



THE

Gill Newsletter

September 2011 Issue

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Town Hall News

Tropical Storm Irene Disaster Assistance

The Town and its residents were fortunate to be spared the large-scale damage and devastation from Tropical Storm Irene on August 27-29. However, if you did sustain losses or damage from Irene, you may be eligible for disaster aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. For more information, or to apply for aid, go to www.DisasterAssistance.gov

Annual Town Meeting, Part II

While it now seems like ages ago, the continuation of Annual Town Meeting was completed on Saturday, June 25. Although the day of the week did not seem to help (or hurt) voter attendance, those who came did seem to enjoy the coffee and fresh-baked scones at the beginning, and the red, white, and blue ice cream sundaes afterward.

In the Special Town Meeting beforehand, voters approved three money transfers, and also approved reducing the Finance Committee from nine members to seven. This reduction will happen by attrition.

During the Annual Town Meeting, voters adopted a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2012. They also granted town employees a 1.3% cost-of-living increase. A request to spend \$28,000 to replace the oldest of the Town's three police cruisers was defeated; however, the same sum of money was approved to be placed into a newly created Capital Stabilization Fund. Voters also approved \$7,000 to perform maintenance on the well at Gill Elementary School. As the last piece of business, voters adopted a change to the Zoning Bylaws, dealing with the height of signs.

Building, Electrical, Plumbing, and Gas Permits

The application process for building, electrical, gas, and plumbing permits

**Come one and all to
The Gill Craft Fair on
Saturday and Sunday
at Riverside on Rt 2.**



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



changed on July 1, 2011, for residents of Gill and 14 other towns. The Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program (FCCIP) has largely done away with paper forms, and residents and contractors may now apply for, pay for, and receive their permits on-line. Additionally, town officials who need to sign off on permits may now do so electronically, saving residents many hours of time and miles of driving to get a signature in ink. More information, instructions, and applications may be found at the FCCIP's website, www.fccip.org.

Walking Maps for Franklin County

As part of a grant-funded Walk Franklin County project, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments has distributed sets of 28 pocket-sized laminated maps depicting walking routes for each town in the county. The Town Hall and the Library both have sets that Gill residents may borrow. To learn more about other walking activities, visit www.walkfranklincounty.org.

Solar Overlay District

Although it will have already happened when you read this, the Planning Board is holding a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 8, to provide interested parties with the opportunity to comment on the proposed Solar Overlay Bylaw, which will be an addition

to the Town's Zoning Bylaws. If it is approved by Town Meeting, the Solar Overlay Bylaw will allow for ground mounted solar electric installations in designated locations through by-right provisions rather than requiring a special permit. This overlay district will satisfy one of the state requirements for receiving Green Community Certification.

The complete text of the proposed bylaw as well as the overlay district map is posted on the Town's website and is also on file at the Town Hall for viewing during regular business hours.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District will hold its annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day on the GCC Campus on Saturday, September 24. Gill residents and businesses may participate in this event but will be charged a fee. Pre-registration is required by September 16 (forms are available on-line and at the Town Hall). To learn more about substances that are accepted during this collection, visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Boiler Replacement & Energy Upgrades at Gill Elementary

The energy improvements at Gill Elementary are progressing. The old boiler has been removed, and the new one is onsite and being

plumbed and wired. Much of the new energy management system (think of it as a super-smart, building-wide programmable thermostat) has been installed and will be completed as the boiler is finished. Lighting upgrades will be installed in early September. Most of the work in the classrooms was done during August; now that school is in session, any remaining construction in the classrooms will be done outside of school hours.

These projects, which total \$281,750, are being financed by a \$150,000 grant from the Department of Energy Resources, \$4,250 in rebates from WMECO, and a \$127,500 Qualified Energy Conservation Bond issued by the Town and purchased by Greenfield Co-operative Bank. The bond, which is for 16 years and has a 1.15% interest rate, will be repaid using energy savings – that is, money that would have been spent to buy heating oil and electricity, but because of the improved efficiencies can be used to pay the debt for these building improvements.

Window Inserts for the Riverside School

In an effort to better weatherize the Riverside School building, the Town has invested \$1,365 to have double-sided wood-framed window inserts made for the 15 large windows. The inserts are being made by Brian Nugent, who led the Window Insert



Workshop sponsored by the Energy Commission this February. It is projected that the inserts will have a payback of 2 years. As an added bonus, the inserts will look nicer and be easier to install and remove than the plastic that was nailed to the outside of the building in recent winters.

Special Town Meeting

After the Planning Board has held its public hearing and finalized the wording of the Solar Overlay Bylaw, a Special Town Meeting will be scheduled - likely in November. Keep an eye on the newspapers and Town website for an announcement of the meeting date.

Voter Registration

The Town Clerk will soon be posting the date and hours for voter registration. Watch the newspapers and the Gill website.

*Ray Purington,
Administrator Assistant*

Open Space and Recreation Plan

A small group of Gill residents have been working with Mary Praus, a Planner with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, to update the Town's 2005 edition of its Open Space and Recreation Plan. Members of the group are Dick French, Jeff Kocsis, Tim Storrow, and Ray Purington as

Administrative Assistant to Gill; they have solicited comments from some other residents. This important Open Space and Recreation document helps the Town continue to plan for future growth and protection of our natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources - all the things that make Gill a special place to live.

As part of this update, the committee is conducting a very short on-line survey, which can be accessed from a link on the Town's website (www.gillmass.org). Printed copies of the survey form are also available at the Town Hall.

Please note, a public forum on October 19 will provide an opportunity to discuss the updated OS & R Plan. More details will be announced in coming weeks. Please mark your calendars now so you will be there!

The Energy Commission

The Gill Energy Commission will be making hugely discounted top-quality rain barrel kits available on Saturday, October 22, from 9:00-10:30 AM at the Gill Town Hall. The rain barrels will need to be picked up during this time period. The fee for the kits is \$25 and includes a 55-gallon plastic barrel in blue or white with a diverter kit. The diverter kit connects directly to the downspout. Payment will be taken at the event.

People talk about protecting clean, healthy water. With a rain barrel you may actually take positive action. One inch of rain yields 700 gallons of rainwater runoff. Rain barrels are systems that collect and store rain water from a roof instead of diverting it to storm drains and streams. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified storm water run-off as the most common source of pollution in streams because it carries fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals from our yards, driveways, parking lots, and roads to water bodies during a rain or snow melt event. Rain barrels play the dual role of reducing storm water runoff and saving homeowners water in the summer months. Free of chlorine, lime, or calcium, rain water is ideal for watering lawns or gardens, washing windows and cars, and even topping off swimming pools.

Please make plans now to join us in learning how to make a low cost rain barrel for your home or business. Pre-registration is required; 20 rain barrel kits are available. To register call Janet Masucci at (413) 863-8694 or email encom@gillmass.org.

Gill Town Cemeteries

Spring Cleanup in Gill Town Cemeteries

The Cemetery Commission would like to thank Annie Neill and her crew from Northfield Mount



Hermon for the wonderful job they did in the spring cleanup of the town cemeteries. They offered their services free of charge and saved Gill an enormous amount of money.

Request for Donation of Land

As many Gill residents may be aware, the three town cemeteries are being filled up very fast. In the past ten months, twelve lots have been sold, mostly in North Cemetery. Because of this, the Cemetery Commission is asking landowners in Gill to consider donating an acre or two for new burial lots. If this is something you would like to consider, please contact one of the

Commissioners: Patricia Haigis at 863-9023, Carrie Stevens at 863-8781, or Ann Marie Klein at 413-522-5854.

Friends Of Gill

From the President of the Friends of Gill.

Wednesday evening, September 7, the Friends of Gill along with volunteers met at the Gill Church to make their first batch of pies for the Gill Crafts and Arts Festival. Some people peeled apples, some cut apples, some made pie dough, some rolled the dough, some mixed the apples with spices, and others did the finishing touches to the pies.

The 80 pies were then taken to the Farren to be placed in their freezer. The evening was productive and filled with laughter and conversation. I would like to thank Kathy Augustine, Ed & Deb Golembeski, Karen Cole, Doreen Stevens, Chris Kovalchick, Renee Jenkins, Nancy Daniel-Green, Bev Demars, Gloria Holmes, Deb Guyette, Merri Bourbeau, Betsy Burnham, Jane Oakes, Alden Booth, Ted Graveline, Claire Chang, John Ward, and Randy Crochier, Sr. The next pie-making will be on the evening of September 13. The Friends of Gill appreciate the support of volunteers to make the annual pie-making and sale a success. Ronnie LaChance, President.

Sustainable Franklin County Public Workshops

September 22, 2011

5:00 - 8:30 pm

Greenfield High School

(1 Lenox Avenue,
Greenfield)

September 27, 2011

10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Mahar High School

(507 South Main Street,
Orange)

October 5, 2011

5:00 - 8:30 pm

Community Center

(53 Main Street,
Shelburne Falls)

HUD Livability Principles

- ❖ Value communities and neighborhoods
- ❖ Provide more transportation choices
- ❖ Support existing communities
- ❖ Enhance economic competitiveness
- ❖ Promote equitable, fair housing
- ❖ Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investments

You are invited to participate in a hands-on workshop to help make Franklin County more sustainable. A Sustainable Franklin County meets the needs of the present without impacting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This project is made possible through a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Grant.

FREE food and beverages at each workshop!

For more information or to register please contact Mary Praus, FRCOG Land Use Planner, by phone (413-774-1194, ext. 107) or email (mpraus@frcog.org) or visit the FRCOG website at (http://www.frcog.org/services/landuse/landuse_HUD.php).



Come one and all to The Gill Craft Fair on September 17 and 18.

The 19th Annual Gill Arts and Crafts Festival, sponsored by the Friends of Gill and the Agricultural Commission, will be held at the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. We look forward to welcoming new and returning artisans from around the area to display handiwork and art in a number of media. A Farmer's Market will offer local produce and food products. The Gill historical collection will be open with historical artifacts, photographs, family information, and an exhibit of 19th Century schools in Gill. Many children's activities are planned including hooping, face painting and iron forging. The Gill Fireman's Association will be cooking burgers and hand-cut fries. Enjoy soup from the Gill Tavern. As always, the Friends of Gill will be selling their delicious homemade apple pies. We are hoping to have near zero trash this year with increased composting and recycling.

Come enjoy this community event and fund-raiser!
The Friends of Gill.

Slate Library News

Another summer has come and gone, and with it another successful summer reading program. This year the library theme of "One World, Many Stories" provided ample material for a series of workshops including storytellers, puppeteers, and bookmaking. The avid readers came every week with their brightly colored game boards, each colored space representing another book read.

Pre-school Story hour starts again on Friday, September 23, and will be held every Friday morning at 10:00 AM. We look forward to welcoming new families! Come curl up on the rug for stories and popcorn, followed by conversation and a fun craft for the kiddies. This autumn we will explore themes such as Friendship, Bears, Woodland Creatures, Colors of Autumn, and of course, Halloween.

When visiting the library, please note our newest additions to the collection. For younger readers, we have several new picture books as well as the "Nathaniel Fludd,



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Beastologist" series. Younger readers may also enjoy the "Sisters 8" series. Slightly older readers may like "Kiki Strike" and the newest by D.J. MacHale. Come check out the Hunger Games trilogy that turned up on several school reading lists over the summer. We have new titles in Adult fiction and non-fiction, including the latest by Janet Evanovich and George R.R. Martin.

We are always looking for exciting titles to add to our collection. Let us know your requests! We look forward to seeing you at Slate Library.

School News

Greenfield Community College

Greenfield Community College graduates are Barrie Cameron, Laura Milewski, Tatiana Tricolici, Kelsey Wall and Amanda Wright.

Pioneer Valley Regional School & Franklin County Technical School

Mariah Black was the only graduating senior from Pioneer Valley Regional School and Joseph Lafleur graduated from the Tech School.

Turners Falls High School

Gill students graduating were Rachel Arial, Nina Dodge, Makayla Dolhenty*, Colleen Dumas, Brooke Hastings*, Julie Howard-Thompson*, Jack Hubert*, Emily Robertson, Jeremy Tetreault, Andrew Turban* and Natasha Vaughan. (* denotes National Honor Society).

Turners Falls Senior Scholarships & Awards

Rachel Arial received the Ed Brown Memorial Scholarship. Nina Dodge received the Marston Girls Basketball Most Valuable Player Award, the Helen Reidy Physical Education Award, and the President's Award for Academic Achievement.

Makayla Dolhenty received the Elizabeth Dorrance Memorial Scholarship and the President's Award for Academic Achievement.



Colleen Dumas received the Friends of Gill Bernice Keech Memorial Scholarship, the Wells Trust Fund Scholarship, and the President's Award for Academic Achievement.

Brooke Hastings received the Elizabeth Dorrance Memorial Scholarship, the Women's Club of Turners Falls Scholarship, Marston Girls Soccer Most Valuable Player Award, TFHS Award for Musical Excellence Award, the Band Boosters Marching Band Award, TFHS Service Award, and the President's Award for Academic Excellence.

Julie Howard-Thompson received the Elizabeth Dorrance Memorial Scholarship, the Class of 1957 Bernard C. Plaza Meritorious Service Award, Marston Football Cheerleading Most Valuable Player Award, and the President's Award for Academic Excellence.

Jack Hubert received the Brian "Bubba" Whiting Memorial Scholarship, the Harriet A. Tidd Scholarship, the TFHS Academic Excellence in Physical Education, the John Sousa Band Award, Band Boosters Marching Band Award, Ellen T. Wrightson Memorial Award, and the President's Award for Academic Achievement.

Andrew Turban received the Scholarship Merit Award as the fifth highest student in the 2011 Graduating Class, the Friends of Gill Bernice Keech Memorial Scholarship, the Hampshire Franklin

Baseball Umpires Association Scholarship, the Turners Falls Athletic Club Scholarship, and the Marston Baseball Most Valuable Player Award.

Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) 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, Bob Perry, Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo, or Pam Shoemaker.

The GHC is always looking for and preserving local records. This past year we found a book of handwritten receipts from April 25, 1883 to July 7, 1895, for the six school districts of the town. The information supplements the descriptions on the schools found in Stoughton's History of Gill (Vol. 1) and also gives a picture of how people staffed and maintained the different schools. For our annual open house exhibit, we have transcriptions of the receipts, an 1871 map showing the six school locations, and some pictures of school children and teachers.

Can you answer these questions? Who taught in Gill School No. 6 in 1885 and how much was each teacher paid? If you brought wood to the North school on Main Road, how much would you be paid? If you cleaned a school room in West Gill, how much would you earn? What books and supplies were purchased for the various schools? Come find the answers and learn more from our exhibit on September 17 and 18 during the Gill Craft Fair. We are open on Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM and on Sunday from 10 AM to 3 PM.

If you have pictures or stories from the Gill School houses, please share them with us at the Open House or by appointment at another time. If you have pictures, we will scan or copy them. Also, we are looking for early tinted pictures of the Riverside School building so that we can determine the original paint colors.

From the Town Clerk

Legal Notice

August 2011

The inhabitants of the Town of Gill, Franklin County, and others that may be concerned therein, are hereby warned and notified that the following is a true copy of certain General and Zoning by-law amendments adopted by the said inhabitants of the Town of Gill at a meeting duly called on May 9, 2011,



submitted to the Attorney General on July 7, 2011 and approved by the Attorney General of this Commonwealth on July 18, 2011

RE: Gill Annual Town Meeting of May 9, 2011 – Case # 6065

Warrant Articles # 6 and 7(General)

Warrant Article # 32 (Zoning)

Articles 6, 7, and 32 - We approve the amendments to the Town by-laws adopted under these Articles on the warrant for the Gill Annual Town Meeting that convened on May 9, 2011.

Article 6:

Move the Town vote to amend that paragraph of the Town's Dog Control by-law that references late fees, to read that "An additional late fee of \$10.00 shall be assessed for every dog whose owner fails to properly license his dog by April 1 of any year." (Simple majority required)

Currently the by-law reads June 1st which causes some confusion due to the license stating an expiration date of March 31st. In order to have this expiration date hold any significant meaning, a fine should apply the day after the expiration, not two months later. This article was requested by the Town Clerk.

Passed Unanimously

Article 7:

Move the Town vote to amend the first sentence of the second paragraph of the Town's Agricultural Commission by-law, to read

"The Commission shall consist of seven members appointed by the Moderator, of which the majority of the membership shall be substantially engaged in the pursuit of agriculture.", and further add to the fourth paragraph the sentence "The Moderator shall appoint additional members to initial terms of one, two, or three years and three thereafter, in such a way as no more than three members' terms expire in any given year." (Simple majority required)

Currently the Town has a five-member Ag Commission. The Commission has more people interested in being on it than there are seats, and feels that expanding the size would allow more involvement, get more done, and spread out duties.

Passed Unanimously

Article 32:

Move the Town vote to amend Section 2.F.5.d of the Town of Gill Zoning Bylaws by adding the following language to the existing paragraph: "Signs in excess of ten (10) feet in height but not more than twenty (20) feet in height may be allowed by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals as outlined in F.1 above."

This amendment was requested by the Zoning Board of Appeals in order to allow greater flexibility in working with Gill businesses on signage needs. Under the current zoning bylaws, signs in excess of 10 feet in height are allowed only by a variance, which is difficult to grant because of a very narrow set of conditions that must be met. The Planning Board held the required public hearing on the amendment on June 2, 2011, and subsequently voted unanimously (5-0) to recommend the adoption of the amendment to the Gill Zoning By-laws. A 2/3 majority vote by Town Meeting is required to amend zoning by-laws.

Passed Unanimously

Approved by Martha Coakley
Attorney General
July 18, 2011

The inhabitants of the Town of Gill, Franklin County, and others that may be concerned therein, are hereby warned and notified that the following is a true copy of a certain General Bylaw amendment adopted by the said inhabitants of the Town of Gill at a meeting duly called on June 25, 2011, submitted to the Attorney General on July 7, 2011 and approved by the Attorney General of this Commonwealth on July 15, 2011



15th Annual Source-to- Sea Clean-up

Volunteers Needed for Clean-up and Hauling Saturday, October 1, 2011

- Cleanup: 9 a.m. to 12 noon
- Hauling: volunteers with Trucks or ATV's needed from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In Gill, Montague, East Deerfield & Erving, MA call
Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center
(800) 859-2960

Elsewhere in the watershed call:
Connecticut River Watershed Council
(860) 704-0057

Or email: cleanup@ctriver.org



2011 Organizers: Connecticut River Watershed Council •
Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center • Northfield Mountain
Recreation & Environmental Center • Smith & Wesson



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RE: Gill Special Town Meeting of June 25, 2011 Case #6064

Warrant Article #4 (General Bylaw)

Article 4: We approve the amendment to the Town by-laws adopted under these Articles on the warrant for the Gill Annual Town Meeting that convened on June 25, 2011.

Article 4:

Move the Town vote to amend the Town's Finance Committee By-law as amended June 2, 2004 which states "The Finance Committee shall consist of nine members, appointed by the Moderator for three year overlapping terms." and replace it with the following: "The Finance Committee shall consist of seven members, appointed by the Moderator for three year overlapping terms."

Passed Unanimously

Approved by Martha Coakley

Attorney General

July 15, 2011

A true copy.

Attest: Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

Town Clerk

Gill Cultural Council

Community Input

The Gill Cultural Council is collecting opinions to help us set our funding priorities for next few years. Please take a moment to stop by our table at the Gill Craft Fair this Saturday at noon. What current arts and cultural programs or services are you aware of and feel are important to maintain? What do you consider to be important issues relating to culture in our community? What might artists and arts organizations do to make ours a more livable, prosperous community? Is there a particular population segment we should aim to reach through public funding of cultural projects? Come find us and let us know.



Cultural Council Grants

The Gill Cultural Council is accepting grant applications for this year.

In addition to the state criteria (public benefit, non-discrimination, no substitution, arts/humanities/interpretive sciences), applications will be evaluated using the following review criteria:

- How well the program meets our local priorities
- Community support and involvement
- Ability to address the diverse cultural needs of a community's underserved populations or support diverse forms of cultural activities
- Financial need

Completed applications must be received or postmarked by October 15.

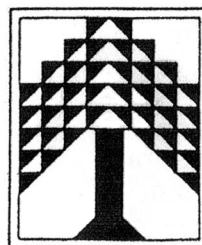
The application form can be completed and printed out at www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/lccapp.html.

The Gill Cultural Council is a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



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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☎ 413.863.9006

**Saturday and Sunday, come to
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.

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.

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