

**TOWN OF GILL**  
**M A S S A C H U S E T T S**



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

**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
*March 6, 2017*

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

Members Present: John Ward, Randy Crochier      Members Absent: Greg Snedeker  
Others Present: Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant; Janet Masucci; Kent Alexander; Chet Kuzontkoski, Gary Bourbeau, Merri Bourbeau, Elaine Smith

Memorial Committee Flag Project: Chet Kuzontkoski, Chair of the Memorial Committee, along with three other members of the committee, met with the Selectboard to explain the Committee's plans to hang US flags on 17 utility poles around Gill Center. The committee will seek donations from Gill businesses and residents to pay for the flags and mounting hardware. Permission to use the utility poles has been received from Eversource, and the committee will be responsible for the initial installation of the mounting brackets, as well as for putting up and taking down the flags. The flags will be displayed from Memorial Day through Veterans' Day.

The flags and hardware will be purchased from Sentry Uniform in Chicopee. Sentry had the lowest price, \$42.95 per set, of the several vendors considered. Sentry was also highly recommended by other towns who have done similar flag displays.

The Committee plans to send thank you cards to donors, and will give recognition to donors after this year's Memorial Day services. Thank you advertisements are also planned for the Gill Newsletter, Montague Reporter, and the Recorder.

The Selectboard showed support for the project. Kuzontkoski thanked the Selectboard, and promised to keep them informed of any developments. Kuzontkoski, G. Bourbeau, M. Bourbeau, and Smith left the meeting at 5:54 PM.

Minutes: Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to approve the minutes of 2/21/17. The vote was 2-0 in the affirmative.

Sewer I&I Study: The Selectboard met with Riverside Water District Commissioners on February 28<sup>th</sup> and discussed ways to control costs and minimize future increases to water and sewer rates. Most of the discussion focused on illicit sump pumps, and possible ways to identify houses with sump pumps. Town Counsel will be consulted on two ideas:

1. If sewer officials have reasonable suspicion that a property has a sump pump, roof drain, or similar device connected to the sewer system, and the property owner denies entry for a sewer inspection, can there be a presumption that an illicit connection exists? If yes, what enforcement options are available?
2. Could sewer officials establish an annual fee, possibly a "sewer inspection fee," that is charged to all sewer customers? If a property owner allows sewer officials to conduct an interior inspection for illicit connections, and no such connections are found, then the owner would be eligible to have the fee abated.

Gill Elementary Well: No progress last week.

Mariamante Property/Community Solar: Nothing to report.

Annual Reports: No progress last week.

Oak Street Easement: The Selectboard reviewed an updated sketch of the proposed easement requested by Bob Callery for his property at 2 Oak Street. In a 2/28 phone call, Callery requested adding the existing shed into the easement area. Previously he had indicated that he was willing to remove the shed, but he has had a change of heart. He believes the shed adds value to the property, and believes that removing the shed and its foundation is not

something he could accomplish. In considering the new sketch, the Selectboard several times pointed out that their handling of this easement should in no way be considered establishing policy or setting precedent. Each easement is unique, and each will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Ray reported that Jeff Suprenant from the Riverside Water District has given his ok on the sketch, but the Highway Superintendent has not had a chance to do his review. Ray recommended that if the Selectboard is comfortable with the current sketch, that they approve it subject to no objections from the Highway Superintendent, in order to allow the process to move forward. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to approve the easement as shown, subject to no objections from the Highway Superintendent. The vote was 2-0 in the affirmative.

Tree Warden Resignation: The Selectboard received the resignation of Ernie Hastings as the Town's Tree Warden, effective February 24<sup>th</sup>. It was accepted with deep regret, and it was noted that Hastings had served in that capacity since 1978 – nearly 40 years! A letter of appreciation will be sent. It is an elected position, and the vacancy will appear on the ballot for the May 15<sup>th</sup> town election. It was also noted that the Town is currently without a representative to the School Committee for the Franklin County Technical School.

Historical Commission – Surplus Display Units: Ray reported that no committees or departments have expressed interest in the two large, double-sided shelving units that are no longer wanted by the Historical Commission. Randy made a motion, seconded by John, to declare the shelving units as surplus equipment of the Town. The vote was 2-0 in the affirmative. Ray will work with the Historical Commission to offer the items for sale, probably through the website, Facebook, and Craigslist.

FirstLight Meeting re FERC Relicensing: The Selectboard reviewed the agenda for a “Settlement Kick-off Meeting” being held by FirstLight on March 7<sup>th</sup> in Burlington, Mass. The meeting, which is not open to the public, is meant to bring together interested parties (towns, state agencies, and watershed/river groups) to discuss ways to reach agreements on key issues related to FirstLight's application to FERC for relicensing of the Turners Falls Project and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project.

Topics of importance to Gill were discussed: restoration of riverbank erosion and prevention of future erosion; continued operation of Gill-based recreation facilities (canoe/kayak rental facility, Barton Cove campground); and maintenance of the channel from the public boat ramp to the main channel of the river. It is a concern that confidentiality rules could apply to these settlement meetings. The relicensing process to date has been open to the public, and the item being negotiated, the Connecticut River, is very much a public asset and resource, even if FirstLight doesn't see it as such. It is also desired that any future meetings be held in Franklin County.

John will represent the Selectboard at the meeting, and Phil Gilfeather-Girton will attend on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

Kent Alexander left the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2017 warrant #18.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant.*

*Signed copy on file. Approved 03/20/2017*

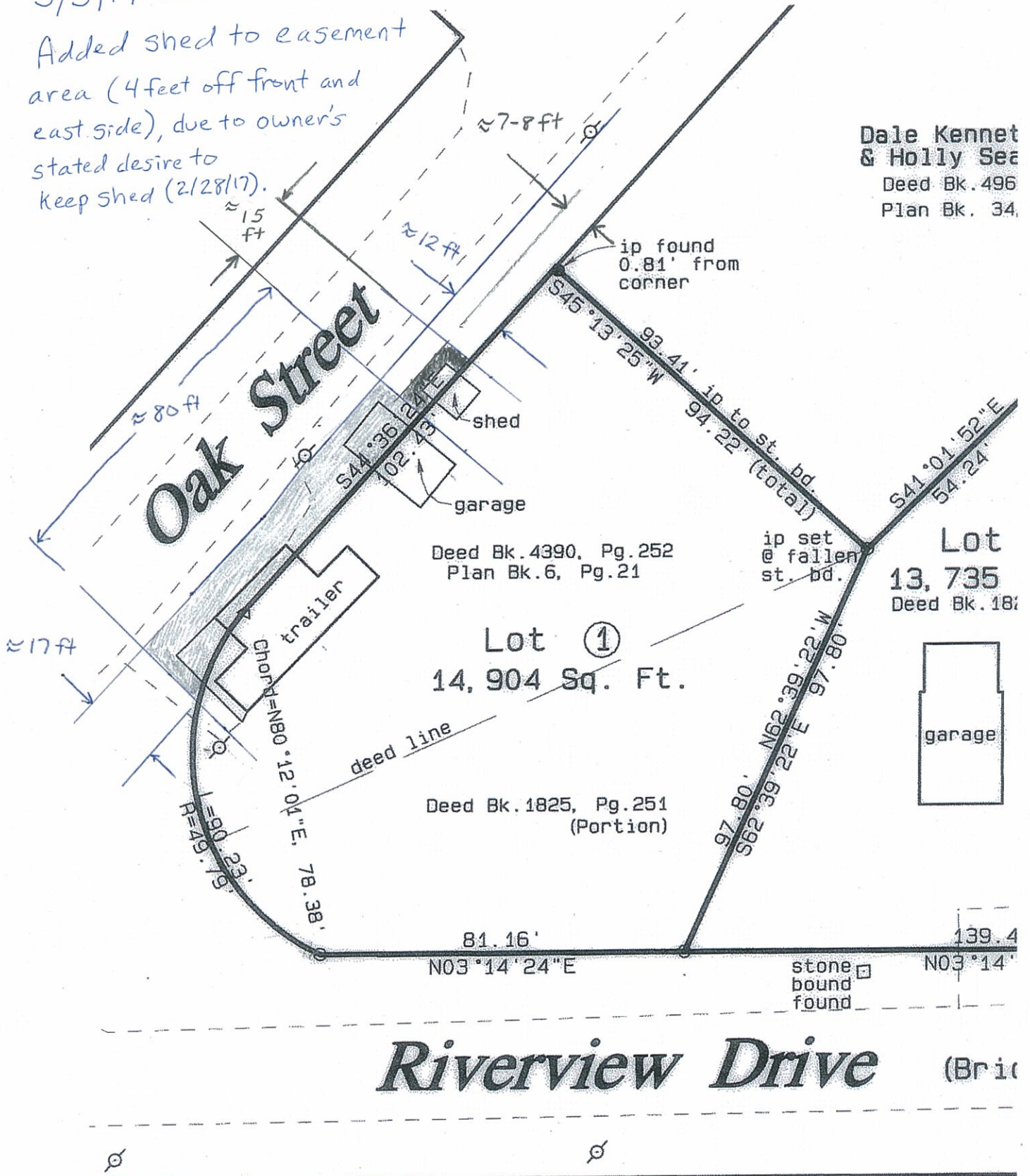
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Randy Crochier, Selectboard Clerk

3/3/17 Draft

Added shed to easement area (4 feet off front and east side), due to owner's stated desire to keep shed (2/28/17).

Dale Kennet & Holly Sea  
Deed Bk. 496  
Plan Bk. 34



# Riverview Drive

- trailer, porch, & garage can be maintained and repaired, but not replaced or reconstructed except with proper setback.

- 4' off canopy at NW end of trailer
- 8' off porch foundation

- ~~perpendicular~~ from utility pole to prop. line
- parallel to front of garage, out as far as back (garage side) of utility pole.
- straight line from back of telephone pole to 8' line

is plan has been prepared rules and regulations of the Commonwealth of

January 17, 2012  
\_\_\_\_\_  
yor Date

SCALE 1"=30'



- right of access reserved for Town and Riverside Water District to maintain/repair service underground sewer and water lines.

- 4' off SE side of garage
- shed & block foundation to be removed

## Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

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**From:** Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard <administrator@gillmass.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 3:32 PM  
**To:** Lynda Hodsdon Mayo (townclerk@gillmass.org); Ronnie LaChance; Brian Koshinsky; Doug Edson (renexc@gmail.com); Tom Hodak (thodak@gmail.com); Carrie Stevens; 'Christopher Polatin'; Bev Demars; Sue Kramer; Gene & Dorri Beaubien; chief@gillmass.org; Mick LaClaire; Lynda Hodsdon Mayo (townclerk@gillmass.org); Ronnie LaChance; Claire Chang (claire@solarstoreofgreenfield.com); 'valeria smith'; Jocelyn Castro-Santos (gill.slate.library@gmail.com); Chet Kuzontkoski; Doug Smith; Nick Stevens; Suzanne Smiley  
**Cc:** 'Pam Shoemaker'; Ivan Ussach (ivanussach@gmail.com); 'Greg Snedeker (gksnedeker@gmail.com)'; 'John R Ward (johnrward.ward54@gmail.com)'; 'Randy Crochier (hxydad77@yahoo.com)'  
**Subject:** surplus shelving units from Historical Commission/Riverside Museum

The Gill Historic Commission (GHC) is in the process of re-organizing and de-cluttering the Museum space at the Riverside Building, and have two large, double-sided shelving units that they no longer need. Photos and a description are below. Naturally, the contents of the shelves are not included.

If you think this is something your department, office, building, board, committee, etc. could put to good use, now is the time to say something. Unless the GHC or I hear someone say "Dibs!" before March 6<sup>th</sup>, the plan is to have the Selectboard declare the shelving units to be surplus, and we will embark on the process to make the shelves go away.

Ray

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**From:** Pam Shoemaker [mailto:pshoe27@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 08, 2017 1:15 PM  
**To:** Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard <administrator@gillmass.org>; Ivan Ussach <ivanussach@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: RMB shelving

Hi, These are the shelving units that the GHC wants to de-acquisition. We have two big ones that are double-sided. Put against a wall, they become one-sided. Adjustable plate glass shelves.  
There are also plate glass fronts that may be screwed on to each section. We would be glad to get rid of the units and the glass but they could be taken separately.  
The approximate height of each unit is 6 1/2-7 feet.

We







We would be glad to give exact measurements and to show the cases to anyone who is interested. Contact me by email or phone 413-863-4170. Pam

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## Agenda for Settlement Kick-off Meeting

### Turners Falls Project and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project

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Meeting Date/Time: March 7, 2017, 9:00 am to Noon

Meeting Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Burlington, MA (5 Wheeler Road, Burlington, MA 01803)

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- Opening remarks and Introductions
- Purpose and Scope of settlement discussions
- Order of issues for settlement
- Overall schedule for settlement
- Location of settlement meetings
- Relationship of settlement discussions to FERC proceeding
  - Status of FERC process and upcoming milestones
- Comprehensive vs Partial Settlement
- Ground rules and Confidentiality
- Communications regarding settlement with outside parties, including FERC
- Communications among settlement parties
  - Written records of meetings
  - Bilateral communications



## Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

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**From:** Gus Bakas <Gus.Bakas@firstlightpower.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2017 10:22 AM  
**To:** admin@northfieldma.gov; Admin.bryan.smith@erving-ma.org; townadmin@montague-ma.gov; administrator@gillmass.org; john\_warner@fws.gov; caleb.slater@state.ma.us; misty-anne.marold@state.ma.us; brian.d.harrington@state.ma.us; sean.mcdermott@noaa.gov; kevin\_mendik@nps.gov; kkennedy@tnc.org; kkennedy@tnc.org; afisk@ctriver.org; wtminer@crocker.com; kmacphee@frcog.org; aharo@usgs.gov; normsims@me.com; bob@americanwhitewater.org; tom.christopher@comcast.net; Verville, Sarah; Tom Sullivan; Wood, Julia; Swiger, Mike; Kahn, Adam; Marc Silver; James Donohue; Mark Wamser  
**Cc:** John Shue; Peter Rider; Tom Kaslow; Elliott Stewart; Douglas Bennett; Ed Hathaway; Donald Traester; Kristyn Bates; Laurie Amarosa  
**Subject:** FirstLight Stakeholder Meeting - Hold the Date.

Dear Interested Stakeholder:

FirstLight would like to initiate discussions regarding potential settlement for the FERC relicensing of the Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Projects.

Accordingly, your organization is invited to a kick-off meeting on March 7, 2017.

The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Burlington, MA (5 Wheeler Road, Burlington, MA 01803) from 9 am until noon.

Agenda items contemplated for the kick-off meeting are procedural issues such as a discussion of ground rules for participating in settlement, confidentiality, a schedule for future meetings, and the order in which we plan to address the issues.

Discussion of substantive issues will not begin until late spring after the next round of reports are filed on March 1, 2017 (Study 3.3.5 *Evaluate Downstream Passage of American Eel*; Study 3.3.20 *Evaluate the Use of an Ultrasound Array to Facilitate Upstream Movement to Turners Falls Dam by Avoiding Cabot Station Tailrace*; and Study 3.8.1 *Evaluate the Impact of Current and Potential Future Modes of Operation on Flow, Water Elevation and Hydropower Generation*) and in April 2017 when FirstLight agreed to file certain report addenda.

If you and your representatives are interested in participating in settlement discussions, please reserve March 7<sup>th</sup> for a kick-off meeting. Also, if your organization is participating, please confirm who will be attending so we can plan accordingly.

Because this meeting is intended to initiate confidential settlement discussions, it will not be open to the press or general public.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

**Gus Bakas**

Director Massachusetts Hydro

FirstLight Power Resources, Inc.



Tel: (413) 422-5915

Tel: (413) 659-4410

Cell: (508) 564-3530

Fax: (413) 659-4459

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Northfield, MA 01360

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