



THE

Gill Newsletter

May 2014 Issue

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Town Hall News

Annual Town Meeting

This year's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 5 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. We hope to see you there! Your thoughts and ideas, opinions, and votes are all important!

The Town Meeting will also be Ann Banash's final one as a member of Gill's Selectboard—a position she has held for nearly 21 years! And do not forget 10 years of service on the Finance Committee before that. We will take a moment during the meeting to pay tribute to Ann and to recognize her years of service and leadership.

In addition to the routine votes on Town and School budgets, there are several weightier matters to be decided this year. Voters will be asked to approve funds to install a new roof on the front half of the Public Safety Complex, which is the home of our Fire, Highway, and Police Departments. The existing membrane roof is more than 30 years old, and the frequency and severity of leaks has been increasing in the last few years. It is beyond its useful life and needs to be replaced.

The Gill-Montague Regional School Committee is asking Gill voters to establish a three-member "regional school district planning committee," which will work with similar

committees from Montague and Erving to explore the possibility of Erving's becoming a member of our school district. Erving currently operates its own elementary school and pays tuition to send grades 7-12 to Gill-Montague.

The Board of Assessors is seeking permission to raise the income level at which our senior citizens can qualify for a \$500 exemption on their property taxes. Currently the income limit is \$13,000 for a single individual and \$15,000 for a married couple.

It is proposed to raise these limits to \$15,000 and \$20,000 respectively. Recently the Assessors have had to deny exemptions to several seniors because Social Security increases had pushed their income above the limits.

Voters will be asked to establish an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund as a form of savings account for the Town's future health care insurance expenses for future retirees. There will also be a vote to create an Energy Stabilization



THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE TOWN OF GILL

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



Fund that will be used to pay off the loan for the boiler project at Gill Elementary and to fund other energy conservation projects.

Appreciation Party

An appreciation party for Ann Banash will be held on Monday, May 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Gill Tavern. Please drop in, spend time, and share stories with friends and neighbors, and say thank you to Ann for all she has done for our Gill. There will be a cash bar, and light refreshments will be served. (Cash donations are being collected to help defray the cost of the party and to go towards a gift for Ann. Please contact Ronnie LaChance, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, or Ray Purington.)

*Ray Purington,
Administrator Assistant*

Town Clerk News

Town Election

Town of Gill Annual Town Election is Monday, May 19 this year at the Fire Station at 196 Main Road, Gill. The election opens at Noon and closes at 8 PM.

Offices and candidates on the ballot this year are:

Select board,
Sewer Commissioner, three-year term: Fred O. Chase, II and Gregory M. Snedeker
Assessor, three-year term, Ray Purington.

Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term, Carrie Stevens.

Cemetery Commissioner, two-year term, Gary A. Bourbeau

Constables, three positions, three-year terms: Craig Gaudry, Fred O. Chase, II, and Fred O. Chase, III.

Board of Health, three-year term, Edward Galipault, Jr.

Library Trustee, three-year term, Megan Bathory-Peeler.

Tax Collector, three-year term, Ronnie LaChance.

Reminder to Dog Owners

Please remember that dogs in Gill must be kept on their leashes. Dogs are not allowed to run at large through neighborhoods. The Gill Bylaws mandate that owners found in violation will be fined. Thank you for cooperation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at 863-8103. The Town Clerk's office hours are Monday through Thursday 1 to 4 PM and 5:30 to 6:30 PM on Monday evenings.

Tax Collector

Real Estate and Personal Property **taxes are due on May 1, 2014.** The Collector's Office will be open May 1 from 9 AM to 5 PM. Payment has to be in the Collector's Office on the due date to avoid late charges.

Friends of Gill

The pancake breakfast was a huge success. With the addition of blueberry pancakes and bacon, we received many compliments on our menu. Thank you to everyone who attended. The Apple Pies went quickly. We are thinking of having another breakfast in the Fall and will definitely be selling more pies, both apple and others. Thank you for your continuing support of our fund raising efforts.

Honor Rolls

College Honors

Timothy Meyer was named to the dean's list at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth for the fall 2013 semester.

Andrew Turban was also named to the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester at the University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut.

Benjamin Virgilio, a senior attending Champlain College in Burlington VT, was honored at the annual senior awards dinner for the Division of Information Technologies and Sciences Division. The dinner recognizes outstanding students and their achievements. Ben, a Computer Networking and Information Security student, was given the Outstanding Student Award. Ben also received the Chandler Page Memorial Award for the student



who exhibits the “highest type of college spirit” while at Champlain.

HONORS For Gill Students Second Quarter

Franklin County Tech

Grade 12

Honors: Shelbi Williams

Grade 11

Honors: Ryan Bezio

Grade 10

Honors: Fallyn Adams

Grade 9

Honors: Robert Rinaldi

Pioneer Valley Regional High School

Grade 11

High Honors: Malcolm Crosby and James Elliott

Grade 10

Highest Honors: Julia Wallace

Grade 8

Highest Honors: Max van Baaren

Grade 7

Highest Honor: Audrey Corrigan
Honors: Rylie Zager

Turners Falls High School

Grade 12

Second Honors: Elliot Bertini Franseen,
Brittany Rawson and Kaleb Warren
Third Honors: Sarah McCune

Grade 11

First Honors: Alexander Morin
Second Honors: Nicholas York
Third Honors: Zachary Demars, Lexi Griffin,
Spencer Hubert and Stephanie Robertson

Grade 10

First Honors: Mackenzie Phillips

Grade 9

First Honors: Gabrielle Arzuage, Bryn
Kruzlic, Kaili Lynch and Jeffrey Wolfram
Second Honors: Tahner Castine and
Nicholas Morin

Great Falls Middle School

Grade 8

First Honors: Kyle Kucenski, David Tricolici
and John Wheeler
Second Honors: Branden Chapin

Grade 7

First Honors: Emily Minor and Ethan Shilo-
Draper
Second Honors: Reilan Castine

Grade 6

First Honors: Alyson Murphy
Second Honors: Mason Kucenski

*If you are a Gill student who has not
been included in this list, please let us
know so that we may commend you
in the future.*

Energy Commission

The Gill Energy Commission held a free Composting Made Easy workshop on Saturday, April 5, 10 AM-noon at the Gill Town Hall. Amy Donovan, Program Director at Franklin County Solid Waste District, taught a composting workshop. The 28 attendees learned how to convert vegetable kitchen waste and yard waste into rich soil all year long. Amy brought along plastic containers with holes drilled to be suitable homes for worm composting that can be nurtured in the basement all year long. After showing photos

of some large composting facilities here in Western Mass, participants went across the street to construct the “Earth Machine” composter behind the Gill Tavern. Chris Pietras, co-owner of the tavern, contributed some soil, food scraps, and hay from his gardens as Amy layered it with dry leaves and kitchen vegetable scraps to demonstrate the technique. Gill residents who attended automatically received kitchen counter composting buckets. If you would like one, please go to the Town Hall while they last.

Alden Booth has 5 gallon buckets with handles and lids available for free to those who would like them. To arrange, contact Alden directly at alden.booth@gmail.com or (413) 824-8320.

Let’s make every day Earth Day!

The upcoming workshops scheduled in the Gill Energy Commission’s 2014 series are:

Electrify your bicycle, with Peter Talmage on May 10, 9AM–Noon at the Gill Town Hall. The workshop is FREE. Transportation is a large part of everyone’s budget. Riding your bike instead of keeping it in the garage will save lots of dollars. Of course Gill and Western MA have a lot of hills. This workshop will explain the different types of ways a bicycle can



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be converted to electric power as well as the costs and the sources of products. As part of the workshop a bike will be converted to demonstrate the technique.

No Till in Gill with Alden Booth at Alden's house in Gill on June 7, 9 AM–Noon. FREE—Save time, energy and water too! Leave your rototiller in the garage this year. How you use your garden this summer and “put it to bed” this fall enables you to be rototiller-free in the spring. By using a garden fork and the same beds and rows each year, you can have awesome soil that is so easy to plant in. Alden will demonstrate rotating compost piles, using a passive worm pile (earth's rototillers), and both direct seeding and transplanting seedlings into till-free beds. Alden will also demonstrate his roof water collection and gravity irrigation systems.

The rest of the 2014 workshop series are:

NEW DATE—>September 13, 9 AM–1PM,
Solar Hot Air Heating, Peter Talmage.

October 25, 9 AM–Noon,
Weatherize your home, Peter Talmage.

November 8, 9 AM–Noon,
Make a Winsert To Take Home, Peter Talmage.

November 22, 9 AM–Noon,
Building Free Energy Root Cellars, Alden Booth.

The number of participants in workshops is limited by space. Pre registration is required. To register, call Janet Masucci at (413) 863-8694 or email jmasucci@msn.com. For more information and pictures, go to: <http://gillmass.org/energy.php> and the Gill Energy Facebook page.

Gill Town Forest

Since the fall, the Gill Town Forest Task Force has been meeting on a regular basis. We have met with knowledgeable people in the field of land and forest conservation. Paul Cantanzaro is, a forestry extension service special-

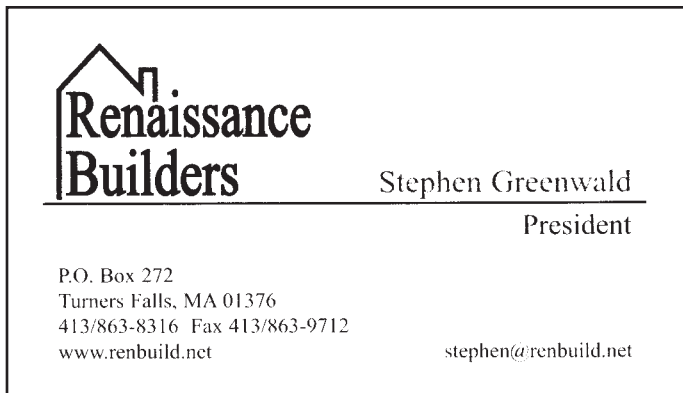


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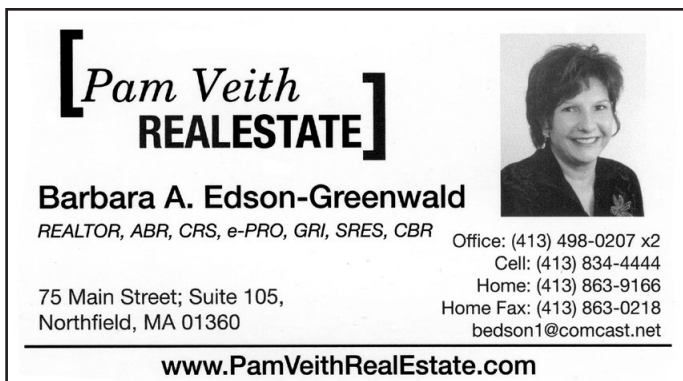
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ist of U. Mass, and Emily Boss is with the Franklin Land Trust. We have applied for and have been granted funds by the DCR to move forward with a Forest Stewardship Plan. We have invited Mary Wigmore of Wigmore Forest Resource Management as the forester to design the plan. Our primary goal, in the eloquent words of one of our members, is to: *Work with others in the community to preserve a quiet, semi-wild place for birds, animals, and passive public recreation at minimal cost to the town.* Jessie Prucnal, a senior forestry student at U. Mass, will be interning with Mary Wigmore and submitting designs for trail systems. Please let us know if you have questions and/or would like to be involved: Amy Gordon (agordan49 @gmail.com) or 413-883-0490.

READING THE FORESTED LANDSCAPE

with Tom Wessels

May 8, 6 PM, Greenfield Community College—FREE

Join Tom Wessel for a talk about how to decipher the evidence etched into our forested landscape to unravel its complex stories. Using evidence such as the shapes of trees, scars on their trunks, the pattern of decay in stumps, the construction of stone walls, and the lay of the land, Tom will teach you how to piece together the stories and history of our local forests. The speaker is an ecologist and founding director of the master's program in Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England. For more information, contact Wendy Ferris at 413-625-9151.

Slate Library

With warmer weather, stop by Slate Library to pick up some great reading. The many new titles include *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Valley of Amazement* by Amy Tan, and *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tart. The latter recently won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Are you in the mood for gardening? New non-fiction reading includes *What's Wrong With My Fruit Garden?* by David



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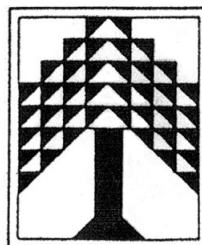
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Slate Library continues to offer **story hour** on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM. This program runs through June, and we always welcome new families to join us for stories, arts & crafts, and delicious popcorn. At the end of June, our **summer reading program** for kids will kick into gear. Once again we will offer a variety of fun summer events for kids on the library lawn. Some early dates to note include **July 19** when the library will host *Rainforest Reptiles*, a show for kids of all ages. On **July 12** we will hold our first ukulele jam session. Local musicians Julie Stempanek will bring a carload of ukuleles to the library and get everyone playing music. Please stop by the library for a full schedule of events for June and July.

Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 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 nominations to the National Register for Gill Center and for Riverside, 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.

Allan D. Adie, Sr., was a long-time resident of the Town of Gill. Among his many contributions to the town, he was the guiding force behind the creation of the Gill Historical Commission, which came into being in 1983. In honor of Mr. Adie's vision and hours of dedication in preserving the history of Gill, the Gill Historical Commission proposes to name the town's collection the Allan D. Aide, Sr. Historical Commission. Since the historical collection belongs to the Town of Gill, a vote on naming it is required by the annual town meeting. The GHC has asked the Select Board to include the proposal as a warrant this May.



SPRING COMES TO GILL DIARY 1868 - SIMON CADY PHILLIPS

April SUNDAY 19 1868

At home all Day pleasant grass begins to look green

April FRIDAY 24 1868

Worked for **J.P. Morgan** framing . . . and Rafters Self one day \$2.50

Clesson 1 day \$1.00 Total: \$3.50 Old cow calved –

SUNDAY 26

Dwight Goodnough here went down to **L. Bartons**
Carried **Emma** up to School (Powers Institute)

April MONDAY 27 1868

Worked to **J.F. Griswolds** and up to see **Williams'** Barn and commenced framing for his Barn

TUESDAY 28

Worked for **J.F. Griswold** framing Barn Sills 1 Day
Clesson (his son) worked 1 day

May SATURDAY 2 1868

Rains – went over to **Griswolds** and by **J. Morgans** home and in afternoon went to Greenfield carried Box of Butter – left it at **Waits** to be sent to Boston. **Emma** came home on foot (from Bernardston to South Cross Road in Gill).

May SUNDAY 3 1868

At home all day **Mrs. Stearns** put cow in our pasture

THURSDAY 7

Worked for **J.F. Griswold** framing Posts and braces
Boys plowed corn land – had **Clark's** horse

FRIDAY 8

Snowed in morning Worked for **J.F. Griswold** framing Barn Posts $\frac{3}{4}$ Day

Boys ploughing 2 hours – had **Clarks** horse **Emma's** school (Powers Institute) closed



UPINNGIL

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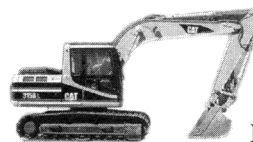


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The costs of mailing the newsletter have increased so that our budget is very tight. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses, we would appreciate your sending a check, payable to "Town of Gill", to Barbara Watson, 143 River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

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