



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

July 6, 2020

Location: Teleconference - access info in the agenda

***Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting

bold underlined time = invited guest or advertised hearing
(all other times are approximate)

This meeting is being conducted remotely by all participants due to the State of Emergency related to COVID-19 and under the "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting, G.L. c. 30A, §20" issued by Governor Baker on 3/12/20. FreeConferenceCall.com is being utilized for the teleconference. It is audio only. Anyone wishing to participate may call 712-775-7031 and then enter the Access Code of 883-045-865. The toll-free number is 844-800-5000 – the Town is charged by the minute per caller, so please use this only when necessary.

5:30 PM Call to Order (If the meeting is being videotaped, announce that fact. If remote participation will occur, announce member & reason, & need for roll call voting)

COVID-19 Topics

- Updates from weekly conference call with Gill's Emergency Management Team
- Police Department – Discussion of continued 3rd fulltime officer for COVID-related coverage

Old Business

- Review of Minutes: 5/26, 6/8, 6/22

New Business

- Will LaRose – Introduction of candidate for State Representative for 2nd Franklin District
- Fire Department Fee Schedule – add \$10 fee for Hot Works Permit (any work process that involves heat, spark, or flame that is capable of starting fires or explosions)
- Mount Hermon Road Closure – Resident Concerns
- Highway Department Vacancy – Hiring Recommendation from Superintendent & Town Admin
- Gill Community Choice Power Supply Program
 - Correspondence – Letter from Ellen Hastings
 - Product Selection for Town building & streetlight accounts (Riverside Building -2 accounts, Streetlights – 3 accounts, Town Hall, Safety Complex, & possibly Library)
- FirstLight – Request to Use Red Bridge Abutment to mount river elevation gauge (existing use) and to mount a new sign for "Danger, Dam Ahead"
 - Feedback Provided by Gill Historical Commission
- Sewer Commitment – 2020 #4 Bill date of 7/21/20, \$42,289.66 & authorize Chair to sign
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any

Warrants

FY20 # 27 – reviewed & signed by the Chair on 6/23; Payroll \$30,157.09, Vendors \$44,682.32

FY21 # 1 – reviewed & signed by the Chair on 7/1; Vendors \$109,890.96

FY20 # 28 & FY21 #1 payroll – to be reviewed & signed by the Chair and reported on at the next meeting

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
7/20	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	TBD
8/3	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	TBD

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

FIRE DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE Effective July 7, 2020

PERMIT TYPE	PERMIT	INSPECTION	TOTAL
Black powder	\$10		\$10
Blasting	\$30		\$30
Candle	\$25		\$25
Cannon firing	\$10		\$10
Display of fireworks	\$50		\$50
Flammable decorations	\$10		\$10
Hot works	\$10		\$10
Model rocket firing	\$10		\$10
Oxygen/acetylene/LP	\$10		\$10
Salamander use for construction work	\$10		\$10
Smoke/CO detector certificate (per dwelling unit)	\$25	\$25	\$50
Storage of flammable liquids	\$25	\$25	\$50
Underground tank installation	\$40	\$15	\$55
Underground tank removal	\$35	\$50	\$85
Underground storage facility	\$35	\$50	\$85
Tank truck	\$10	\$35	\$45
Oil burner	\$15	\$30	\$45
Alarm system malfunctions			\$200
Copy of fire report			\$10
Installation of Fire Alarm		\$25	\$25
Installation of Fire Suppression for a Hood		\$25	\$25

Approved by the Selectboard 07/06/2020

Telephone 413-863-9347

325 Main Road, Gill MA 01354
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Fax 413-863-7775

June 25, 2020

Board of Selectmen
Town of Gill
325 Main Rd
Gill, MA 01354

Gentlemen:

I am writing to you regarding the piece of mail that came from the town about Synergy Energy Services.

In my opinion you have gone about this wrong. Instead of making citizens return the card to 'opt out' it should have been just the opposite. There are going to be a lot of Gill residents who won't read the mail because it looks like propaganda. I myself almost throw it all away without reading it. I actually read it twice before I signed the card and mailed it back. I am always getting mail wanting me to switch and I just recycle it. Perhaps you should think about the people receiving a notice like this before you send it out pretty

much demanding they respond
in order to keep what has been
working for them.

One more thing. Isn't this a conflict of
interest to one of the board members?

Sincerely,

Eileen Hastings

OFFICIAL TOWN BUSINESS



Town of Gill

c/o Dynegy
P.O. Box 650764
Dallas, TX 75265

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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PERMIT NO. 495



*****AUTO**MIXED AADC 630

DO NOT DISCARD – IMPORTANT Notice Regarding Electricity Rates



THE TOWN OF GILL’S
COMMUNITY CHOICE POWER SUPPLY PROGRAM
CONSUMER NOTIFICATION

June 19, 2020

Dear Gill Basic Service Consumer:

The Town of Gill is pleased to announce that **Dynegy Energy Services** (“Dynegy”) has been selected as the supplier for its Community Choice Power Supply Program (“Program”). This Program is a municipal aggregation which enables local government to combine the purchasing power of its residents and businesses to provide them with an alternative to Eversource Basic Service (M.G.L. c. 164, § 134). This Program only affects the supply portion of your monthly bill. It will not affect the delivery portion of your monthly bill. Eversource will continue to deliver your electricity but Gill has chosen the supplier for the Program. Dynegy will provide electric power supply for all consumers currently on Basic Service in Gill. This letter is intended to tell you about this Program for electric power supply. In accordance with state law, it also informs you of your rights and options if you choose not to participate in the Program.

- ✓ **YOU WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED IN THIS PROGRAM UNLESS YOU CHOOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE AND OPT-OUT.**
- ✓ **YOU MUST RESPOND BY JULY 22, 2020 IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED.**

YOU WILL NOT NOTICE ANY CHANGE IN YOUR ELECTRICITY SERVICE. The only difference you will see is that Dynegy will be printed under the “Supplier Services” section of your monthly bill. You will continue to receive one bill from Eversource. You will continue to send your payments to Eversource for processing. Eversource will continue to respond to emergencies, read meters and maintain the distribution and transmission lines. Reliability and quality of service will remain the same. Furthermore, you will continue to have all existing consumer rights and protections.

COMPARATIVE RATES AND TERMS

	Gill’s Program* (Supplier Services Only)		Eversource (Supplier Services Only)
	STANDARD		BASIC SERVICE
Rate			
Residential	\$0.09649 per kWh	\$0.10190 per kWh	\$0.09020 per kWh
Sm C&I	\$0.09649 per kWh	\$0.10190 per kWh	\$0.08619 per kWh
Med & Lg C&I	\$0.09649 per kWh	\$0.10190 per kWh	\$0.07608 per kWh
Streetlight	\$0.09649 per kWh	\$0.10190 per kWh	\$0.05956 per kWh
Duration	August 2020 – December 2020	January 2021 – January 2024	July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020
	[Rates apply to service beginning and ending on the days of the month that your meter is read in your service area.]		[Residential, Small C&I and Streetlight rates change every 6 months. Medium & Large C&I rate changes every 3 months.]
Renewable Energy Content	25% MA Class I RECs above minimum state requirements		Meets Massachusetts renewable energy requirements
Exit Terms	NO CHARGE		May receive a reconciliation charge or credit [Large C&I only]

*Rate includes Consultant Fee of \$0.001 per kWh to facilitate Gill’s Community Choice Power Supply Program.

*Rate may increase as a result of a change in law that results in a direct, material increase in costs during the term of the contract.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- At Program launch, the aggregation rate is higher than Eversource’s Basic Service rate. The aggregation rate is fixed for the first 5 months (August 2020 to December 2020), then changes and is fixed for the remaining 36 months (January 2021 to January 2024) while Eversource’s Basic Service rate changes twice a year, in January and July. As a result, the aggregation rate will not always be higher than Eversource’s Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the Program against Eversource’s Basic Service rate. However, **SUCH SAVINGS AND FUTURE SAVINGS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.**
- There is **NO CHARGE TO OPT-OUT** of the Program and return to Eversource Basic Service.

« SEE BACK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION »

IF YOU HAVE BEEN MAILED THIS NOTIFICATION you do not need to take any action to participate in the Program.

ALL BASIC SERVICE CONSUMERS who have been mailed this notification will be AUTOMATICALLY enrolled in the Program beginning on the day of the month in August 2020 that your meter is read. This date varies by service area. Your meter reading date is shown on your bill.

WATCH YOUR EVERSOURCE BILL FOR FURTHER NOTIFICATION of the Program.

- Your August 2020 bill will state that you are being switched to Gill’s Program.
- Your September 2020 bill will show Gill’s supplier and aggregation rate under “Supplier Services”.

BUDGET PLAN OR ELIGIBLE LOW-INCOME RATE CONSUMERS will continue to receive those benefits from Eversource.

SOLAR PANEL AND COMMUNITY SOLAR CONSUMERS will continue to receive their net metering or on-bill credits.

ANY APPLICABLE TAXES WILL BE BILLED as part of the Program’s power supply charge. You will be responsible for identifying and requesting an exemption from the collection of taxes by providing appropriate documentation.

TAX EXEMPT SMALL BUSINESS CONSUMERS must send, email or fax a copy of their Energy Exemption Certificate directly to Dynegy Energy Services Attn: Customer Care at P.O. Box 650764, Dallas, TX 75265 or Salestax_geotax@vistraenergy.com (email) or (866) 257-1795 (fax) in order to maintain their tax exempt status.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN A COMPETITIVE SUPPLIER ON YOUR OWN you must opt-out of this Program. This will ensure you continue to get your electricity from that Competitive Supplier.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN A GREEN POWER SUPPLY OPTION THROUGH EVERSOURCE your participation in this Program will not affect your participation in that Green Power Supply.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM you may: 1) Opt-out and continue paying Eversource’s Basic Service rate; or 2) Opt-out and choose your own Competitive Supplier (if one is available to you).

HOW TO OPT-OUT

- Sign and return the enclosed opt-out card in the postage paid envelope provided; **OR**
- Visit colonialpowergroup.com/gill and click the opt-out button, then fill out and submit the Opt-Out Form; **OR**
- Call Dynegy at (866) 220-5696 and ask to remain on Eversource Basic Service.

ANY TIME AFTER ENROLLMENT you can still opt-out with NO CHARGE. It may take a couple of billing cycles before you are back on Eversource Basic Service. If you choose to opt-out after the initial enrollment, you may submit an Opt-Out form at colonialpowergroup.com/gill **OR** call Dynegy at (866) 220-5696 and ask to be placed on Eversource Basic Service.

TO CHOOSE A PRODUCT WITH 100% NEW ENGLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY OR 5% ABOVE MINIMUM STANDARDS you may call Dynegy at (866) 220-5696 and ask to be enrolled in one of the following products:

- **Gill’s Optional Green 100 Product** provides 100% MA Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). This product is being offered at \$0.12466 per kWh for the first 5 months (August 2020 to December 2020), then changes and is being offered at \$0.13032 per kWh for the remaining 36 months (January 2021 to January 2024).
- **Gill’s Optional Green 5 Product** provides 5% MA Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) above the state’s then-current requirement for these renewables [21% in 2020; 23% in 2021; 25% in 2022; 27% in 2023]. This product is being offered at \$0.08898 per kWh for the first 5 months (August 2020 to December 2020), then changes and is being offered at \$0.09432 per kWh for the remaining 36 months (January 2021 to January 2024).

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION regarding Gill’s Program, please visit colonialpowergroup.com/gill or call us toll-free at (866) 485-5858 ext. 1. To learn more about Dynegy, please visit dynegy.com/municipal-aggregation/communities-we-serve/massachusetts/gill.

TO ACCESS EVERSOURCE’S BASIC SERVICE RATES please visit:

- Residential Rates – eversource.com/content/wma/residential/my-account/billing-payments/about-your-bill/rates-tariffs/basic-service-western-ma.
- Business Rates – eversource.com/content/wma/business/my-account/billing-payments/about-your-bill/rates-tariffs/basic-service-western-ma.

Colonial Power Group, Inc. is an energy consulting company chosen on a competitive basis by the Town of Gill to facilitate the Community Choice Power Supply Program.



**THE TOWN OF GILL'S
COMMUNITY CHOICE POWER SUPPLY PROGRAM**



IMPORTANT NOTICE



(866) 485-5858 ext. 1



TTY (800) 720-3480 / Español (866) 930-9252



colonialpowergroup.com/gill

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities directs that we include the following message in all of these different languages. The message states: "Important notice enclosed from Town of Gill about your electricity service. Translate the notice immediately. Call the number or visit the website, above, for help."

<p>SPANISH/ESPAÑOL</p> <p>Incluye notificación importante del Town of Gill sobre su servicio de electricidad. Traduzca el aviso inmediatamente. Si necesita ayuda, llame al número o visite el sitio web indicado anteriormente.</p>	<p>POLISH/POLSKI</p> <p>Załączono ważną informację od Town of Gill na temat usług energetycznych. Niezłocznie przetłumacz powiadomienie. Zadzwoń pod numer lub odwiedź powyższą witrynę, aby uzyskać pomoc.</p>
<p>PORTUGUESE/PORTUGUÊS</p> <p>Aviso importante incluído da Town of Gill sobre seu serviço de eletricidade. Traduza o aviso imediatamente. Ligue para o número ou visite o site, acima, para obter ajuda.</p>	<p>NEPALI/नेपाली</p> <p>तपाईंको विद्युतीय सेवा बारे Town of Gill संलग्न गरिएको महत्वपूर्ण सूचना। सूचनालाई तुरुन्तै अनुवादन गर्नुहोस्। मद्दतको लागि माथि भएका नम्बरमा फोन गर्नुहोस् वा वेबसाइटमा जानुहोस्।</p>
<p>CHINESE (SIMPLIFIED)/ 中文</p> <p>随函附上来自 Town of Gill 有关您供电服务的重要通知。请立即翻译该通知。如需帮助，请依上述信息致电或访问网站。</p>	<p>MARATHI/मराठी</p> <p>आपल्या विद्युत सेवेसंबंधी Town of Gill महत्वाची सूचना सलग्न केली आहे. या सुचनेचा अनुवाद त्वरित करावा. मदतीसाठी वरील क्रमांकावर फोन करा किंवा वेबसाइटला/संकेतस्थळाला भेट द्या.</p>
<p>CHINESE (TRADITIONAL)/ 中文</p> <p>隨附 Town of Gill 有關您電力服務的重要通知。請立即翻譯此通知。若需協助，請撥打電話或瀏覽上方所列網站。</p>	<p>YORUBA/YORÙBÁ</p> <p>Àkìyèsí pàtàkì tí a fi sínú rè láti òdò Town of Gill nípa isẹ́ iná mọ̀nà mọ̀nà rẹ̀. Tùmọ̀ àkìyèsí náà lẹ́sẹ̀kẹ́sẹ̀. Pẹ̀ nọ̀nbà náà tàbí kànsì ayélujára, lókè, fún ìrànlọ̀wọ̀.</p>
<p>HAITIAN/KREYÒL</p> <p>Ou gen yon notifikasyon enpòtan de Town of Gill sou sèvis elektrisite ou. Tradwi notifikasyon sa imedyatman. Rele nimewo a oubyen vizite sit entènèt, ki anlè a, si ou bezwen èd.</p>	<p>IGBO/NDI IGBO</p> <p>Ọkwa dị mkpa ezitere maka ọrụ latrik gị si n'aka Town of Gill. Tụgharịa asụsụ ọkwa ahụ ozugbo. Kpọọ nọmba ahụ ma ọ bụ gaa na weebụsaịtị ahụ, dị n'elu, maka enyemaka.</p>
<p>VIETNAMESE/TIẾNG VIỆT</p> <p>Đính kèm thông báo quan trọng từ Town of Gill về dịch vụ điện của quý vị. Xin dịch thông báo này ngay. Vui lòng gọi điện hoặc truy cập trang web ở trên để được giúp đỡ.</p>	<p>AMHARIC/አማርኛ</p> <p>የኤሌክትሪክ አገልግሎትዎን በተመለከተ የተሰጠ አስፈላጊ ማስታወቂያ ከዚህ ጋር በ Town of Gill እንደ ዓባሪ ተያይዟል። ማስታወቂያውን በአስቸኳይ ያስተርጉሙት። እገዛ ለማግኘት ከላይ ወደተገለጸው ስልክ ቁጥር ይደውሉ ወይም ድር ጣቢያውን ይጎብኙ።</p>

<p>RUSSIAN/РУССКИЙ Прилагается важное уведомление от Town of Gill о вашей услуге снабжения электроэнергией. Переведите уведомление безотлагательно. Позвоните по вышеуказанному номеру или зайдите на вышеуказанный вебсайт, чтобы получить помощь.</p>	<p>SOMALI/SOOMAALI Oageysiis muhiim oo ka yimid Town of Gill kuna saabsan adeegga korontada. Si degdeg ah u turjun ogaysiiska. Wac nambarka ama booqo webseetka, kore, si aad u hesho caawimaad.</p>
<p>ARABIC/عربي مرفق إخطار مهم من Town of Gill عن خدمة الكهرباء الخاصة بكم. يُرجى ترجمة الإخطار فورًا. اتصل بالرقم أو قم بزيارة الموقع الإلكتروني عبر الإنترنت المذكورة أعلاه طلبًا للمساعدة.</p>	<p>JAPANESE/傔劬铂 「電気供給サービスに関する Town of Gill からの重要なお知らせを同封しております。本通知を速やかに翻訳してください。ご質問は上記の電話番号もしくはウェブサイトをご覧ください。」</p>
<p>KHMER/ខ្មែរ សេចក្តីជូនដំណឹងសំខាន់ដែលភ្ជាប់មកជាមួយមកពីទីក្រុង Town of Gill គឺនិយាយអំពីសេវាកម្មភ្លើងរបស់អ្នក។ ចូរបកប្រែសេចក្តីជូនដំណឹងនេះភ្លាមៗ។ សូមទូរស័ព្ទទៅលេខ ឬចូលទៅកាន់គេហទំព័រខាងលើ ដើម្បីសុំជំនួយ។</p>	<p>GUJARATI/ગુજરાતી તમારી વીજળી સેવા અંગે Town of Gill તરફથી મહત્વપૂર્ણ સૂચના બીડેલ છે. સૂચનાનું તુરંત જ ભાષાંતર કરો. મદદ માટે ઉપરના નંબર પર કોલ કરો અથવા વેબસાઇટની મુલાકાત લો.</p>
<p>FRENCH/FRANÇAIS Avis important de Town of Gill concernant votre service d'électricité. Traduisez immédiatement l'avis. Appelez le numéro ou visitez le Site Web, ci-dessus, si vous avez besoin d'aide.</p>	<p>SWAHILI/KISWAHILI Notisi muhimu ambayo imeambatishwa kutoka Town of Gill kuhusu huduma yako ya umeme. Itafsiri notisi mara moja. Piga simu kwa nambari au tembelea tovuti iliyo hapo juu ili upate usaidizi.</p>
<p>ITALIAN/ITALIANO Comunicazione importante in allegato della Town of Gill riguardante il suo servizio di fornitura di energia elettrica. Tradurre il comunicato immediatamente. Qualora occorra assistenza, chiami il numero o visiti il sito Internet sopra indicati.</p>	<p>HINDI/हिंदी आपकी बिजली सेवा के बारे में Town of Gill से महत्वपूर्ण सूचना संलग्न है। सूचना का तुरंत अनुवाद करें। सहायता के लिए ऊपर के नंबर पर कॉल करें या वेबसाइट पर जाएं।</p>
<p>KOREAN 한국어 귀하의 전기 서비스와 관련하여 Town of Gill 에서 온 중요한 통지 사항이 동봉되어 있습니다. 통지 사항을 즉시 번역하시기 바랍니다. 도움이 필요할 경우 위의 전화번호로 연락하거나 웹사이트를 방문해 주십시오.</p>	<p>THAI/ไทย ประกาศสำคัญที่แนบมาจาก Town of Gill เกี่ยวกับการไฟฟ้าของคุณ กรุณาแปลประกาศทันที โทรไปยังหมายเลขหรือไปที่เว็บไซต์ด้านบนเพื่อขอความช่วยเหลือ</p>
<p>GREEK/ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ Εσωκλείεται σημαντική ειδοποίηση από την Town of Gill που αφορά τον πάροχο ηλεκτρικής ενέργειας σας. Μεταφράστε την ειδοποίηση άμεσα. Καλέστε τον τηλεφωνικό αριθμό ή επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα που αναφέρεται παραπάνω, για βοήθεια.</p>	<p>LAO/ລາວ ແຈ້ງການສໍາຄັນທີ່ຕິດຄັດມາຈາກ Town of Gill ແມ່ນກ່ຽວກັບການບໍລິການໄຟຟ້າຂອງທ່ານ. ແປແຈ້ງການທັນທີ. ໂທຫາໝາຍເລກ ຫຼື ເຂົ້າເບິ່ງເວັບໄຊທ໌ຂ້າງເທິງສໍາລັບຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອ.</p>



GILL COMMUNITY CHOICE POWER SUPPLY PROGRAM OPT-OUT REPLY CARD

Account No.

X

Signature

Date



If you want to participate in the Gill Community Choice Power Supply Program, you do not need to take any action. You will be automatically enrolled.

Opt-Out Instructions

If you do not want to participate:

- 1) Sign and date
- 2) Place in envelope provided
- 3) Drop in the mail

The card must be signed by the customer of record whose name appears in the address on this card. **The envelope must be postmarked by July 22, 2020 to opt-out of the Program before being automatically enrolled.**



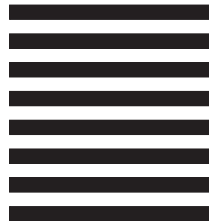
NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 3003 DALLAS TX

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

TOWN OF GILL
DYNEGY-MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION
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Beth Bazler
Senior Land & Compliance Specialist

June 24, 2020

Selectboard
Town of Gill
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354-9758

Dear Selectboard Members;

FirstLight seeks to clarify an existing use of the bridge abutment on Riverview Drive and request a new use. The existing use is for a numeric gauge sign that allows boaters to know the river elevation. It has been attached to the bridge abutment for as long as FirstLight staff can remember, and photos of the existing sign and aluminum mounting bracket with two bolts are enclosed below. There is no other shoreline mounting location that will allow the gauge to work throughout the entire operating range of the hydro stations.

The new use that FirstLight requests is to mount another sign on the abutment. The sign is a large, yellow and red sign stating, "Danger Dam Ahead, No Boating Beyond This Point." The present, aging sign is located under a powerline, and it is unsafe to replace it in that location. This sign is a part of the Public Safety Plan for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Turners Falls Hydro Project No. 1889. The company desires to mount this sign on the bridge abutment so it will be more visible, thus improving public safety. Mounting techniques for this sign would be similar to the gauge, and a total of eight bolts would be required. Photos of the sign in Montague are also provided.

Since the boating season is underway, and the existing sign is in need of replacement, FirstLight considers this to be a time-sensitive request and would appreciate a reply at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Bazler".

Beth Bazler
Senior Land and Compliance Specialist

CC: Historical Commission

River Gauge Photos



Public Safety Sign Photos



2 July 2020

To: The Gill Selectboard
From: The Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) convened a special meeting on 1 July to discuss the letter you received from FirstLight about installing the water gauge and the warning sign on the abutment of the old Red Bridge.

First, GHC members reviewed the history of the structure as part of the Red Bridge that replaced the ferry between Riverside and Turners Falls. The suspension bridge was constructed by the Roebling Company (New York Bridge Co.) that later built the famous Brooklyn Bridge. The architecture and engineering were distinctive at the time, and for many years the bridge provided an important connection for residents and commerce between the two sides. The history and engineering significance is well described in the recent book, *RIVERSIDE – LIFE ALONG THE CONNECTICUT RIVER* and in many newspaper articles. In 1991, the bridge was accepted as a Massachusetts Historical Civil Engineering Landmark.

When the bridge was taken down after the flood of 1936 and replaced downstream by the current Turners Falls – Gill Bridge, the abutments on both sides and the anchorage on the Gill side were saved. In 1985, Gill residents voted overwhelmingly at a Special Town Meeting to preserve them, recognizing the geological significance of the embedded mud balls and the historical significance of the bridge's design and value in the community. Funds were raised for a painting of the bridge and a kiosk on the site. Several years ago this area was documented as contributing to the honor of placing the site and its structures on the National Register of Historic Places under the National Park Service. This year, the GHC has rebuilt the kiosk, re-painted the mural, and installed a sign to designate this site as part of the Riverside Village National Historic District. In the fall, the GHC plans to re-dedicate the site and involve the local press in the publicity. GHC is committed to its mission of preserving local landmarks and educating about their place in Gill's history.

Second, at its special July meeting, GHC members also reviewed the file at Town Hall of correspondence about preservation of the abutment and anchorage. The file includes FirstLight's letter of 30 November 2011 confirming the Town's jurisdiction of the site, pictures of the warning sign and footing installed on the Turners Falls abutment in June 2019, and a letter from GHC in June 2019 informing the Town of FirstLight's drilling on the Gill abutment and having stopped that work early on a Saturday morning.

Next, in reviewing FirstLight's current letter, GHC members are perplexed that the corporation seems unable to recognize the significance of preserving a documented historic monument. Last year they drilled a hole in the top of the abutment to install the warning sign. They were stopped by a member of the GHC but only after drilling a hole that now collects water and will affect the masonry. This year the water gauge was re-installed on the abutment; it has been there for years, but FirstLight went ahead to drill new holes for the supporting brackets without any consultation with the Town. When again questioned, FirstLight is requesting permission for their completed action but only after the fact.

Certainly GHC has respect for safety on the River and knows that FirstLight must meet regulations that protect boaters and fishermen as well as their own insurance liabilities. In our opinion, that does not mean FirstLight can violate the integrity of a documented historic structure. We need to preserve the aging masonry that has stone blocks quarried in Northfield and supported by aging

mortar. We also think that the sign duplicating the one installed on the Turners Falls abutment last year is, while bright and eye-catching with large supporting brackets, not an appropriate reason to drill and bolt to a historic monument.

Pride and respect for the historic structure dictate that the new sign be put on the existing posts or new ones where the current sign is and has been for 50 plus years. The power lines are high enough not to affect this location. Having the sign off-shore will prevent the graffiti that has been put on the back of the warning sign mounted on the abutment on the Turners Falls side. The new posting will continue to give the unobstructed view residents enjoy in Riverside and will not need to further damage the historic abutment.

GHC hopes that FirstLight and other stewards of our local resources will value documented local history and be trusted to collaborate in the interest of finding satisfactory and viable solutions. Currently, communication with concerned residents has been patronizing and non-collaborative. When asked about their presence at the abutment, FirstLight staff members have been evasive and patronizing while clearly indicating that they would go above expressed concerns to the Selectboard to get the permission they wanted. We should not have to re-visit the disrespect of the Red Bridge monument annually nor have citizens put in the situation of guarding the site. GHC hopes that respect may be fostered in designing solutions as we share the important resources and history of the Connecticut River.

GHC members hope that the request will be denied by the Selectboard and that FirstLight will respect the importance of the historic landmark in Riverside.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela L. Shoemaker for
The Gill Historical Commission



Utility wires on Gill side of the river, upstream of the bridge abutment. The back of the current warning sign on Gill side of the river is seen as a faint rectangle behind the utility pole. The warning sign on Montague side of the river can be seen at the right side of the photo.



Old mounting posts (left) and new mounting bracket (right) for river depth gauge attached on upstream side of bridge abutment



Warning sign mounting brackets on bridge abutment on Montague side of the river. Notice sharp edges, potential trip hazard, and proximity to the river edge of the abutment.



Newly installed (June 2020) sign commemorating Riverside Village Historic District. At left is the mural of the Red Bridge.



Bridge abutment and “new” warning sign installed June 2019 on Montague side of the river. Sign measures 8 foot by 8 foot. Photo does not show the “old” sign that has not been removed. Cannot see the graffiti on the back of the sign.

TOWN OF GILL

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



www.gillmass.org

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS Sewer Use Charges and Inspection Fees

To: Town Accountant

You are hereby notified that COMMITMENT(S) as shown below has (have) this day been made by the Board of Sewer Commissioners to Thomas Hodak, Tax Collector (Town Collector) and Collector of Sewer Charges. Bill date is July 21, 2020.

This is commitment number 2020-004.

To: Thomas Hodak, Tax Collector (Town Collector) and Collector of Sewer Charges for the Town of Gill in the County of Franklin:

You are hereby required to collect from the several persons named in the list dated June 29, 2020, herewith committed to you the amount of the sewer usage charges assessed therein to each such person, with penalties, the sum total of such list being Forty Two Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Nine and 66/100 Dollars (\$42,289.66).

Given under our hands the 6th day of July, 2020.

Randy P. Crochier

Gregory M. Snedeker

John R. Ward

Board of Sewer Commissioners of the Town of Gill