



THE

Gill Newsletter

October 2013 Issue

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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

Highway Truck Debt Exclusion Vote

77 residents turned out to cast ballots in the September 10th debt exclusion vote. With 39 votes opposed and 38 votes in favor, the ballot question to fund the \$155,000 replacement of the Town's oldest dump truck was defeated. This 1990 Ford, with over 8,000 hours of operation, is an important piece of the Highway Department's fleet, especially during the winter months. It is one of two large trucks equipped with a sander, so the old Ford is critical to keeping our roads safe and passable during snow and ice.

A replacement truck will be considered again during the capital planning and budget process for the next fiscal year, FY 2015.

With Great Appreciation

As she announced at the October 7th Select Board meeting, Ann Banash will not be seeking reelection to that board when her term expires this coming May. Ann has been a member of the Select Board for 21 years (7 terms!), and was on the Finance Committee before that. Thank You for every day and every way that you have served your Town. Ann, You have made a difference!

Community Service

Has it been a few years since you have belonged to a town committee? Perhaps you never have and want to take a turn? Maybe you are new to Gill, and are looking for a way to get to know your town?

If your answer is *yes* to any of these questions, consider volunteering to serve on one of our many great committees that have openings for new members. Are you interested in supporting and promoting farming activities in Gill? Try out the Agricultural Commission!

Interested in Public Access TV or helping to negotiate a cable contract renewal with Comcast? The Cable Advisory Commission is for you (especially since contract negotiation is the Town's best opportunity for expanding cable service to un-served roads).

Perhaps you have a passion for protecting rivers, streams, and wetland habitats. Stop in and check out the



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



Conservation Commission. As a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, you will have a chance to hear and decide on residential and commercial requests on land use and variances from town zoning bylaws.

Interested in learning more? Contact Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant, and he will put you in touch with the right people. Ray's phone number is 413-863-9347 and email address is administrator@gillmass.org.

Rep. Denise Andrews Office Hours

State Representative Denise Andrews will hold office hours on Tuesday, November 12, from 5:30 to 6:30PM at the Gill Elementary School. Please stop by and share your thoughts with Denise.

*Ray Purington,
Administrator Assistant*

Energy Report

Free Home Energy Assessment Helps You Save Money

Save money, be more comfortable, help the environment, and help Gill achieve the goal of reducing energy use 13% in 2013. *Sign up* for a no cost Home Energy Assessment and qualify for upgrades to your home's weatherization, learn about rebates and incentives, and qualify for money

saving opportunities. **So far we are 1/3 of the way to our goal. Please help us and sign up soon.**

Sign up in any of these ways:

- **Contact MassSaves directly at 1-866-527-7283**
www.masssave.com/residential/home-energy-assessments
- **Attend Gill Town Hall, Saturday, October 26 from 10:30-11:30 AM**
- **Sign up with Tim Holcomb, Community Organizer from Co-op Power.** You can also contact Tim at his office 413-772-8898 or find more information at www.cooppower.coop
- **Contact a Home Energy Contractor directly:**
Coop Power, Greenfield 877-266-7548
www.cooppower.coop
Energia, Holyoke 413-332-9111
EnergiaUS.com
Cozy Home Performance LLC., Easthampton 413-529-0200
www.mycozyhome.com
A. A. Arden, LLC., Attleboro 508-639-9811
Dennis@aaarden.com
- **Call Energy Commission members** (Janet Masucci @ 863-8694 or Pamela Lester @ 863-4125) and have us come to your home to sign you up.

April Energy Fair 2013

This April the Gill Energy Commission had an Energy Fair to kick off a campaign to reduce energy use in town by 13% in 2013. The first 100 homes in Gill that sign up get a Home Energy Assessment and commit to this pledge will receive a Gill Energy reduction lawn sign. The fair had exhibitors and demonstrations on practices and techniques to track and reduce energy use, develop a more sustainable lifestyle, live more comfortably, save money, and reduce carbon footprints.

You can see a video of our speakers on vimeo at vimeo.com/mctvchannel17.

Laura Biddulph, Community Outreach Specialist, Center for EcoTechnology spoke about building science, how it relates to the need to weatherize, and solutions including winserts.

Amy Donovan, Program Director, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District spoke about recycling, composting, hazardous waste, with a special focus on the climate change/waste diversion link.

John Walsh, Supervisor – Residential C&LM, Western Massachusetts Electric Company spoke about WMECO programs and ways that people can track and reduce energy consumption.

Special thanks to businesses that generously contributed prizes at



our Energy Fair:

Darlene Kuzmeskus, Travel Kuz- 6 Pairs of Casino Tickets, Eight 1# Chocolate bars, 28 Canvas bags. Value \$600 + Claire Chang, The Solar Store of Greenfield- 2 Smart Power Strips, LED light bulbs. Value \$100 +Peterman’s Boards and Bowls- Ebonized Cherry Wooden Bowl. Value \$95. Dee Dee Mares, Songline Emu Farm- Emu Oil and DuoFlex Two Step Pain Relief System. Value \$78 +Janet Masucci, Riverside Healing & Bodywork- Bodywork Gift Certificate. Value \$65 +Marcia Day, Freecycle- Approx. 100 wires for our lawn signs.

Thanks to the exhibitors who participated in our Energy Fair in April:

Franklin County Solid Waste, Center for Eco Technology, WMECO, Gill Montague 4-6 grade recycling class, Solar Store of Greenfield, Bart Bales—Energy Consulting Engineer, House Doctor Services, Hanley Green Clean Cleaning.

Please “like” our Gill Energy Commission Facebook page and pass the word.

Red Bicycle Racks

The Gill Energy Commission has been busy this year facilitating the Green Energy Grant that we received after we achieved status as a “Green Community”. Some



things are not visible to the passersby, but you may have noticed the red bicycle racks around town. Look in front of the library, the town hall, the Riverside Municipal Building, and tie up!

Honors to Gill Students

Dean’s List

Andrew Turban was named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Haven in Connecticut for the 2013 spring semester.

Nicholas D. Duska and Michael D. Olsen were named to the Dean’s List at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst for the 2013 spring semester.

All Academic Sports Team

Timothy Meyer was named to “The Republican All-Academic Sports Team: Spring 2013”. He pitched on the Turners Falls High School baseball team and graduated this past June. Academic: 4.15 GPA, National Honor Society, the Presidents Education Award, he is now attending UMass Dartmouth.

**HONOR ROLL
For Gill Students
Fourth Quarter**

Pioneer Valley Regional High School

Grade 12 (Graduated in June)

High Honor: Jaclyn Lafleur, Kaylyn Tognarelli and Jennifer Tufano

Grade 10

Highest Honor: Malcolm Crosby Honor: James Elliott

Grade 9

High Honor: Julia Wallace

Grade 8

Highest Honor: Sophia Margola

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Max van Baaren

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12 (Graduated in June)

First Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Timothy Meyer and Emily Robertson

Second Honors: Bethany Laramie and Brittany York

Third Honors: Nala Vaughn

Grade 10

First Honors: Alexander Morin and Nicholas York

Second honors: Zachary Demars, Jessica Gaines and Spencer Hubert

Grade 9

First Honors: Mackenzie Phillips

Third Honors: Krystal Cloutier and Nadia Hasan

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Gabrielle Arzuaga, Tahner Castine, Kaili Lynch and Kate Sprankle

Second Honors: Nicholas Morin

Grade 7

First Honors: Daniel Adams, Kyle Kucenski and David Tricolici

Second Honors: John Wheeler



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Grade 6

Second Honors: Reilan Castine

Frontier Regional School

Grade 10

High Honors: Kori Wileman

Franklin County Technical School

Grade 12 (Graduated in June)

Honors: Steven Gaines and Leslie Kozma

Grade 11

Honors: Shelbi Williams

Grade 10

Honors: Ryan Bezio

Grade 9

Honors: Fallyn Adams

Northfield Mount Hermon (Spring Semester)

Grade 12 (Graduated in June)

Honors: Emily Messer

Grade 11

High Honors: Elizabeth Sturtevant

Honors: John Arena

Grade 10

High Honors: Beatrice Dowdy and Gabriel Duska

Grade 9

Honors: Anna Messer, Charles Tierney, and Simon van Baaren

Town Forrest

A committee to discuss the next steps for the Town Forest will meet Tuesday, October 29 at 7:00 PM at the Gill Town Hall. If you are interested in joining the committee and/or attending the meeting, please contact Amy Gordon at agordon49@gmail.com.

Slate Library News

Autumn is here and so is a bunch of new books and DVD's! Among the many new titles for the avid reader is *The Cuckoo's Calling* by Robert Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling). The famous novelist who penned Harry Potter



has published a crime fiction novel under a pseudonym. If you are a mystery aficionado, you may also be interested in *Treacherous Paradise* by Sweden's Henning Mankell. If you prefer lighter fare, Carl Hiassen's *Bad Monkey* may also be found on the new books' shelf. In nonfiction we have Bill McKibben's latest, *Oil and Honey*, as well as Jen Stewart's lighthearted *The Tao of Martha*. Stop by and let the librarian know what you enjoy reading and see if you can find it on our crowded shelves.

For children and their caregivers, story hour begins this October. Each and every Friday at 10 AM we meet for stories, good company and of course popcorn! Some topics we will explore together include Apples, Harvest time, Furry friends, and Halloween. Come listen to a few good books and have fun at the craft table with a hands-on art project. We invite new families to join us, and while you are visiting, check out the new children's titles such as *Sophie's Squash* by Pat Zietlow and *The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes. We also have new audiobooks for children, including *The Whizz Bang Pop Chocolate Shop* and *The Garden Princess*. Audiobooks are a great way to enjoy a rainy afternoon or long car trip. Let us know what books you are reading and what books you have on your wish list for the upcoming months! We are always happy to hunt down that elusive request and find the perfect book for you.

Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Riverside Municipal Building on Route 2. The Commission is charged with planning for the preservation of historical sites and records within Gill. The GHC 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.

The current major projects of the GHC are working



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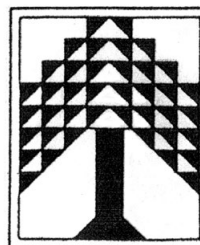
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to gain a nomination to the National Register for Gill Center; collaborating with FRCOG, Berkshire Regional Planning, and preservationist Bonnie Parsons to use a grant to place a section of Riverside along Route 2 in a National Historic District – an honorary designation. Ivan and Lynda continue to take digital pictures of gravestones in the three town cemeteries; this project is a collaboration with the Cemetery Commission and is funded through the Cultural Council grant program. We have also been talking with the Slate Library Trustees and the Energy Commission about ways to preserve the interior of Slate Library while addressing its need for insulation. GHC is asking the Select Board to add a warrant to the next town meeting to approve naming the town’s historical collection in honor of Allan D. Adie, Sr.; we feel strongly that he should be recognized for the thousands of hours he spent to collect and organize materials and records of Gill’s history.

We invite you at a special program honoring one of Gill’s famous citizens, Roswell Field.

Roswell Field (1804-1882), a prosperous farmer born in Northfield Farms and farming in Gill, would have remained unknown except for his role in uncovering Jurassic dinosaur tracks and selling them to scientists, collects, and institutions like Amherst College and Yale University. **At 1 PM on November 9, Robert L. Herbert, professor emeritus at Mount Holyoke College, will give a short lecture on Field at Greenfield Community College’s Stinchfield Lecture Hall during the 17th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show.** Herbert internationally known historian of art and its relations with science, has published widely on the early history of the Connecticut River Valley’s sandstone tracks.

When Greenfield’s Dexter Marsh died in 1853, and his little museum of sandstone tracks was sold, Field became the chief source for the sought-after fossils, at first thought to be the prints of giant birds. He owned an elongated strip of farmland in Riverside, which included some of the best known quarry of the tracks. Unmarried, he left no diary or memoir and only a few letters survive. Herbert, with the collaboration of Pamela Shoemaker of the GHC, Lynda



Hodson Mayo, town clerk and GHC member; Sarah L. Doyle, independent scholar, and Joel Fowler, Northfield historian, has written the first biography of Field, recently published on-line by Mount Holyoke College. Using Gill tax records and property deeds and a handful of letters, he has documented Field's business activities and the significance of his contributions to the collections and interpretations of the tracks. An address he gave in Springfield in 1859 was the first to publish the reasons why the "bird tracks" were made by dinosaurs.

Field knew many notable scientists who visited Gill to see him and the quarries along the Connecticut River there and in Turners Falls. The internationally famous biologist T.H. Huxley came in 1876, and called also on Timothy M. Stoughton, Field's Gill rival and successor in the track business. Over twenty-five years Field formed "collections" of tracks that he often sold to institutions and individuals. He bequeathed his final collection to the Mount Hermon School for Boys (now Northfield Mount Hermon in Gill).

You may read more about Dexter Marsh and Roswell Field on-line at Mount Holyoke College; Herbert's current work on James Deane in Greenfield will be finished early this winter, and then he will turn his research to another prominent Gill resident, Timothy M. Stoughton.

UPINNGIL



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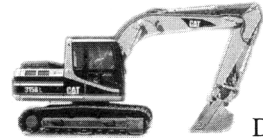
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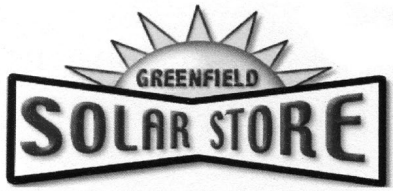
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Please send a copy of your business card and a check for \$60.00 payable to 'Town of Gill' to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354.

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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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