



THE

# Gill Newsletter

December 2010 Issue

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## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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## Town Hall News

### Special Town Meeting

There will be a Special Town Meeting on Monday, December 20th at 6:30PM in the Town Hall. Voters will be asked to approve a number of financial articles needed to finalize the Town's FY 2011 budget. While the timing isn't ideal amidst the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, the meeting is necessary in order for the Town to set a tax rate for this year. The last day to register to vote at this meeting is Friday, December 10th. Please contact the Town Clerk at 863-8103 if you wish to register to vote.

There will also be a warrant article asking if the Town wants to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 138 Section 33B, which would allow the local licensing authority (Selectboard) to consider authorizing the sale of on-premises alcoholic beverages between the hours of 10AM—12 Noon on Sundays. If this statute is accepted by Town Meeting, on-premises license holders (i.e. restaurants and clubs) would need to apply for a change in hours before the early sales could take place.

### Gill-Montague District-Wide Meeting Results

In an unprecedented unanimous decision, voters at the November 18th District-Wide Meeting approved a budget for the Gill-Montague Regional School District in the amount of \$16,408,162. Gill's share of this budget, plus previously approved debt for

capital projects, is \$1,372,238, which is \$38,121 less than the \$1,410,359 approved at Annual Town Meeting in June. It is expected that an article at the upcoming Special Town Meeting will ask to place some or all of the \$38,121 into a stabilization fund for use on FY 2012 school expenses.

### Giving Thanks

The Town wants to acknowledge and thank Northfield Mount Hermon for again making a generous annual gift to the Town. Their donation is used to fund special projects and expenses related to providing public safety services throughout Gill.

Town Hall staff wishes to thank our neighbor, Jim Tomasi, for cleaning up the leaves from our front lawn. You did a great job! Thank you!

### Capital Improvement Planning Committee

The newly appointed Capital Improvement Planning Committee held its first meeting on November 16th, and elected



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announcements and  
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Jason Edson as Chair and Nancy Griswold as Secretary. The other members are Randy Crochier, Jane Oakes, and Valeria (Timmie) Smith. As a first step toward developing a 5-year capital plan and a recommended capital budget for next year, the Committee has asked the major town departments to compile an inventory of current capital items (buildings, equipment, and vehicles), and the condition and remaining useful life of each item. The Committee will soon be asking departments, boards and committees to submit capital project requests so that the needs can be prioritized against the available funds.

## Winter Parking Ban in Effect

Please be advised that there is no on-street parking allowed between the hours of 1 AM and 6 AM November 1 through April 15.

*Ray Purington,  
Administrator Assistant*

## From the Town Clerk

### November 9, 2010 Town By-laws

After the town votes to accept by-laws at the Annual Town Meeting they must be submitted for approval by the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's Office has reviewed and determines if the by-laws will be approved. At our last Annual Town Meeting on June 21,

2010, there were three by-laws that were adopted by the Town. The determination has been received by my office and I here-by post and publish the results pursuant to G.L. c. 40, s 32. Copy of this text will be sent to the Attorney General.

### Public Notice Town of Gill Annual Town Meeting June 21, 2010

**ARTICLE 28: Move the Town vote to replace the General By-Law enacted September 14, 2009, which established an Energy Resources Commission, with the following:**

The Gill Energy Resources Commission, hereinafter called the Commission, has been established pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 8I, of the General Laws of Massachusetts for the promotion and development of the energy resources of the Town of Gill.

The Commission shall: (1) develop and administer programs relating to energy conservation, nonrenewable energy supply and resource development, recycling, energy information, emergency heating assistance, and energy emergencies; (2) advise, assist, and cooperate with state, regional, and federal agencies in developing appropriate programs and policies relating to energy planning and regulation in the commonwealth including assistance and advice in the preparation of loan or grant applications with respect to energy programs for local agencies; (3) develop local energy data

and information management capabilities to aid energy planning and decision-making; (4) promote the development of sound local energy education programs; (5) with the approval of the city or town, apply for, receive, expend, represent and act on behalf of the city or town in connection with federal grants, grant programs or reimbursements, or private grants, keep accounts, records, personal data, enter into contracts, and adjust claims; (6) accept gifts, grants, bequests, and devises, whether real or personal, from any source, whether public or private, for the purpose of assisting the Commission in the discharge of its duties; (7) subject to appropriation, acquire real or personal property; (8) promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out their statutory responsibilities; and (9) seek to coordinate the activities of governmental or unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work and it shall keep an index of all energy resources within such city or town with the objective of obtaining information pertinent to proper utilization of such resources.

The Commission shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall file an annual report, which shall be printed, in the annual Town report. The Commission may, subject to appropriation, appoint such clerks and other employees as it may from time to time require.



The Commission shall consist of not less than three nor more than seven members who shall be appointed by the Selectboard. The terms of the members first appointed to the Commission shall be for one, two or three years and so arranged that the terms of approximately one-third of the members will expire each year, and their successors shall be appointed for terms of three years each.

Any member of the Commission may, after a public hearing if requested by the member, be removed for cause by the Selectboard. A vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Selectboard and the remaining members of the Commission in the manner provided in Section eleven of Chapter forty-one. Passed Unanimously

**ARTICLE 29: Move the Town vote to enact a General By-Law, entitled “Stretch Energy Code” for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy, pursuant to Appendix 120 AA of the Massachusetts Building Code, 780 CMR, the “Stretch Energy Code”, including amendments or modifications thereto.**

**STRETCH ENERGY CODE**

**Section 1 Definitions**

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2009 - The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building code created by the International Code Council. It is a model code adopted by many state and municipal governments in the United States for the establishment of minimum design and construction requirements for energy efficiency. Commencing July 1, 2010, the baseline energy conservation requirements of the MA State Building Code will default to IECC 2009 and MA amendments.

Stretch Energy Code - Codified by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards as 780 CMR Appendix 120 AA, the Stretch Energy Code is the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2009 with amendments contained herein.

**Section 2 Purpose**

The purpose of 780 CMR 120.AA is to provide a more energy efficient alternative to the base energy code appli-

**FRIENDS OF GILL**

Once again the Gill Arts and Craft Fair was a huge success not only for raising money for Gill but for bringing friends and the community together. It would not have been possible without the support of our many volunteers and sponsors. We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our business sponsors: A-I Enterprises, A-J Cycle, Allied Dynamics, Chappell’s Auto Service, Couture Bros., Dahna Virgilio Real Estate, Doug’s Auto Body, Hickory Hill Kennel, Kostanski Funeral Home, Mohawk Real Estate, Renaissance Builders, Renaissance Excavating, Skip’s Roadside Diner, and Tognarelli Heating and Cooling. Special thanks to: the Gill Fire, Police, and Highway Departments; our Select Board, Ann Banash, Randy Crochier, and John Ward: HVB Imaging; the Massachusetts Cultural Council; Farren Care Center; Franklin County Waste Management; and to Claire Chang, Festival Coordinator, who took on the Herculean task of putting together an ever growing and successful event.

The list of volunteers who gave their time and energy is long and varied including not only people from Gill but also from other towns. We are deeply appreciative of their help.

We hope that the Gill community will continue to support the many businesses and organizations that supported the Fall Festival.



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cable to the relevant sections of the building code for both new construction and existing buildings.

### Section 3 Applicability

This code applies to residential and commercial buildings. Buildings not included in this scope shall comply with 780 CMR 13, 34, 61, or 93, as applicable.

### Section 4 Authority

A municipality seeking to ensure that construction within its boundaries is designed and built above the energy efficiency requirements of 780 CMR may mandate adherence to this appendix.

780 CMR 120 AA may be adopted or rescinded by any municipality in the commonwealth in the manner prescribed by law.

### Section 5 Stretch Code

The Stretch Code, as codified by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards as 780 CMR Appendix 120 AA, including any amendments or modifications, is herein incorporated by reference into the Town of Gill General Bylaws. The Stretch Code is enforceable by the building inspector/municipal code official. Passed By Majority

### ARTICLE 35: Move the Town vote to add the following by-law to create a Capital Improvement Planning Committee to its town by-laws:

**Section 1.** The Board of Selectmen shall establish and appoint a committee to be known as the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (the "Committee"), composed of one member of the Board of Selectmen, one member of the Finance Committee, one member of the Planning Board, one member of the School Committee, and three members at large, for a total of seven members. The terms of the members first appointed to the Committee shall be for one, two or three years and so arranged that the terms of approximately one-third of the members will expire each year, and their successors shall be appointed for terms of three years each. The Committee shall choose its own officers.

**Section 2.** The Committee shall study proposed capital projects and improvements involving major non-recurring tangible assets and projects which: 1) are purchased or undertaken at intervals of not less than five years; 2) have a useful life of at least five years; and 3) cost over \$10,000.



All officers, boards and committees, including the Selectmen and the School Committee, shall, by October 1 of each year, give to the Committee, on forms prepared by it, information concerning all anticipated projects requiring Town Meeting action during the ensuing six years. The Committee shall consider the relative need, impact, timing and cost of these expenditures and the effect each will have on the financial position of the town. No appropriation shall be voted for a capital improvement requested by a department, board or commission unless the proposed capital improvement is considered in the Committee's annual report or the Committee shall first have submitted a report to the Board of Selectmen explaining the omission. In the case of an emergency capital expenditure, the Committee shall present an oral report as soon as possible.

**Section 3.** The Committee shall prepare an annual report recommending a Capital Improvement Budget for the next fiscal year, and a Capital Improvement Program including recommended capital improvements for the following five fiscal years. The report shall be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for its consideration and approval. The Board shall submit its approved Capital Budget to the Annual Town Meeting for adoption by the town.

**Section 4.** The Capital Improvement Program, after its adoption, shall permit the expenditure on projects included therein of sums from departmental budgets for surveys, architectural or engineering services, options or appraisals; but no such expenditure shall be incurred on projects which have not been so approved by the town through the appropriation of sums in the current year or in prior years, or for preliminary planning for projects to be undertaken more than five years in the future, unless the omis-



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sion of the proposed capital improvement shall first have been explained by the Committee or the Selectboard has waived this requirement for just cause.

**Section 5.** The Committee’s report and the Selectmen’s recommended Capital Budget shall be published and made available in a manner consistent with the distribution of the Finance Committee report. The Committee shall deposit its original report with the Town Clerk. Passed Unanimously

The forgoing By-laws adopted under Article 28, Article 29 and Article 35 of the warrant for the Gill Annual Town Meeting held June 21, 2010, is hereby approved.

MARTHA COAKLEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Kelli E. Gunagan, Assistant Attorney General  
By-law Coordinator, Municipal Law Unit

## Gill Arts And Crafts Fair

The fair went very well, despite Saturday being windy, Claire Chang said, “We had a couple of tent mishaps from high winds, but nothing major. They got them back up O.K.”

There were 65 vendors, with about half of them new. A good crowd turned out on Saturday despite a cool and windy day. The apple pies sold out early. By Sunday morning, only 12 remained, and those went fast. Vegetable soup from the Gill Tavern went over great. The firemen did a brisk business, as usual. A waiter, going out to take orders from vendors who could not leave their stands, provided a very welcome service.

Solar panels furnished by John Ward powered musical instruments on both days for Sam French’s Groove Shoes band, as well as musicians Sunny Crawford, Derek Jordan and Karis-Nix. If Ward had set up a couple of wind mills, he could probably have supplied power for all of Riverside, the way the wind blew on Saturday.

A very mellow crowd showed up. No one needed to be escorted off the premises. Everyone was cooperative in disposing of litter and recyclables. Sandy Brown monitored the situation so that the grounds were clean when the vendors folded their tents and stole away. There were just two little bags of litter, one bag of recycled cans and bottles, and eight big bags of compost of food and paper.



Vendors were happy with the way the fair went. Shenandoah who demonstrated hoops remarked that it was a very nice community. The music helped people experience the rhythm of the hooping.

Karen Cole said she isn't sure how the bottom line looks, yet. "The bills aren't all in yet," Cole said. The pies are a lot of work, but they sold well. We're lucky there are so many willing volunteers in Gill. We could get more for them. Other fairs get \$14 but we want people to be able to enjoy them, and they draw people to the fair.

The Friends of Gill are already planning next year's fair. More pies are already on the agenda with ideas for other attractions. A shaggy dog attended the fair, but he failed to tell any shaggy dog stories. Maybe he will next year.

*by Joe Parzych*

## Gill Historical Commission

Many visitors came to talk with us at the Gill Craft Fair in October; over 70 visitors from nearby Gill and Turners Falls signed the register while others came from the Boston and as far away as Auburn, NY. One former student at the Gill Elementary School brought her children to show them her classmates in the school photography albums. Coming annually from New Jersey for the craft fair and open collection, one former Gill resident identified some town pictures for us. Someone else wanted to look at the dinosaur footprints and learn about Roswell Field.

This October we had a new display on the residents of Gill in the Grand Army of the Republic. Answering Lincoln's call for volunteers to fight for the Union, a number of Gill citizens joined the 52nd Regiment. Two pictures are featured in the exhibit. One is a print of a lithograph by William Winner, a Philadelphia artist, in which thousands of volunteers are shown marching to Washington to fight for the Union in May 1861. The other is a print on loan from the Slate Library, which received it as a gift in the early 1900's from the family of Barney Hale. The drawing of the army volunteers drilling at Camp Brighton in October 1861 was done by John Donovan, a deaf mute volunteer from Springfield, and he is pictured drawing the drill in the print.

In the next issue, the GHC will report on its projects for the next year. Let us know if you have suggestions for ways we can further identify and preserve our town's history.

## Gill Students

### HONOR ROLL

#### Pioneer Valley Regional School 1st Quarter

**Grade 11**  
Highest Honor: Mary Kate Duska  
High Honor: Jacob Levin and Alyssa Mielke

**Grade 10**  
High Honor: Jaclyn Lafleur  
Honor: Jennifer Tufano

**Grade 9**  
Highest Honor: George Atkins  
Honor: Emma Mielke

**Grade 8**  
Highest Honor: Gabriel Duska  
High Honor: Ellen Arena and James Elliott

**Grade 7**  
Highest Honor: Garrett Dintaman, Bradley Hastings, Anna Messer, Simon van Baaren, and Julia Wallace  
High Honor: Eric Shutta

#### Great Falls Middle School 1st Quarter

**Grade 8**  
First Honors: Ryan Bezio, Lexi Griffin, Malcolm Crosby, Zachary Demars, Alexander Morin, and Nicholas York  
Third Honors: Spencer Hubert and Stephanie Robertson

**Grade 7**  
First Honors: Fallyn Adams and Mackenzie Phillips  
Third Honors: Nadia Hasan

**Grade 6**  
First Honors: Gabrielle Arzuaga

#### Turners falls High School 1st Quarter

**Grade 12**  
First Honors: Colleen Dumas, Brooke Hastings, and Andrew Tobin  
Second Honors: Rachel Arial, and Emily Robertson  
Third Honors: Nina Dodge, Julie Howard-Thompson, and Jack Hubert

**Grade 11**  
First Honors: Brittany Rawson  
Second Honors: Todd Richardson, Jeremy Tetreault, and Kaleb Warren  
Third Honors: Colton Hallett, and Katelyn Phillips

**Grade 10**  
First Honors: Katelyn Dodge, and Timothy Meyer  
Second Honors: Shawn Englehardt, Bethany Laramie, Jonathan Marguet, Nala Vaughn, and Brittany York  
Third Honors: Ceara Dolhenty

**Grade 9**  
First Honors: Tyler Richardson  
Second Honors: Diego Sebastiao



## 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

January 15th for the February Issue.

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