



THE

Gill Newsletter

June 2011 Issue

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Town Hall News

Annual Town Meeting

Annual Town Meeting opened on May 9 and unanimously approved the first eight articles. Articles 1–4 were routine and involved accepting the 2009 annual report, electing field drivers and fence viewers, allowing the acceptance and expenditure of any state or federal highway money, and authorizing a number of revolving funds for the next fiscal year. In the other four articles, voters heard a report from the Riverside Municipal Building Use Study Committee, amended town bylaws to change the enforcement date of dog license late fees, expanded the size of the Agricultural Commission from 5 to 7 members, and authorized the Selectboard to negotiate and enter into a contract with the Hampshire Council of Governments for the supply of electricity to residents and businesses in Gill.

The balance of the warrant, including all budgets and all special articles

involving spending money, will be taken up when Town Meeting continues on SATURDAY, June 25 at 9:00 AM upstairs in the Town Hall. It is rumored that there will be coffee and snacks, and the Gill Tavern will be open afterwards with a limited light lunch menu.

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

During the month of May, the Selectboard and the Finance Committee have been meeting jointly with many departments and reviewing their budget requests for the next budget year that starts July 1. In early June the two groups will synthesize all of the figures and information into a recommended budget and special article appropriations for Town Meeting to vote on Saturday, June 25. A copy of the town meeting warrant may be found on the website, and budgetary updates will be posted as they become available.

Among the special articles to be voted by Town Meeting vote are: purchase or lease-to-own of a new police

The costs of mailing the newsletter have increased so that our budget is very tight. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses, we would appreciate your sending a check, payable to "Town of Gill", to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354.



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



cruiser, establishment of a Capital Stabilization Fund, installation of interior security doors and locks at the elementary school, and maintenance work on the well and water system at the elementary school.

Pre-Town Meeting

Pre-Town Meeting is a public information session where residents can learn and ask questions about the budget and special articles being voted on at Town Meeting. It has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 20 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. Please save the date!

Electricity Conservation Improvements to Happen at Town Buildings

Based on the recommendation of (and a strong push from) the Energy Commission, the Town is participating in the Small Business Energy Advantage Plan offered by Western Mass Electric Company (WMECO). Under this program, simple energy conservation measures will be installed in the town's buildings. The costs of the measures will be substantially discounted by incentives from WMECO, and the remaining costs financed by WMECO with no interest charges.

Electricity audits were recently conducted at the Town Hall, Riverside Municipal Building, Slate Memorial Library, and the Fire Department spaces of the Public Safety Complex. The recommended work includes

the replacement of incandescent bulbs with more efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, upgrading the fluorescent lights at the library, installing occupancy sensors on the lights in a number of Town Hall and Fire Department rooms, and installing a Vending Miser on the Fire Department soda machine.

The total cost of the work is \$2,456, but WMECO incentives reduce this to \$1,261 (a 48% savings!), to be paid over 24 months. And of course, since all of these improvements will reduce the electricity the buildings consume, the Town will recoup its investment in as little as two years.

Boiler Replacement & Energy Upgrades at Gill Elementary

By the time you read this, the Town will have entered into an Energy Management Services Agreement with Siemens Building Technologies to install a new boiler and energy management system and upgrade lighting, door sweeps, and seals around the unit ventilators in each room at the school. This "energy savings performance contract" was approved at last year's town meeting, and authorized up to \$430,000 of work at the school and other town-owned buildings. Over the past year the scope of the project has been refined and scaled back to \$275,000, and the work will only occur at the school. The cost of the project will be paid using an

already-received \$150,000 ARRA stimulus-funded Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant, as well as the energy savings that result from the improvements. Most of the work will be done this summer, and the new boiler will be running in time for this winter's heating season.

Conservation Commission Opening

Just a reminder - there is still an opening on the Gill Conservation Commission. Any Gill resident who may be interested in serving, should contact Chris Polatin (413-262-9102 or cpolatin@gmail.com) or Ray Purington (863-9347 or administrator@gilmass.org).

Capital Improvement Planning Committee

The Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) has completed its first annual report to the town, documenting the capital needs over the next five years and beyond. While the relative priority of the needs may change, the list of building repairs and equipment replacements is lengthy and the total cost is sizable. Every Gill resident is encouraged to read the CIPC's report that may be downloaded from the town website or picked up at Town Hall. The CIPC will present its report to Town Meeting on Saturday, June 25.

*Ray Purington,
Administrator Assistant*



From the Town Clerk

Dog Licenses

All dogs in Gill must be licensed. Remember to come to the Town Hall to license your dog. After June 1, a \$10.00 late fee will be charged.

Gill History

Many people from all over the country come to the Town Hall to do genealogical research on families of Gill. If you have any information about your Gill family roots, we would like to include it in our collection of information. Also, if your knowledge of Gill or past events in Gill could be written down and added to our copies of "Oral Histories," it could become very valuable information for researchers. We would be glad to make the copy of your research or story to help others who may be searching for information.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo
Town Clerk.

From the Assessors

The assessors continue to be out in the community taking pictures of Gill homes to place on the Property Record Cards. We also have a few homes that the assessors will try to visit to update interior information. We will call to schedule a time when they may meet you or someone you designate to complete those assessments.

Child Care For Town Meeting

Do you need child care while you attend the town meeting on Saturday morning? If you are interested in using child care then or will volunteer your help, please contact Jenn Waldron

sjwaldron@verizon.net or 863-4162.

Town Meeting And The Gill Tavern

The Gill Tavern is pleased to announce that it will be open for lunch after Town Meeting on Saturday, June 25. Come over for a house-smoked pulled pork or roasted vegetable sandwich, a salad, and beverage. Everyone who comes to Town Meeting will receive a free raffle ticket that enters you to win either a free lunch, a beverage, or a Gill Tavern gift certificate. The only catch is that you have to come to the Tavern to see if your ticket is picked. What a great way to relax for a few minutes and chat with your neighbors about all the exciting decisions and drama that will surely take place at this year's Town Meeting.

Friends Of Gill

The Friends of Gill will host their annual "Picnic on the Common" on Saturday, June 18, 2011, from 11 AM to 2 PM.

The Friends of Gill will be serving their famous Strawberry Shortcake with homemade biscuits and local berries. The Picnic will have plenty to do. Steve Damon is organizing a Farmers' Market, and Slate Library will host a children's function. A Plant Sale will offer additions to your collection. Music will accompany the picnic. The Gill Firemen's Association will serve their famous French fries, hamburgers, hot dogs, and soda.

Come see friends and meet people in the community at this festive annual picnic.

The Friends of Gill want to thank Jacob Rau, Gabe Vassar, Richard Odman (NMH), and Lori LaChance for their contribution of Maple Syrup for the Friends of Gill breakfast.

July 4th Picnic at the Riverside School

The Riverside Municipal Building Committee invites residents of Gill to a picnic and community gathering behind the Riverside Municipal Building on Monday, July 4, at noon.

Grills will be available. Bring a dish to share as well as your meat and veggies to cook. Bring your blankets or chairs and picnic ware.

If you would like to help organize this event, please come to the RMB on June 8, at 5 PM. We welcome



ideas and help to make this an enjoyable community event.

Canceled if it rains.

The 19th Annual Fall Gill Arts and Crafts Festival

Mark your calendars for Sept 17-18! We changed the dates of the Festival to ensure warmer weather and less wind. The Friends of Gill are planning a wonderful festival with apple pies, local music, Gill Firemen's food, lots of children's activities, farmer's market, an open Gill historical museum, and many returning and new artists and crafters plus lots more!

We are still accepting applications for artisans and crafters. Contact Clairech@gmail.com for an application. Volunteer helpers are also needed.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our 19th annual festival!

Community Concern

Many of the people who walk with their dogs in Riverside do not clean up their dogs' waste. Please help keep the neighborhood clean for all who walk and play there. Pick up after your dog. Please be considerate of everyone by removing your pet's waste. Pick it up and take it home.

Below is good information for

respectful disposal at home.

Garbage collectors don't want dog waste to go into the truck because it gets messy and the bags explode. The sewage people do not want it down the toilet because the grit mucks up the system.

The solution is to compost dog waste in yard, using an old plastic garbage can. The folks at City Farmer developed the method, which is one of the most popular tips on the cityfarmer.org website. The technique provides a chance for the waste to slowly decompose in a yard and be environmentally safe.

Here is the step by step description:

1. Take an old garbage can and drill a dozen or so holes in the side.
2. Cut out the bottom (A key hole saw works well.)
3. In the ground, dig a hole deep enough for the garbage can.
4. Toss some rocks or gravel in the hole for drainage and position the garbage can so it is a little higher than the soil level.
5. Place the lid on top. (You might want to paint it with something like Dog waste compost.)
6. When you scoop some poop, put it in the hole and sprinkle in some septic starter (available at hardware stores) and add some water.

According to the web site, within 48 hours, the septic tank starter, which is non-caustic and promotes natural bacterial growth, will have

begun its work. As you add waste daily, this waste will biodegrade and flow into the subsoil. Burying a garbage can to compost dog waste might seem like overkill if you live near the woods or close to a patch of blackberry bushes; however, when you think about it, why not contain the waste in a more environmentally-friendly manner?

One more note: You may buy biodegradable pet poop bags that will biodegrade in your newly built dog waste bin. You may find them at buygreen.com or TheNaturalStore.com.

Lynn Welcome

Gill Energy Commission

Rain barrels were a popular item on May 21 at the Gill Town Hall, where the Gill Energy Commission distributed 20 rain barrels and hosing kits to residents of Gill, Greenfield, and Turners Falls. Several people were put on a waiting list, in hopes of another similar event. The rain barrels were supplied free of charge by the Connecticut River Watershed Council. They obtained them through collaboration with the Coca Cola plant in Northampton, where they arrive full of that secret syrup and then get rinsed when empty. The hosing kits were purchased and re-sold at modest cost. Thanks again to Coca Cola for offering a



discounted rate to trainers who attended a March workshop in Northampton. Both Pamela Lester and Ivan Ussach attended from the Gill Energy Commission. The unexpectedly sunny weather prompted one new rain barrel owner to predict a dry spell now that he had a rain barrel, but we all know that is unlikely. Whenever the rain comes, those rain barrels will be in place, collecting valuable water for various uses. And, as a matter of fact within one hour of the rain barrels being distributed, it was raining. The Gill Energy Commission has a waiting list for more barrels and hopes to be able to get another batch in August. Watch this newsletter for future updates about the next distribution plans.

Agricultural Commission

As the growing season accelerates, so does the Gill Agricultural Commission. Its first activity was "Arbor Day Hat Trick" that included three tree-related activities: Future Sweetness, Arbor Day Scavenger Hunt, Arborists Eat Too. Our holiday celebrations were reported in Lancaster Farming, the largest agricultural newspaper in the eastern United States as well as in The Montague Reporter. A photo of Jacob Raus appeared on the front page of LC on May 7, while Liaja Steele, Ray's granddaughter, graced MR on May 12.

The 2011-12 Gill's Farms brochures are close to being published. Harry van Baaran has again graciously designed the guide that has expanded from 7 to 20 farms. Soon everyone will know how to visit a beautiful Gill farm.

Gill Agricultural Commission continues to deliver Gill-only snacks to town committees. Recently, the Select board, GMRSD Office Staff, and Gill Town Hall Staff enjoyed such snacks as Upinngil cheese, Little Red Hen bread, and Laughing Dog strawberries.

Gill Agricultural Commission will host a farmers' market during the Friends of Gill picnic on June 18 from 10-2 PM. Come, greet your friends, enjoy music, eat a hamburger and some strawberry short cake, check out a fire truck, and purchase local produce.



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Robin Paris, ABR

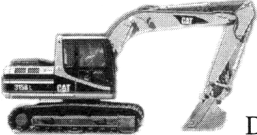
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Enjoy the growing season in Gill, our beautiful Right to Farm town.

*Your Friends on the Gill Agricultural Commission:
Steve Damon, Chair, with Kathy Litchfield, Dick French, and
Bruce Yukl*

Gill Common People Concerts

JUNE 7 ❖ AMANDLA CHORUS

Vocal Music from Around the World

JUNE 14 ❖ DENISE GENDRON

Singer/Songwriter

JUNE 21 ❖ ZYDECO CONNECTION

Flavors of New Orleans

JUNE 28 ❖ EARTH VIBEZ

Reggae Finally Comes to the Common

JULY 5 ❖ NICOLE ALEXANDRA

Tunes from Berklee College of Music

JULY 12 ❖ FALLTOWN STRING BAND

Be There. Don't Be Square.

JULY 19 ❖ OFF THE GRID

Tom Caine Brings Original Sounds from Gill

JULY 26 ❖ REBECCA BOGERS

Harp Descends from NEC

AUG. 2 ❖ MODNADNOCK STEEL DRUM BAND

Caribbean in Gill

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WHERE? On the Gill Common. In bad weather, the concerts will be in the Gill Congregational Church.

WHEN? Summer Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 PM

COST? Free but bring your change for refreshments.

WHY? Because Gill deserves lots of very good music.

MORE INFO? email Steve: damons_of_gill@yahoo.com

Thank you Gill Cultural Council for funding this series!



Slate Library News

Get ready for summer fun at Slate Library. Many new titles await eager readers, so draw up a lawn chair or find a hammock, and read some of our new titles such as Jodi Picoult’s *Sing You Home*, Benjamin Hales *The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore*, and Paula McClain’s *The Paris Wife*. Children’s titles include *The Cronus Chronicles* by Anne Ursu, *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland*, and *Moon Over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool, the Newberry Winner of 2011. We also have new titles in picture books and lots of audio books for those long car trips during the summer months.

We thank the friends of Western Massachusetts Bookmobile for a grant that provided funds for new audio titles. For adults, we offer unabridged audiobooks by Barbara Kingsolver, Lisa See, and Donna Leon. For children try the classic *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg, or *Theodosia and the Staff of Osiris* by Rachel LaFevers.

Story hour continues through June 17. Each Friday at 10 AM we gather on the rug for stories, popcorn, and good company. We will continue to explore springtime topics like gardens, furry friends, dinosaurs, and windy days. Each story hour also includes a hands-on art project. We welcome new families!

The theme for this summer’s read-

ing program is “One World, Many Stories”. Stop by the library and pick up a schedule of events. Our programs for children and their caregivers are held on Saturday mornings.

June 25 is the kick-off party featuring the Robbins-Zust Marionettes.

This Berkshire based troupe will present the Russian fairytale “The Firebird”.

July 2 Bookmaking and Poetry workshop

July 9 Tom Ricardi and Birds of Prey animal show!

July 16 Fabrics of Fairytale: Felt workshop

July 23 Diane Edgecomb: Storyteller presenting “Around the World Folktales”

July 30 Yo-Yo clinic

We look forward to your joining us at Slate Library this summer.

School News

Advisory Committee

The Gill Advisory Committee developed a survey this past spring for the Gill Elementary School community to help us identify needs in the areas of budget, curriculum, and personnel so that we could make informed recommendations to the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee and Superintendent. Thank you to everyone who took the time to take the survey! The results of the survey were com-

pleted and led the Gill Advisory Committee to develop recommendations on equity between elementary schools, nutrition, MCAS, and the after school program. These four recommendations were presented to the GMRSC. In his response, Superintendent Carl Ladd recommended the creation of task forces, among other recommendations. This is where the community needs your input! Please contact Kim Sprankle at 863-2975 or email ksprankle84@comcast.net if you are interested in being on any of the following task forces: Nutrition, MCAS, or After School Program.

Dean’s List

Nicholas D. Duska and Benjamin B. Garber, students at the University of Massachusetts, were named to the dean’s list for the fall 2010 semester.

Honor Roll

Pioneer Valley Regional School Third Quarter

Grade 12

Highest Honor: Mariah Black

Grade 11

Highest Honor: Jacob Levin

Grade 10

Highest Honor: Jaclyn Lafleur
Honor: Jennifer Tufano

Grade 9

Highest Honor: George Atkins
Honor: Whitney Urgiel

Grade 8

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



Grade 7

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

**Frontier Regional High School
Third Quarter**

Grade 11

Maximum Honors: Benjamin Lawton-Curtis

**Turners Falls High School
Third Quarter**

Grade 12

First Honors: Colleen Dumas, Emily Robertson and Andrew Turban
Second Honors: Brooke Hastings
Third Honors: Jack Hubert

Grade 11

Third Honors: Todd Richardson and Kaleb Warren

Grade 10

First Honors: Katelyn Dodge and Timothy Meyer
Second Honors: Nala Vaughn and Brittany York
Third Honors: Ceara Dolhenty

Grade 9

Third Honors: Elliot Bertini Franseen

**Great Falls Middle School
Second Quarter**

Grade 8

First Honors: Ryan Bezio, Malcolm Crosby, Jessica Gaines, Lexi Griffin, Alexander Morin and Nicholas York
Third Honors: Zachary Demars

Grade 7

Second Honors: Nadia Hasan and Mackenzie Phillips

Grade 6

First Honors: Gabrielle Arzuage

**Great Falls Middle School
Mid-Term Honor Roll**

Grade 12

Honors: Joseph Lafleur

Grade 11

Honors: Haley Laramie

Grade 10

Honors: Abigayle Cichanowski and Leslie Kozma

Grade 9

Honors: Shelbi Williams

**Gill Historical
Commission**

The Gill Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Riverside 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 Municipal Building. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo, or Pam Shoemaker.

Thanks go to Lynda for opening the historical collection at Riverside to visitors on Friday afternoons through April. We expect to post other open collection times in the future. Look for a new exhibit on Saturday and Sunday during the Gill Craft Fair.

Anticipating the annual Town Meeting, we are sharing some of the

Gill school receipts from another century. Six school houses were maintained within the town, and these receipts show their costs.

*GILL SCHOOL RECEIPTS
1883*

Date: Apr. 25, 1883

**To: Mrs. Benjamin Hastings
For: cleaning school house Dist.
No. 4 - \$2.00**

Date: May 2 1883

**To: Mrs. Imogene Purple
For: cleaning school house Dist.
No. 2 - \$1.50**

Date: May 2, 1883

**To: Frank W. Chapin
For: cleaning, repairs on Dist. No.
3 school - \$4.00**

Date: May 5, 1883

**To: S.M. Stebbins
For: labor / repairs school No. 6
\$8.45 A town order was given to
pay this bill by the selectmen.**

Date: June 6, 1883

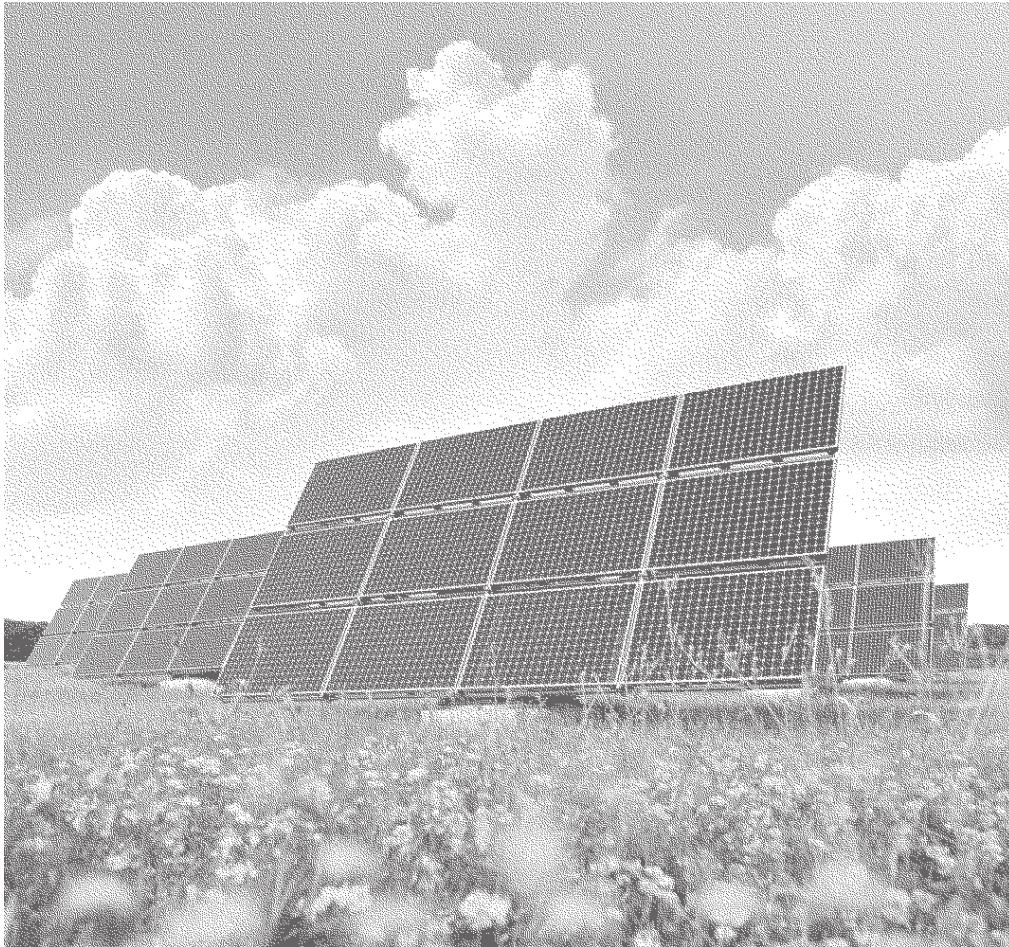
**To: Mrs. Orrin Hill
For: cleaning Dist. No. 6 school
house \$1.50**

Date: June 11, 1883

**To: Thomas Austin
For: shingles for No. 6 school
house - \$12.15 A town order
was given to pay this bill by the
selectmen.**



Public Information Session on Zoning Bylaw Revisions to create a Solar Overlay District in the Town of Gill



Thursday, June 16th, 2011

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Gill Town Hall - 325 Main Road

Presented by the Gill Planning Board
with the assistance of the

Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

For more information call Douglas Smith 413-863-2785
or Peggy Sloan, FRCOG at 413-774-1194 x105



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- Date: June 27, 1883 To: Susan F. Sprague
For: teaching summer term No. 6 - \$48.00
- Date: June 22, 1883 To: Miss F.I. Purple
For: teaching summer term, No. 6 - \$64.00
- Date: June 22, 1883 To: Miss Flora Williams
For: teaching summer term, No. 4 - \$40.00
- Date: June 22, 1883 To: Miss Gertrude Goodrich
For: teaching summer term, No. 2 - \$24.00
- Date: June 22, 1883 To: Miss Carrie Canning
For: teaching summer term, No. 2 - \$48.00
- Date: June 22, 1883 To: Miss Hattie L. Stockwell
For: teaching summer term, No. 1 - \$40.00
- Date: July 3, 1883 To: Luke M. Hosley
For: cleaning No. 5 school house - \$2.00
- Date: Feby. 14, 1884 To: John Roberts
For: board of teacher winter term - \$18.00
- Date: Feby. 14, 1884 To: J.D. Canning
For: sundries furnished as per bill - \$4.90
- Date: Feby. 14, 1884 To: H.B. Barton
For: sundries furnished as per bill - \$4.90
- Date: Feby. 14, 1884 To: Lizzie A. Green
For: sundries for school Dist. No. 4 \$2.00
- Date: Feby. 14, 1884 To: Town of Bernardston
For: tuition for one scholar from No. 7 - \$4.00
- Date: Feby. 14, 1884 To: Estate of O.B. Green
For: wood as per bill furnished several schools - \$45.00
- Date: Feby 14, 1884 To: George R. Wyart
For: one cord wood furnished No. 5 - \$6.00
This payment is given for part of wood furnished to go through first term.
- Date: Apr. 16, 1884 To: George R. Wyart
For: wood furnished as per bill - \$69.00



Date: Apr. 28, 1884 To: Mrs. Benjamin Hastings
For: cleaning No. 2 school house - \$1.50

Date: May 27, 1884 To: Luke M. Hosley
For: cleaning No. 5 house/repairing 1883 - \$2.50

Date: June 20, 1884 To: Carrie Canning
For: teaching spring term school No. 6 - \$80.00

Date: June 27, 1884 To: Flora Williams
For: teaching spring term No. 1 school - \$60.00

Date: June 27, 1884 To: Gertrude L. Goodrich
For: teaching spring term No. 2 school - \$60.00

Date: June 27, 1884 To: L.A. Green
For: teaching spring term No. 4 school - \$60.00

Date: June 27, 1884 To: Susan F. Sprague
For: teaching spring term school No. 5 - \$60.00

Date: June 27, 1884 To: Edward P. Deane
For: carrying scholars spring term - \$25.00

Please let any member of the Historical Commission know if you have Gill school pictures to share. Do you have pictures of the Gill school houses, and their teachers and students? We would like to scan them into our records before returning the originals to you.

WANTED: a tinted picture of the Riverside Municipal Building from the late 1920's or 1930's.



Solar Hot Water and Solar Electric

John Ward Claire Chang
2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield, MA 01301
413 772-3122 info@solarstoreofgreenfield.com



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The Gill Tavern
Come For a drink, stay For a meal

The Tavern serves fare made from fresh ingredients (mostly locally produced) in an atmosphere that fosters friendship, community, and respect for our environment.
Full bar ♦ Great wine list ♦ The People's Pint beer on tap!

Open Wed-Sun at 5 pm 326 Main Rd, Gill, MA
www.thegilltavern.com ☎ 413.863.9006

**Save the dates of September 17 & 18
for this year's Friends of Gill Craft Fair
at the Riverside School Building.**



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.

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

for the next issue is Wed., Sept. 7, 2011

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