the Collector's office at 413-863-2105. Any questions regarding Abatements, Exemptions please call the Assessors office at 413-863-0138.

MassSave and FCHCC

The FCHCC has matching funds for energy saving residential home improvements. Call MassSave, 866-527-7283, to schedule your free energy audit and be eligible for 75% up to \$2000 in insulation and weatherization. The FCHCC has funds available to cover the other 25% of the work on tightening up your house before this winter storms hit. There are NO income guidelines for these matching funds which must be used by Oct 15th. Call MassSave, 866-527-7283 to schedule your free audit, get your report and then call FCHCC,





413-773-5555 and a Home Benefits Counselor will help you access the matching funds for insulating and weatherizing your home to save you money on energy bills. Call today before the money runs out!

Gill Recreation Committee

The Baseball and Softball season began with our annual field clean up day at the end of April. Thank you to the players, parents, coaches and volunteers who helped spruce up the fields. Baseball teams consisted of a Farm K-2nd grade and Pee-Wee 2nd-4th grade. Unfortunately there were not enough participants to field a 5-6th grade team this year. Girl's Softball, included girls ages 8-12 years old. Thanks to the dedication of the coaches, Tony Zager, Mark Almeida, Jason Wallace and Ed Margola we had another successful season. The Pee-Wee team won the league championship, the softball team had a 7-1 record and the Farm Team had a great time while learning good sportsmanship and the fundamentals of baseball.

We'd like to remind parents and players that uniforms need to be turned back in. Also, if you have Gill T-shirts from soccer or basketball that no longer fits we can always use them for next season. A uniform return box will be set up at the Elementary school when school begins or you can call Cathy Demars (863-2303) to arrange pick up or drop off.

The Recreation committee is planning a Tag Sale over the Labor Day weekend at the Riverside Municipal Building. If you are interested in renting a space please contact Rose Levasseur for further details, 863-4249 or rosel@gillmass.org. As we look ahead to the soccer season volunteer coaches and assistant coaches are needed. Practice begins the end of August and games start the 2nd weekend of September. Please contact Rose if interested.

Lastly, the Recreation Committee includes Nathan Duda, Cathy Demars, Rose Levasseur and Deb Loomer and meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30pm at the Town Hall. There is one position open on the committee and we encourage anyone who may be interested to contact the town administrator at 863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.

Respectfully submitted, Nathan Duda

Rose Levasseur

Cathy Demars Deb Loomer

Friday Night Films

The Riverside Municipal Building Committee is ready to continue showing free outdoor films behind the Riverside building on Rt 2. Save August 20, Sept 3 and Sept 24 for family entertaining films on the back wall of the building.

We will start at dark! Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and settle in for good old fashioned fun! Power will be provided by solar charged batteries from the Solar Store of Greenfield. Canceled if it rains. Thanks to the Cultural Council for supporting this series. Contact Mitchell Waldron for more info 863-4162

Slate Library News

A successful summer reading program has been taking place at Slate library this past month. Beginning at the end of June and continuing through July and early August, a series of workshops for children have been held in conjunction with Slate library's summer reading program. To complement the theme of "Go Green at your Library" the library has held puppet shows, art and science programs and a family friendly concert of stories and songs, all based on our natural world. Although Saturday morning workshops have ended, the summer reading game continues until the end of August. There is still time to stop by and pick up a game board and play the summer reading game. Kids earn prizes for their reading and can find many delightful new books and videos in the Slate library stacks.

While at the library check out our new audio book acquisitions. Audio books are perfect for those long summer car trips. For adults, some of our new titles are, "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen, "The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag" by Alan Bradley, "The Coral Thief" by Rebecca Stott, and "Death of a Witch" a Hamish MacBeth mystery by M.C. Beaton. For those long family car trips try "20, 000 leagues Under the Sea" by Jules Verne, "The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate" by Jacqueline Kelly, or perhaps Grace Lin's newest "Where the Mountain Meets the Moon".

The library is open on Monday from 2-6 pm, Thursdays 2-8 pm and Saturdays 10-2 pm. We hope to see you soon!



Gill Students

College Graduations

Gill graduates from Greenfield Community College were Joseph Ambo, James Isles, Marilyn Odeh, Kelly Paulin, and Alexander Tufano.

Anna Perry received a Bachelor of Arts degree in human ecology from the Univ. of Maine College of the Atlantic. She received the W.H. Drury Jr. Prize in Natural History.

Dean's List

Gill residents named to the spring semester dean's list were Chelsea Isles enrolled at Penn Foster College, Rebecca J. Charest at Holyoke Community College, Abbey Daniel-Green at Lasell College, and Mark Pillsbury at the University of Hartford.

High School Graduations

Four River Charter Public School

Ben D. Virgilio graduated from Four Rivers Charter Public School and will be attending Champlain College to major in information security. Ben received the Pioneer Valley Real Estate Association Scholarship.

Northfield Mount Hermon

Three Gill students Kevin Pratt, Bradford Ward (cum laude) and Faith Weis (cum laude) graduated from NMH this spring. Kevin Pratt received the Wells Fund Scholarship.

Underclassmates received the following awards in May:

Alice B. and John E. Baldwin Award: Nora Hefner '11 Judson R. Stent Prize in Religious Studies: Nora Hefner '11 Colonel Walter Scott Prize in Geometry: Malik Odeh,'12 The Mary Ellen Peller Award: Margaret Sturtevant '12

Franklin County Technical School

Two Gill residents graduated from FCTS in June, Jacob Bezio (Automotive Technology), and Sarah Bolduc (Information Technology).

Scholarships for Gill residents in the Class of 2010: John & Abigail Adams Scholarship: Sarah Bolduc Donald and Doris Felton Scholarship: Sarah Bolduc

FRIENDS OF GILL

The 18th Annual Gill Arts and Crafts Festival will be held Oct 16-17 this fall at the Riverside Municipal Building on Rt 2 by the Friends of Gill and the Agricultural Commission. We look forward to welcoming artisans from around the area to display handiwork and art in a number of media.

For the second year, there will be a Farmer's Market with local produce and food products available. In addition, we will have a number of children's activities including pumpkin painting, an instant photo booth, felting, board games and face painting. Plus the Friends of Gill will be selling their delicious home made apple pies.

Save these dates for helping with apple prep and pie filling—Sept 27 and Oct 5, 6PM at the Gill Congregational Church.

FARMERS MARKET

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22ND

2 PM TO 5 PM

Riverside Municipal Building

Sponsored by the Gill Agricultural Commission



Doug's Auto Body Doug Smith - Owner DRECISION REPAIRS MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph: (413) 863-2785 Fax: (413) 863-0120









Franklin County Technical School

Awards:

FCTS Award in Trade, Skill and Service: Sarah Bolduc English Achievement Award: Sarah Bolduc Music-Most Improved Student Award: Jacob Bezio

Pioneer Valley Regional High School

Students from Gill graduating in June were Nicholas Duska, Mary Johnson, and Jared Towne.

Scholarships to Gill residents in the Class of 2010: PVRS Scholarships: Nicholas Duska

PVRS Student Council Scholarships: Jared Towne

Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation Scholarship: Jared Towne Rotary Club of Franklin County Scholarship: Jared Towne Fred W. Wells Fund Scholarship: Nicholas Duska

Awards:

John & Abigail Adams Scholarship for MCAS Mastery: Nicholas Duska

Excellence in Visual Art: Mary Johnson Most Improved in Chorus: Mary Johnson

Turners Falls High School

Turners Falls High School graduates from Gill were Scott Brown, Danielle Dolhenty, Mackee Freeland, Matthew Garber, Corey Hescock, Kathleen Rinaldi, and Sarah Underwood.

Scholarships to Gill residents in the Class of 2010:

Brian Bogusz Athletic Scholarships: Matthew Garber and Sarah Underwood

Elizabeth Dorrance Memorial Scholarships: Scott Brown and Danielle Dolhenty

Friends of Gill-Bernice Keech Memorial Scholarships: Matthew Garber and Sarah Underwood

Gill Firemen's Assoc. Scholarship: Sarah Underwood

Harriet A. Tidd Memorial Scholarship: Kathleen Rinaldi

Mery O'Brien Memorial Scholarships: Danielle Dolhenty and Kathleen Rinaldi

Rebekah Assembly of MA Scholarship: Sarah Underwood Richard O. Guy Memorial Scholarship: Sarah Underwood Turners Falls Athletic Club Scholarships: Matthew Garber Wells Trust Fund Scholarships: Sarah Underwood

Awards:

Marston Baseball Award: Matthew Garber Senior Most Valuable Player (Football): Matthew Garber Senior Most Valuable Player (Cheerleading): Sarah Underwood



Senior Most Valuable Player (Softball): Kathleen Rinaldi TFHS Academic Excellence in Business Education Award: Scott Brown

TFHS Academic Excellence in Physical Education Award: Kathleen Rinaldi

The Hannah Neville "Dedication to the Gardens and Greenhouse Award: Sarah Underwood

Band Boosters Marching Band Award: Sarah Underwood President's Awards for Academic Excellence: Kathleen

Rinaldi, Danielle Dolhenty, Matthew Garber, and Sarah Underwood

President's Award for Academic Achievement: Scott Brown

TFHS Service Award: Sarah Underwood

Scholastic Merit Awards: Kathleen Rinaldi

Junior Book Awards:

Saint Michael's College Book Award: Jack Hubert

HONOR ROLL

Pioneer Valley Regional School 3rd Ouarter

Siù Quai

Grade 12 High Honor: Nicholas Duska Honor: Jared Towne

Grade 10

Highest Honor: Jacob Levin Honor: Mary Kate Duska

Grade 9

Highest Honor: Jaclyn Lafleur Honor: John Arena and Jennifer Tufano

Grade 8

Highest Honor: George Atkins Honor: Whitney Urgiel

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Gabriel Duska High Honor: Ellen Arena and James Elliott

4th Quarter

Grade 12

Honor: Nicholas Duska and Jared Towne

Grade 10

Highest Honor: Jacob Levin Honor: Mary Kate Duska

Grade 9

High Honor: Jaclyn Lafleur and Jennifer Tufano Honor: John Arena

Grade 8

Highest Honor: George Atkins Honor: Whitney Urgiel



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Grade 7

Highest Honor: Gabriel Duska High Honor: Ellen Arena and James Elliott

> **Turners Falls High School** 4th Quarter

Grade 11

Second Honors: Nina Dodge, Makayla Dolhenty, Brooke Hastings, Jack Hubert, and Emily Robertson

Grade10

Second Honors: Chad Galipault Third Honors: Colton Hallett, Katelyn Phillips, Todd Richardson, and Jeremy Tetreault

Grade 9

First Honors: Jonathan Marguet and Nala Vaughn Second Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Shawn Englehardt, and Brittany York

Great Falls Middle School

4th Quarter

Grade 8

First Honors: Elliot Bertini Franseen Second Honors: Tyler Richardson

Grade 7

First Honors: Ryan Bezio, Lexi Griffin, Alexander Morin, and Nicholas York Second Honors: Malcolm Crosby and Cole Tognarelli Third Honors: Zachary Demars

Grade 6

First Honors: Mackenzie Phillips Third Honors: Nadia Hasan

Turners Falls High School Awards

Business Education

GCC CIS 140 Articulation Certificates Microsoft Office: Bethany Laramie

English

Academic Potential in English 10: Chad Galipault

Health and Physical Education Excellence in Physical Education: Nala Vaughn Excellence in Wellness: Jack Hubert

Social Studies

Excellence in Band: Brooke Hastings

Mathematics

Outstanding Academic Achievement & Effort in Algebra II: Katelyn Phillips

Science

Academic Excellence in Earth Science: Julie Howard-Thompson

Technology Education

Excellence in Intro to Technology Education: T.J. Meyers Excellence in Video Production: Jonathon Marguet

Gill Fire Department

New Heating Oil Leak Law

If you will heat your home with oil this winter, you must make sure your home heating system has the proper equipment to prevent leaks from tanks and pipes that connect to your furnace by September 30, 2011. Massachusetts has a new law that addresses oil leaks from home heating systems (Chapter 453 of the Acts of 2008, as most recently amended in 2010). This law requires the installation of either an oil safety valve or an oil supply line with protective sleeve on systems that do not currently have these devices. Heating oil systems installed on or after January 1, 1990 most likely are already in compliance because state fire codes implemented these requirements on new installations at that time. The heating system may be exempted if the oil burner is located above the oil storage tank and the entire oil supply line is connected to and above the top of the tank. Your certified oil burner technician can ensure that your oil heating system has the proper safety equipment. The new law also requires insurance companies that write homeowner policies in Massachusetts to offer coverage for

leaks from heating systems that use oil. Most homeowner policies do not currently include such coverage, leaving many to pay for costly cleanups out of their own pockets. Although it is mandatory that insurance companies make this coverage available by July 1, 2010 to homeowners whose systems are upgraded, the insurance is an optional purchase. Homeowners who take these preventive measures can avoid the disruption and expense that can be caused by heating oil leaks. If the leak reaches the soil or groundwater beneath your house, then a cleanup must be performed to restore your property to state environmental standards. By making a relatively small expenditure now, you can prevent a much greater expense in the future.

Common People Concerts 2010!

August 3 Eric Goodchild -Bagpipes

August 10 Chris Snow - singer/ songwriter

Tuesdays at 7 PM on the Gill Common. FREE! Bring your change for refreshments. In the Gill Congregational Church should it rain. Funded by the Gill Cultural Council.



Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. The Commission is charged with planning for the preservation of historical sites and records within Gill. In addition to its other projects, the Commission maintains records and artifacts of Gill history in the Riverside building. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Bob Perry, Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo, or Pam Shoemaker.

On August 22, the historical collection at the Riverside building will be open from 1:30 to 3:30 PM during the Farmers Market at the same site. Come see us!

YOUR TOWN NEEDS YOU!

MANY COMMITEES ARE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

(SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 2)

FARMERS MARKET

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22ND 2 PM to 5 PM Riverside Municipal Building

Sponsored by the Gill Agricultural Commission





Business Advertisements

The Gill Newsletter will include business card size advertisements of local businesses for a year (six bi-monthly issues) for \$60.00. Please send a copy of your business card and a check for \$60.00 payable to 'Town of Gill' to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses in a very tight budget, we would also welcome such contributions mailed to the above address.

Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we and our advertisers cannot be responsible for errors or the accuracy of materials submitted to us.

Next Newsletter Deadline

September 15th for the October Issue.

Gill Fire Dept. 196A Main Road Gill, MA 01354

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August 2010