



THE

Gill Newsletter

June 2012 Issue

CONTENTS

Town Hall News 1

Town Clerk 3

Gill Energy Comm. 3

Joanie. 4

Slate Library 4

Public Health 5

School News. 6

2012 Graduates 8

Gill Historical Comm. 10

Summer Concerts! . . 11

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Pam Shoemaker
Editor

Harry van Baaren
Layout

Dorri Beaubien
Bev Demars

Darlene Cerillo
Gloria Holmes

Renee Jenkins

Ronnie LaChance

Dolores Lavoisier

Barbara Watson

Town Hall News

Annual & Special Town Meeting, Part One

This year's Annual Town Meeting was opened on May 7. Following a beautifully written motion read by Doug Smith of the Memorial Committee, voters dedicated the meeting to all the Veterans in the Town of Gill. Voters then dealt with five other routine and/or non-monetary articles. Before leaving for the evening, voters heard testimonials to Ray Moore, Joe Naida, Charlie Shebell, Ted Graveline and Allan Adie, and recognized Ray Steele with a standing ovation in show of appreciation for his almost 30 years of service as Town Moderator.

The town meeting is continued to **June 19** at 6:30 PM. The continuation will be preceded by a Special Town Meeting at **6:15 PM**.

A Special Town Meeting was also held on May 7. At that meeting voters transferred money from three old grant accounts.

Annual & Special Town Meeting, Part Two

As mentioned above, the second part of the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19. Be sure to arrive in time for the 6:15 PM Special Town Meeting and the 6:30 PM continuation of the Annual Town Meeting.

At press time, the Selectboard and the Finance Committee were still hard at work crafting their recommendations for a balanced budget for next year. The most current information on the warrant articles, motions, and budget will be uploaded to the town website as it becomes available.

Pre-Town Meeting

Pre-Town Meeting is an opportunity for voters to learn more and ask questions about the topics to be discussed at the Annual & Special Town Meetings, and to learn more about Town Meetings in general. This year's Pre-Town Meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 14 at 6:00 PM at the Gill Elementary School**. It will also be an opportunity for residents to see the new boiler and other energy conservation measures installed last summer and fall as part of an Energy Savings Performance Contract with Siemens Building Technology.



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



Committee Openings

A number of Gill's boards, committees, and commissions have openings and desperately need volunteers to help round out their memberships. If you are interested in serving on any of the following, please contact Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant, 413-863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.

- Cable Advisory Committee
- Capital Improvement Planning Committee—an At Large member (any Gill resident)
- Composition of School Committee Study Committee (created at this year's Town Meeting)
- Conservation Commission
- Energy Commission
- Recreation Committee
- Zoning Board of Appeals

Cable Advisory Committee

The Town is beginning the process of re-forming its Cable Advisory Committee with an early eye toward the August 2015 expira-

tion of our cable TV contract with Comcast. If you are interested in serving on this committee, or have ideas for ways that Gill's cable TV service may be expanded or enhanced, please contact Ray Purington.

Boiler Replacement at Public Safety Complex

By the time you read this newsletter, the boiler replacement project at the Public Safety Complex should be completed. Tognarelli Heating & Cooling installed two new Buderus hot water boilers, three new unit heaters, and replaced most of the old piping as part of the conversion from steam heat to forced hot water. Based on conservative estimates, we expect to save at least 700 gallons of fuel oil next winter.

House Numbers

According to the Street Numbering Bylaw adopted by Town Meeting in 1993, street numbers shall be attached to every dwelling and business in Town. The numbers shall be made of permanent, weatherproof materials, shall be at least 3 inches in height, and shall be clearly visible from the road. Numbering the buildings greatly helps public safety personnel respond to the correct address in the case of a 9-1-1 call or other emergency.

The Town Hall has a limited sup-

ply of reflective aluminum numbers, available for free on a first-come basis during regular hours.

Recycling Bins

Thanks to a Massachusetts DEP Sustainability Grant, a limited number of blue recycling bins are available free of charge at the Town Hall. The limit is one per household, and the bins may be picked up during regular hours of operation, Monday 9–6:30 and Tuesday–Thursday 9–4:30.

Trash & Recycling

Speaking of recycling (and trash, too!), be sure to have your trash and recycling set out by the curb before 7:00 AM on Fridays. If your items were curbside by the proper time but did not get collected, you should call Alternative Recycling Systems at 413-587-4005.

Massachusetts ParksPass

With summer vacation season now here, the Town is again participating in the Department of Conservation and Recreation's ParksPass program. The ParksPass is a hanging tag that entitles the bearer to free parking for one vehicle at over 50 facilities in the Massachusetts state parks system that charge a day-use parking fee. The ParksPass may be signed out from the Slate Memorial Library.

*Ray Purington,
Administrator Assistant*

**GILL CRAFT
FAIR 2012**

Mark your calendars for
September 15 and 16
at the Riverside School on
Route 2.



From the Town Clerk

Dog Owners

All dogs in Gill must be licensed. Remember to come in to license your dog.

Gill Historical Information

People from all over the country come to Town Hall to do genealogy research on their families. If you have any information about your family roots in town, we would love to add it to our collection. Also, it would be wonderful to have your accounts of memories of past town events or residents in Gill. Facts, stories, copies of letters and diaries add dimension to the lives of ancestors as their relatives search to know more about them.

Appointments

For those who receive letters of appointment, remember to schedule a time with the Town Clerk as soon as you can to be sworn in and complete the necessary papers.

New Residents

If you have recently moved into Gill, remember to come to town Hall to register for voting, get your name on the Street List, and pick up a Recycle container. It is always nice to meet our new residents.

From the Assessors' Office

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 can meet you or someone you designate to complete those assessments.

Special Notice: Town Clerk's Summer Hours and Location

The Town Clerk will be available in the Riverside Municipal Building on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM starting on Thursday, June 21. She will maintain her regular hours and location at the Town Hall on Monday through Wednesday and Thursday morning.

This change of schedule will make her available to those interested in seeing the Gill Historical Commission's Collection and to answer questions and assist in historical research. At the same time, she will serve Gill residents with Town Clerk business, such as licensing dogs, swearing in appointed officials, and processing or certifying town documents.

If you have any questions, please call at Town Hall 863-8103.

Gill Energy Commission

On May 29, the Gill Energy Commission submitted the Green Communities Application for the Town of Gill to the MA Dept of Energy Resources for 2012. Gill met all 5 Criteria as stipulated by the Green Communities Act that Governor Patrick signed in 2008.

We are anxiously awaiting our Town Designation as a Green Community. The official designation will allow Gill's application for Green Communities Grants towards funding all or a portion of the costs of studying, designing, constructing and implementing energy efficiency activities, including but not limited to:

- Energy conservation measures and projects
- Procurement of energy management services
- Installation of energy management systems
- Adoption of demand side reduction initiatives
- Adoption of energy efficiency policies. Financing the siting and construction of renewable and alternative energy projects on municipally-owned land.

The Energy Commission is considering a number of projects including insulation at the Town Hall and Riverside Buildings, energy efficiency, windsert and solar work-



shops, and bicycle racks at public buildings.

Please send your project proposals and ideas to encom@gillmass.org.

Happy Retirement to Joanie and her green jeep!

Soon, the little green jeep will no longer be seen on the roads of Gill. Joanie, Gill's rural carrier, is retiring after 25 years of service in the Postal Service. She has delivered mail full-time in Gill and part of Bernardston for 23 years and also spent 2 years as a Gill route substitute. Her immediate retirement plans are to relax, visit her grandchildren in North Carolina, and ride her motorcycle.

Joanie's last day will be Friday, June 29. Give her a wave and a shout as we all wish her "HAPPY RETIREMENT"!

Slate Library News Dream Big! Read!!

Saturday, June 2 at 11 AM

Summer Reading Kick-Off Party!!

Come register for our summer reading program. Pick up your game board and get ready to read!

Craig Harris

"Drumming Away the Blues"

Join a drumming circle on the

lawn of Slate Library! Musician and educator Craig Harris will lead a percussive journey through creative expression. With guided vocal imagery and interactive participation, everyone from preschoolers to senior citizens will discover the joy of playing rhythm instruments.

Saturday, June 30 at 11 AM

Diane Bilyak "Children's Poetry Workshop"

Join us for a morning poetry writing workshop. Diane Bilyak, an award winning poet from Connecticut will lead this program for older elementary age children and teens. Participants will read poems aloud, investigate a variety of poetic forms and participate in writing exercises. Please bring a favorite poem and your imagination!

Saturday, July 7 at 11 AM

"Magical Dream Creatures" Sculpey Clay Workshop

Let your imagination roam as we make a small wire armature and build onto it using sculpey clay. We will make monsters, aliens, pixies and sprites. We will use fabric and felt to dress them and then embellish them with a variety of fun art materials! "We are such stuff as dreams are made on...."- Prospero in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

Saturday, July 14 at 11 AM

"Scratchboard Illustration"

Let's draw animals. This workshop will have children explore scratchboard illustration and see the variety of patterns and textures they may create with this medium. Spend a relaxing morning at the library drawing with friends!

Thursday, July 19 at 6:30 PM

Please note this program is on a Thursday!!

Boston Museum of Science "Reptiles!" program.

Are snakes naturally slimy? Why do snapping turtles snap? Most importantly, what makes a reptile, a reptile? The best way to get acquainted with reptiles is to meet animals from the Museum's Live Animal Center. Together we will answer these questions as we learn about these incredible animals.

Saturday, July 28 at 11 AM

Anna Hendricks Dance Party!

Let's dance around on the sweet summer grass on Slate Library's lawn. Grab a dance partner or your mom and dad, and boogie to some summer tunes! Lots of fun will be had by all, so put on your dancing shoes (or come barefoot!).

Bring in your Gameboard all summer long for Prizes

Start Reading!!!!



Public Health

Franklin County Cooperative Public Health Services

Gill is accessing both health agent and public health nursing services as a member of the newly formed Franklin County Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS) under the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Regional Health Agent and Mass. Registered Sanitarian Glen Ayers has worked with the Gill Board of Health (BOH) over the last five years and will provide services in areas such as housing, Title-5 soil evaluations and plan reviews, food, private wells and septic.

Regional Public Health RN Lisa White will assist the BOH with communicable disease surveillance and reporting, and will provide preventative screening events (such as blood pressure clinics, flu vaccination, medication management screens) and direct assistance to town residents needing help with managing health issues and accessing needed health services. Residents may contact Lisa at 413-834-5596.

Both Glen and Lisa will report regularly to the BOH who direct their local efforts. BOH member Randy Crochier serves as representative member on the regional board that oversees and directs priorities of the CPHS.



UPINNGIL

**411 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354**

413-863-2297

Farm store open daily, 8 - 7.
Fresh milk, farmstead cheeses, eggs, and butter.
Also selling trash stickers.

Pick-your-own fruit and farm stand vegetables seasonally.



INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES USABLE METALS TOOLS	LAMP REPAIRS LAMP PARTS FURNITURE
<h3>Just Things</h3> <p><i>We Buy Anything From A Pin To An Elephant</i></p>	
ARTHUR COHEN 413-498-5043	MT. HERMON RD. NORTHFIELD, MA 01360



The Gill Tavern

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!

www.thegilltavern.com

Open Wed-Sun at 5 PM	326 Main Rd, Gill, MA
Sunday Brunch 10 AM-2 PM	☎ 413.864.9006



Solar Hot Water and Solar Electric

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



Giving Tree School

*Celebrating 35 years of
Providing High Quality
Preschool Education*

www.givingtreeschool.org
3 Wood Ave. Gill MA 413.863.9218



Doug's Auto Body

Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

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

39 Center Road
Gill, MA 01376

Jason P. Wallace
Owner

Quality Plumbing
Products and Service

Wallace Plumbing & Heating Gill, Mass.

Home 413-863-0014
Cell 413-575-0212

Master # M 13291
Journeyman # J 23453



Stephen Greenwald
President

P.O. Box 272
Turners Falls, MA 01376
413/863-8316 Fax 413/863-9712
www.renbuild.net

stephen@renbuild.net



Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald

REALTOR, ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR

75 Main Street; Suite 105,
Northfield, MA 01360

www.PamVeithRealEstate.com



Office: (413) 498-0207 x2
Cell: (413) 834-4444
Home: (413) 863-9166
Home Fax: (413) 863-0218
bedson1@comcast.net

Lyme incidence is up—check for ticks!

Lyme disease, a serious but treatable illness, is on the rise in spring and summer months. The most important thing you can do to reduce the risk of Lyme disease is to check yourself, your children and pets for ticks after coming inside. Tick bites may also be prevented by creating a barrier between the ticks and you. Isolate your yard from wooded areas with a dirt/sandy border. When in high risk areas, light colored clothing that covers skin with loose ends tucked in and use of an insect repellent with DEET or permethrin according to the instructions on the product label are recommended.

Only the deer tick (also known as black-legged tick) carries Lyme disease bacterium, usually requiring attachment for more than 24 hours. American dog ticks do not carry Lyme but do carry less common diseases so they should also be avoided. Tick I.D. cards are available at the Town Hall and the Library and provide a good tool to help identify both types of ticks at different life stages.

If you do find a tick attached to skin, use a pair of fine point tweezers to grip the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull straight out with steady pressure. Immediately after removal, wash the skin and your hands with soap and water, rubbing alcohol or an iodine scrub. Afterward, watch for the appearance of any type of rash, fever, or flu-like symptoms.

In addition to the Tick I.D. card, the Massachusetts Dept of Public Health has several publications providing detailed information on Tickborne diseases and how to prevent them. For more information go to www.mass.gov/dph or contact Lisa White, RN, Regional Public Health Nurse with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments at 413-834-5596.

School News

Gill School Improvement Plan Launched

Gill has a great elementary school! I feel somewhat qualified to say that because I can now attest to four different



decades of experience at what is affectionately known as “The Gill School,” and all four decades have been wonderful.

There have of course been many changes over the years, as there should be in education to adapt to the speed and complexity of change in the world around us. But somehow the core experience and “ethos” of the school have managed to stay remarkably intact. Part of it may be due to the stability of the teaching staff. My three children, though thirteen years apart, oldest to youngest, had many of the same lively, engaging, creative teachers over that period. Another part of it may be due to a strong core value that I describe as “*an aspiration to excellence.*” In the 60’s, when I was there, that was exemplified by the coveted “E for Excellence” award, a hand-painted piece of plywood with a big E emblazoned on it. Every week, a class identified by the staff as having shown the best motivation, the best performance, or the best attitude won the right to have the big “E” propped up on the tray of its classroom chalkboard. I can vividly remember, these many years later, vying with my sister’s and brother’s classes to win that “E.”

Now, as a Gill School Council member, I can tell you that is also what our School Improvement Plan is about—a continuing aspiration to excellence. Our small, lively

group—the Council includes a local parent, a school choice-in parent, a community member, a teacher, a community-based organization representative, and a new principal, among others—could not still make the document reflect who we are, what we’re good at, what we’d like to be even better at, and how we’re going to achieve those goals.

So here—abbreviated and paraphrased somewhat—is *The Gill School Improvement Plan*. Please read it; think about it; join us in making it happen. **School Staff would particularly like help with the community garden project and with utilizing the nature preserve behind the school.** Also, please respond to the Plan if you like, by writing The Gill School Council, Boyle Road, Gill MA, or emailing us care of kathleen.adams@gmrsd.org.

– Patricia Cosby

The Gill School Improvement Plan 2012-2013

Strategic Objective #1: Effective Instruction

Practices will be research-based.

Staff will hold high expectations for all students, share common understandings of high quality instruction, participate in systems for monitoring instructional practices.

How? By implementing common research-based instructional practices school-wide, “Learning Walkthroughs,” and a district professional development plan.

Goal: A 10 point percentage increase in students scoring Advanced/Proficient on MCAS.

Strategic Objective #2: Student Assessment

Use a balanced system of formative and benchmark assessments.

Offer differentiated professional development in data use, and use individual student data to differentiate instruction.

Next? Have the Student Support Team analyze data for instructional and behavioral support.

Goal: An increase of 10 percentage points in students testing Proficient in NWEA (A benchmark assessment used district wide K-12).

An increase of 10 percentage points in students testing Advanced/Proficient on MCAS.

Strategic Objective #3: Students’ Social, Emotional, and Health Needs

Adopt practices within a school-wide system that allow for each child to feel

healthy, safe, engaged, challenged, and supported by her/his school community.



THE WAY ROAD FOOD SHOULD BE

Serving
Breakfast
Lunch & Dinner
Beer & Wine
7 Days a Week

**RTE 2, GILL
413-863-8210**

ALAN D. WALLACE
Carpentry & General Contracting

River Road
Gill, Massachusetts 01376

NEIL A. ZILINSKI
ELECTRICIAN
RESIDENTIAL*COMMERCIAL
FULLY INSURED* FREE ESTIMATES
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE
OFFICE:413-498-2605 * CELL: 413-834-5780
LIC# 39553E
FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

TRAVEL KUZ

Darlene A. Kuzmeskus
President

darlene@travelkuz.com

P.O. Box 484
52 Main Road
Gill, MA 01376

888.863.8048 EXT. #10
413.863.2595
413.863.0235 FAX

Charter Service • Limosine Service • Tours • School Bus Service

Respond proactively and school-wide to discipline issues.

How? Implement anti-bullying curricula: Keeping Kids Safe(K-2), Steps to Respect(3-5), Owing Up(6)

Identify and use problem-solving process and strategies following staff and community input.

Teach school-wide expectations through strengthened implementation of Responsive Classroom.

Goal: 20% decrease in bullying, behavioral referrals, and classroom incidents.

Strategic Objective #4: Family-School Engagement

Develop strong working relationships with families, community partners and providers.

Promote summer reading through grade-level reading lists, Slate Memorial Library partnership for reading programs, and book availability.

How? Adopt thematic focus of art and nature.

Community garden; service-learning projects that meet an environmental need; murals, signs, bulletin boards; and classroom laboratories.

Goal: Students read over the summer, create a project and improve fluency.

2012 Graduates

Recent graduates from **Greenfield Community College** are Erika Heilig, Michael Olson, Colby Stone, Kristie Timberlake, and Ana Tricolici.

Abbey Daniel-Green graduated from **Lasell College** with a Bachelor of Arts degree and major in communication.

Northfield Mount Hermon awarded diplomas to Jane Booth, Lily Kane, Malik Odeh, Theodore Short, and Margaret Sturtevant on May 27.

Jacob Levin graduated from **Pioneer Valley Regional High School** and received the following scholarships: Selfless Service and Growth, the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship for MCAS-ELA and Math Mastery, The



Silver “P” Award-National Honor Society, Class of 1992, The Friends of Gill Scholarship, and the Fred W. Wells Fund Scholarship

Mary Katherine Duska also graduated from **Pioneer** but spent her senior year attending **Greenfield Community College**.

Benjamin Lawton graduated from **Frontier Regional High School** and received the Franklin First Federal Credit Union Scholarship and the Yankee Candle Scholarship. Ben will attend Greenfield Community College in the fall.

Samantha Shaw was the one Gill graduate this year from the **Franklin County Technical School**. Samantha’s interest was in the Health Technology Department.

At the **Four Rivers Charter Public School**, Zachary Wallenius-Duda graduated on Saturday, June 2.

Turners Falls High School honored graduates Chad Galipault, Matthew Gibson, Christopher Gordon, Katelyn Phillips, Brittany Rawson, and Todd Richardson on June 1. Chad Galipault received the Pop Warner Scholarship while Christopher Gordon received the Harriet A. Tidd Memorial Scholarship and the Mery O’Brien Memorial Scholarship. Katelyn Phillips was given the Franklin County Rotary Club Scholarship, Fred R. Whitcomb Scholarship,

and the Wells Trust Fund Scholarship. Todd Richardson received the William Connelly Memorial Scholarship.

Gill is proud of all of these accomplishments and heartily congratulates the 2012 graduates. We apologize for any omissions and hope you will contact us if you have additions or corrections.

HONORS For Gill Students

Pioneer Valley Regional School Third Quarter

Grade 12

Highest Honor: Jacob Levin

Grade 11

High Honor: Jaclyn Lafleur

Honor: Kaylyn Tognarelli and Jennifer Tufano

Grade 9

Highest Honor: Gabriel Duska

High Honor: Malcolm Crosby

Honor: Ellen Arena, James Elliott, and Cole Tognarelli

Grade 8

Highest Honor: Anna Messer, Simon van Baaren, and Julia Wallace

High Honor: Garrett Dintaman

Honor: Bradley Hastings

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Sophia Margola

Turners Falls High School Third Quarter

Grade 12

First Honors: Emily Robertson

Second Honors: Matthew Gibson, Brittany Rawson, and Kaleb Warren

Third Honors: Todd Richardson

Grade 11

First Honors: Timothy Meyer and Brittany York

Second Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Jonathan Marguet, and Nala Vaughn

Third Honors: Ceara Dolhenty and Beth Laramie

Grade 10

First Honors: Elliot Bertini-Franseen

Third Honors: Tyler Richardson

Grade 9

First Honors: Alexander Morin and Lexi Griffin

Second Honors: Spencer Hubert, Stephanie Robertson, and Nicholas York

Third Honors: Zachary Demars

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Mackenzie Phillips

Second Honors: Fallyn Adams

Third Honors: Krystal Cloutier and Nadia Hasan

Grade 7

First Honors: Gabrielle Arzuage, Tahner Castine, and Kate Sprankle

Second Honors: Bryn Kruzlic, Kaili Lynch, and Nicholas Morin

Grade 6

First Honors: David Tricolici

Turners Falls High School Awards Assembly April 2012

Academic Excellence in Marketing:

Katelyn Phillips

American Literature:

Katelyn Dodge

Excellence in Wellness:

Alex Morin

Exceptional Effort in Recreational Sports:

Matt Gibson

Achievement in Competitive Sports:

Todd Richardson

Excellence in Painting:

John Marguet

Instrumental Music Excellence:

Seth Lemieux

Excellence in Advanced Placement

Statistics: Timothy Meyer



Academic Excellence in Basic Video:

Jessica Gaines and Beth Laramie

Current Events:

Elliott Bertini-Franseen

Employment Skills Award:

Brittany Rawson

If we have inadvertently missed a Gill student, please let us know so we may include everyone in the future.

Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 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 gaining a nomination to the National Register for the center of town, 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, Pam Shoemaker, or Ivan Ussach. **Please note the special hours for the historical collection being open**

The GHC has been busy with a number of projects this spring. In our May meeting, we met with Sarah Doyle, who has studied the fossil prints in Gill and the Connecticut River Valley; she has

helped put together the Jurassic Road Show (www.jurassicroadshow.wordpress.com) that may be viewed in Deerfield this June. Robert Herbert, who is a retired Yale art history and history of science professor, also joined us. He talked about his work on the letters and journals of Professor Edward Hitchcock and his wife Orilla at Amherst College. Bob and Sarah are working on Greenfield's Dexter Marsh, who discovered the dinosaur bird prints in the slate he was laying for sidewalks in Greenfield. Gill's Roswell Field and Timothy M. Stoughton were also active with Hitchcock, Marsh, and others in the beginning of natural history study in this part of the Connecticut River Valley. Bob Herbert has already been back to the historical collection in Riverside to do more research and anticipates a return trip.

Unknown: *So far we cannot find in the Northfield or the Gill collections, a picture or portrait of Roswell Field. Please tell us if you know where one exists.*

Following the study of Slate Library's architectural history, we are progressing with research on the Town Hall, dedicated in 1868 as a one-story building; the second story was added in 1910. Before erecting the Town Hall, business was conducted in the 1790's meetinghouse, now church, and in local taverns in the center of

Gill. The first event in the Town Hall was a Fair and Festival held on December 19, 1867. The total cost of the building and furniture was \$3,380.86.

A number of residents have expressed concern about the Fall River bridge construction and its proximity to the abutments of the older bridges across the river. Several people have walked the site and studied the construction maps. We think the abutments are not affected but have written a letter to the Mass DOT Highway District 2's Director and to Northern Construction Service expressing our concern, and we will continue to watch this situation carefully. A partial history of the earlier bridges follows.

From Ralph Stoughton's HISTORY OF GILL, Vol. 1, pp. 212–213, on "Fall River Bridge":

The Greenfield Town Warrant dated May 11, 1789, contained an article "to see if they will build a bridge over Fall River between the Mills lately owned by Elisha Mack." This appears to have been the earliest date at which the town gave attention to the need of a bridge at the present location of the upper Factory Hollow Bridge. Previous to this time the river had been crossed by fording the upper end of the mill-pond at the foot of Cascade hill. A bridge at a location a short distance below was already in use, but no records seem to



disclose just what kind of a bridge it was, or when it was first constructed. In April 1796 the Town Gill appointed Moses Bascom, Lt. Reuben Shattuck, and Lt. Howland a committee to confer with a Greenfield committee on “having one bridge near the mouth of Fall River.” . . . In the 1797 spring freshet, both existing bridges were swept away but then re-built in 1797. . . . In 1798, by joint petition to the General Court, an act was passed directing the Town of Greenfield to maintain forever the upper bridge, and the Town of Gill, the lower one. In 1807 both bridges were again lost in a spring freshet and the Town of Greenfield appointed a committee . . . to rebuild “the bridge over Fall River at Chase’s Mills or contract with the Town of Gill to join with them in making a road so as to make two bridges unnecessary.” The project of a roadway on the east side of Fall River between the sites of the two bridges had evidently not been completely abandoned. The Town of Gill likewise appointed a committee to rebuild the lower bridge The following contract was made for its construction on December 11, 1807: We the subscribers a committee appointed by the Town of Gill to build a Bridge across Fall River do in the capacity of the committee aforesaid promise to pay Andrew Adams or order one hundred and twenty five Dollars by the first day of November next in cash or Grain pork or flax for building said Bridge the price of said grain pork and flax to be registered by the price current in Greenfield.

In 1902, almost one hundred years later, the wooden bridge at this location was replaced by a steel structure, high water during the intervening years having carried away too many bridges to enumerate. The usefulness of this lower bridge ended in 1932 when the French King Highway was opened, and the structural steel was sold by the town and the bridge removed and the bridge removed a few years later.

N.B. If you have memories or stories about any of the bridges over the Fall River, please talk with one of the GHC members.

COMMON PEOPLE CONCERTS 2012

June 19 : Vrbsky Trio

The Classics, From Florida to Vermont

June 26 : Zydeco Connection

Flavors of New Orleans

July 3 : Andy Davis

Folk music for Gill folk

July 10 : Stephanie Marshall Band

Country music with a Mass. twang

July 17 : Off the Grid

Tom Kane Brings Original Gill Sounds

July 24 : Nicole Alexandra

Tunes from Berklee College of Music

July 31 : Novo Swing

Swing the evening away ...

August 7 : Maria Siano

“Alternative” guitar concert

WHERE?

On Gill Common. If the weather is yucky, concerts will be held in Gill Congregational Church.

WHEN?

Summer Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 PM.
(Except 6/19 is at 8:00 PM in the church)

COST?

None, but bring your change for refreshments.

WHY?

Because Gill deserves lots of very good music.

MORE INFO?

Contact Steve at <damons_of_gill@yahoo.com>

*Thank you, Gill Cultural Council,
for funding this concert series!*



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.

Gill Fire Dept.
196 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354-9747

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

GILL, MA 01354