

# TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)

## **EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the 2019 novel Coronavirus outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19");

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, Governor Charles Baker declared a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;

WHEREAS, the disease caused by the 2019 novel Coronavirus is a contagious, and at times fatal, respiratory disease;

WHEREAS, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and the disease can spread from person to person via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes;

WHEREAS, both travel-related cases and community contact transmission of COVID-19 have been detected in the Commonwealth and such transmission is expected to continue;

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has instituted a Public Health Incident Management Team to manage the public health aspects of the incident;

WHEREAS, the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 and the effects of its extreme risk of person-to-person transmission throughout the United States and the Commonwealth significantly affect the life and health of our people, as well as the economy, and is a disaster that impacts the health, security, and safety of the public;

WHEREAS, it is critical to take additional steps to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to protect the health and welfare of the people of the Town of Gill;

WHEREAS, declaring a state of emergency will facilitate and expedite the use of Town of Gill resources and deployment of state and federal resources to protect persons from the impacts of the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Head of State upon advice of the Town's Emergency Management Director has determined that the aforesaid incident poses a present and reasonable imminent danger to public health, safety or general welfare of the people or their property so that it has become necessary for the Director to utilize and coordinate the services, equipment, supplies and facilities of existing departments, offices and agencies of the Town for the purposes of civil defense/emergency management and emergency functions;

WHEREAS, the Head of State has determined immediate public action is needed to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to the public health, safety or general welfare of the people of Gill or their property which may otherwise result from the above described incident and that taking the time required to comply with the various state and local procurement laws would endanger the health or safety of the people or their property;

WHEREAS, the Head of State has recommended that state of emergency be declared in the Town of Gill;

WHEREAS, the people of the Town of Gill should be able to depend upon guidance from their chief executive officer, John R. Ward, Selectboard Chair,

NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Ward, Selectboard Chair of the Town of Gill, Massachusetts, hereby declare that as of 5:35 PM on March 16, 2020 a state of emergency exists in the Town of Gill. This declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until further notice is given, pursuant to my judgment that the state of emergency no longer exists.

Date: 3/16/2020

(signed copy on file)  
Selectboard Chair of Gill