



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

November 22, 2021

***Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting
bold underlined time = invited guest or advertised hearing
 (all other times are approximate)

Location: Gill Town Hall, 2nd Floor

Face coverings required per Board of Health mandate.

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)

Old Business

- Review of Minutes
- Leaf Joy retail cannabis – update on ZBA process and next steps (Host Community Agreement)

New Business

- FY22 Recycling Dividend Program – authorize signing contract to accept \$4,200 grant
- Sewer Commitments for
 - \$35.53 for the bill date of 10/25/21 (partial period due to sale of property)
 - \$43.60 for the bill date of 11/9/21 (partial period due to sale of property)
- Appointment – Eve Brown-Waite, 46 Mountain Road, to Cultural Council through 11/22/2024
- Opioid Settlement Agreements – “Janssen” and “Settling Distributors” – sign-on period ends 1/2/22
- Request to join AARP’s Age-Friendly Communities Network as part of LifePath’s Age- and Dementia-Friendly Project in Franklin County and North Quabbin
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
 - Slate Memorial Library – Poetry Series, Dec 2nd 7-8 PM
 - Slate Memorial Library – Holiday Card Marking, Dec 4th 10 AM – 2 PM

Warrants

FY22 #10 Vendors (\$33,083.97) & Payroll (\$25,720.89) – reviewed & signed on 11/08/21
 FY22 #11 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mon 12/6 | 5:30 PM | Selectboard meeting | Gill Town Hall, 2 nd floor |
| Mon 12/20 | 5:30 PM | Selectboard meeting | Gill Town Hall, 2 nd floor |

TOWN OF GILL

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



www.gillmass.org

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2021

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Gill Town Hall.

Members Present: Randy Crochier, Charles Garbiel, and Greg Snedeker (remote) Members Absent: None

Others Present: Ray Purington, Town Administrator; Jerri Higgins, and Janet Masucci

Randy Crochier chaired the meeting due to the remote participation by Chair Greg Snedeker.

Review of Minutes: Charles made a motion, seconded by Greg, to approve the minutes of October 25, 2021. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 2 in favor (Greg, Charles) and 0 opposed. Randy abstained.

Feedback on Leaf Joy Community Outreach Meeting: At 5:00 PM today Leaf Joy, a cannabis company that has proposed to open a retail facility at 1 Main Road in Gill, held the community outreach meeting that is a required step in applying for a state license from the Cannabis Control Commission. All three members of the Selectboard attended the virtual hearing, along with five other town officials and two members of the local press. There were no abutters in attendance. One thing that particularly stood out during the meeting was the absence of the owner of the Leaf Joy corporation. Randy distributed an email from Jen Audley (Chair of Montague's Finance Committee and Project Coordinator for the FRCOG's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Project). Audley's email describes approaches Montague has taken with the sales tax and impact fee revenue it has received from a cannabis facility located in that town. In other discussion, the Selectboard noted the 1 Main Road location is within walking distance of downtown Turners Falls, which could increase foot traffic through the Main Road / Route 2 intersection.

John DeSotle and Dan Trenholm joined the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Public Hearing – Arrow Auto Sales: At 6:18 PM Randy opened the public hearing on an application by John DeSotle of Arrow Enterprise Inc d/b/a Arrow Auto Sales for a Class II license (used car sales) at 235 French King Highway. DeSotle introduced himself to the Selectboard and explained he has been recently granted a special permit from Gill's Zoning Board of Appeals allowing the automobile sales use at the location. The special permit allows no more than 40 vehicles for sale on the lot at any time, which is less than the 60 allowed for the previous owner. He explained there will be "no real change from the prior use" by New England Auto Network, only that he would "just do a better job." DeSotle stated he has worked in car sales for over 30 years, and Arrow Auto Sales has been open in Shelburne for the last 3 ½ years. The property owner in Shelburne has other plans, and chose not to renew the lease. DeSotle is leasing the Gill property from owner Michael Vining, who acquired it when he foreclosed on the mortgage.

Abutter Dan Trenholm stated he is concerned about potential risk to the environment from contamination due to vehicle fluids and repairs. DeSotle explained he does not have any plans to perform oil changes or wash the vehicles on the lot, and he will not employ any mechanics at the location. Randy noted, as the Regional Health Agent, that he will be requiring a Title 5 inspection of the property's septic system due to the change of ownership. Randy also expressed concern about the bad precedence set by the appearance on the property of cars and business signs for auto sales prior to the issuance of the Class II license, and that he intends to vote against the license as a matter of principal.

DeSotle noted he expects his hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 or 6 PM, by appointment on Saturdays, and closed on Sundays.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Charles, to grant the requested license through 12/31/2021 subject to the conditions that 1) there be no more than 40 vehicles on the lot at any given time, 2) the business stays in compliance

with the conditions of Special Permit issued 10/26/2021, and 3) the Special Permit remains in effect and in good-standing. The motion was approved on a roll call vote of 2 in favor (Greg, Charles) and 1 opposed (Randy). DeSotle thanked the Selectboard. DeSotle and Trenholm left the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Green Communities Report for FY21: Ray presented a draft of the FY21 Green Communities annual report. The deadline to submit the report is November 19th. The Energy Commission will be meeting to review the draft on November 11th. Highlights from this year's report include:

- The installation of the EV charging station at the Riverside Building and installation of mini-splits at Town Hall
- A discussion of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the energy consumption of the various town buildings. Each building dealt with a unique set of pandemic-related circumstances, and so there was no consistent increase or decrease in energy usage.
- There is a 21.4% reduction in total energy use compared to the baseline year of 2010. However, Ray cautioned the MassEnergyInsight website used for tracking energy data has not updated the calculations for weather normalized energy consumption, and the reduction percent may change.
- An update on the status of completed, planned, and future energy conservation projects for the Town.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Charles, to accept the report with edits as may be suggested by the Energy Commission, and to authorize Ray to submit the completed report to the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Renewal of Membership in Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District: Charles made a motion, seconded by Greg, to renew the Town's membership in the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District for fiscal years 2023 – 2025 and to authorize Greg to sign the renewal agreement as Chair. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

MIIA Renewal Proposal: The Selectboard reviewed a proposal from MIIA, the Town's insurance carrier, for a 0% rate change for FY23 and no more than a 2.5% rate increase for FY24. Ray commented he is very satisfied with the service and value the Town receives from MIIA, and recommended accepting the proposal. Greg made a motion, seconded by Charles, to accept the renewal proposal from MIIA and to authorize Ray to sign the renewal on behalf of the Town. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Appointment: Greg made a motion, seconded by Charles, to appoint Emily Samuels of 267 Main Road to the Council on Aging for a term through June 30, 2023. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Six Town Regionalization Planning Board: Greg gave an update on the activities of the board that is exploring the pros and cons of forming a new, larger regional school district from the member towns of the Gill-Montague RSD and the Pioneer Valley RSD (Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick). A public forum will be held at 7 PM on December 1st at the Gill Town Hall to provide an update and answer questions.

Nuisance Dog at 91 Main Road – Update: Animal Control Officer Kyle Dragon had planned to call in to provide an update but had a schedule conflict. Ray provided a report on Dragon's behalf. Dragon conducted an inspection of 91 Main Road on November 1st and found the owner had not constructed a kennel for the dog as ordered by the Selectboard. Dragon would like the Selectboard to issue one final letter to the owner stating there will be a re-inspection on November 16th. If a kennel has not been constructed, the dog will be removed from the property at that time. Greg made a motion, seconded by Charles, to authorize Ray to send the letter as requested by ACO Dragon, and that the Selectboard will defer to the judgement of ACO Dragon and the regional dog shelter for placement of the dog if that should prove to be necessary. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Greg Snedeker and Jerri Higgins left the meeting at 7:12 PM.

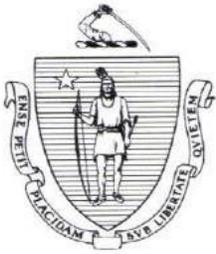
Warrant: The Selectboard reviewed and signed the FY 2022 warrant # 10 with totals of \$33,083.97 for vendors and \$25,720.89 for payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Purington, Town Administrator

Signed copy on file. Approved on 11/22/2021

Charles Garbiel, Selectboard Clerk



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

November 15, 2021

Dear Mr. Greg Snedeker,

Congratulations! I am pleased to notify you that the Town of Gill has been awarded a Recycling Dividends Program grant of \$4,200 through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. I want to thank you for your commitment to reducing waste and increasing recycling for the benefit of our communities and the environment.

Enclosed you will find further instructions from the Department of Environmental Protection on next steps. Please feel free to contact [Wilfred Mbah](#) if you have any questions.

Governor Charles D. Baker

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Baker".

Lt. Governor Karyn E. Polito

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karyn Polito".



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides
Secretary

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

November 15, 2021

Greg Snedeker
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Town of Gill
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354

Dear Mr. Snedeker,

Congratulations! It is my pleasure to inform you that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has awarded the Town of Gill Recycling Dividends Program funds under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. The Town of Gill has earned 12 points and will receive \$4,200.

The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) was created under 310 CMR 19.300-303 and the Green Communities Act, which directs a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates to recycling programs approved by MassDEP. The Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) provides payments to municipalities that have implemented specific programs and policies proven to maximize reuse, recycling, and waste reduction. We are awarding over \$3.1 million in RDP payments to 226 municipalities in this round of funding. The next application for SMRP funding will be released in April 2022.

Recycling programs play a vital role in limiting our dependence on landfills and incinerators, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting economic activity in the Commonwealth. Recycling Dividend Program funds foster investment in local programs including recycling equipment, organics diversion, outreach and education, pilot programs, school recycling, toxics reduction and more. MassDEP has invested in developing nationally recognized tools to assist municipalities with reducing recycling contamination and improving public awareness of smart recycling practices. We encourage you to utilize the [Recycling IQ Kit](#) and [Recycle Smart MA](#) website and to consult with your MassDEP [Municipal Assistance Coordinator](#) for assistance in implementing these best practices.

To accept your Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) award, please sign and return the attached RDP Contract via email before January 15, 2022. After we receive your signed contract, funds will be sent to your community. Should you have any questions, please email Wilfred Mbah at Wilfred.Mbah@mass.gov.

The increased challenge of maintaining our vital solid waste and recycling programs during a pandemic underscores the critical role of local government in keeping our communities safe and clean. Thank you for your continued commitment to recycling and waste reduction in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

cc: **Jan Ameen, Executive Director**

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

Printed on Recycled Paper



Checklist for Recycling Dividends Program Grant Award

This document contains important grant deadlines and requirements

STEP ONE: EXECUTING THE CONTRACT

It is the responsibility of the municipal Recycling Contact to ensure that the RDP Contract is signed by an **individual currently holding one of the Titles** listed on the Authorized Signatory Listing form, which your municipality filed with MassDEP in the spring of 2017. If the person(s) listed on the form has changed (for example, a new Mayor has been elected), the municipal official with the same title may sign the RDP Contract and a new Authorized Signatory Listing form **IS NOT REQUIRED**.

Please sign and email the RDP Contract to wilfred.mbah@mass.gov for processing of payment no later than **January 15, 2022 or funds may be forfeited**. Acceptable forms of signature are:

1. Traditional “wet signature” (ink on paper, scan and email);
2. Electronic signature that is either a hand drawn signature using a mouse or finger if working from a touch screen device; or
3. Electronic signatures affixed using a digital tool such as Adobe Sign or DocuSign.

STEP TWO: TRACK EXPENDITURES BY APPROVED EXPENSE CATEGORY

- This is not a reimbursement-based grant. Your award payment will be processed as soon as the RDP Contract is returned.
- However, you are required to keep track of approved expenditures, by expense categories. Pre-approved spending of RDP grant funds is listed in the Grant Guidelines. Please follow this list of approved spending; **a municipality is allowed one special spending request per year for an item not found on the approved spending list**. If your municipality intends to spend its grant funds on an item or service not listed, you must contact Wilfred Mbah.
- Be prepared to be audited.

STEP THREE: REPORT EXPENDITURES AND REMAINING BALANCE

- The municipality is required to report all expenditures from the previous calendar year no later than February 15th.

Contact [Wilfred Mbah](#) with any questions.

**RECYCLING DIVIDEND PROGRAM CONTRACT (“RDP Contract”)
BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (“MassDEP”)
AND THE Town of Gill (“Municipality”)**

Pursuant to the Green Communities Act, relevant provisions of which are codified at M.G.L. c. 25A, Section 11F(d) and the regulations promulgated thereunder at 310 CMR 19.300 and in support of the Massachusetts Solid Waste Master Plan developed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 16, Section 21, MassDEP has awarded the Municipality a Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grant under the Recycling Dividends Program (“RDP”). The Municipality has earned a payment of \$4,200.

The Recycling Dividends Program provides payments to municipalities that have implemented specific programs and policies proven to maximize reuse, recycling and waste reduction. Municipalities receive payments according to the number of criteria points their program earns based on the *2021 Grant Guidelines* and number of residents served as described below. RDP provides an incentive for municipalities to improve their recycling programs by implementing best practices and rewards communities with model recycling and waste reduction programs.

Duration: The term of this Contract shall be in effect until the municipality has expended all RDP funds and reported to MassDEP on use of funds.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY

1. **Authority:** The Signatory of this RDP Contract is authorized by the governing body of the Municipality to enter into this Contract on behalf of the Municipality and apply for and accept funds on behalf of the Municipality.
2. **Commonwealth Terms and Conditions:** The Municipality shall comply with the Commonwealth Terms and Conditions and other requirements set forth in the Municipality’s executed Master Agreement.
3. **Failure to Comply:** If, in the judgment of MassDEP, the Municipality fails to comply with any of its responsibilities identified in this Contract, then, at the election of MassDEP, (a) the Municipality shall repay the RDP funds to MassDEP within 90 days; and/or (b) title to all materials purchased with the RDP funds immediately and without any further steps shall be transferred to MassDEP; and/or (c) MassDEP may find the Municipality not eligible to seek another Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grant for up to three years. MassDEP may provide written notice to the Municipality of any such failure to comply. Such notice may provide a time period and manner for the Municipality to cease or remedy the failure. Such notice from MassDEP of any such failure by the Municipality is not a precondition to MassDEP’s right to select options (a), (b), and/or (c) above. The Municipality shall follow the instructions of MassDEP regarding possession of the materials purchased with RDP funds. The Parties hereby agree to execute any and all documents necessary to accomplish said transfer. Furthermore, the Municipality shall transfer or arrange to transfer actual possession of said materials to an authorized representative of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or its designee.
4. **Recycling in Practice:** The Municipality has established paper, bottle and can recycling in all municipal buildings, offices and meeting spaces, including schools. The Municipality shall continue such paper, bottle and can recycling during the term of the RDP Contract.
5. **Notification of Buy Recycled Policy:** The Grantee has established a written policy which promotes a preference for the purchase of recycled products in lieu of non-recycled products and distributes an annual notification of the Buy Recycled Policy, ordinance or by-law to all staff, department heads and employees with purchasing authority. This notice should be sent from the Mayor, Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Town Administrator, or Chief Purchasing or Procurement Officer; and should include specific language encouraging the purchase of recycled products as it supports municipal recycling collection programs, recycling markets, and supports closed loop recycling. The Grantee shall continue to send an annual notification during the term of the Grant

6. **RDP Payment Calculation:** MassDEP has calculated the RDP Payment using the table below which shows payment brackets based on the number of households served by the municipal solid waste program and the point value for each bracket. *Section 7 – Program Criteria* and the *2021 Grant Guidelines* describe in detail the conditions for earning points.

RDP Payment Brackets

| Trash HH Served | Value of Each Point | Minimum Payment | Maximum Payment |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 0 - 1,999 | \$350 | \$2,800 | \$9,100 |
| 2,000 - 4,999 | \$600 | \$4,800 | \$15,600 |
| 5,000 - 7,499 | \$1,100 | \$8,800 | \$28,600 |
| 7,500 - 9,499 | \$1,300 | \$10,400 | \$33,800 |
| 9,500 - 12,499 | \$1,800 | \$14,400 | \$46,800 |
| 12,500 - 16,999 | \$3,000 | \$24,000 | \$78,000 |
| 17,000 - 24,999 | \$3,500 | \$28,000 | \$91,000 |
| 25,000 - 31,999 | \$4,000 | \$32,000 | \$104,000 |
| 32,000 - 99,999 | \$6,500 | \$52,000 | \$169,000 |
| 100,000 + | \$10,000 | \$80,000 | \$260,000 |

7. **Program Criteria:** The Municipality, through its RDP application, certifies that all points earned are for programs that were in place no later than June 30, 2021 and that these programs fully meet the performance standard set forth in the *2021 Grant Guidelines*. *Section 13 – RDP Payment Calculation* lists the program criteria for which the Municipality has earned points, and upon which the Municipality’s payment was calculated.
8. **Use of Funds:** RDP Payments shall be expended on Approved Expenses listed in the *Grant Guidelines* to enhance the performance of the Municipality’s waste reduction programs. Use of a dedicated account or revolving account is recommended but not required. Funds may be carried over to future years and accumulated to fund a larger eligible expense or project. Planned use of funds shall be noted on the Annual RDP Spending Report. However, MassDEP may delay future RDP payments if municipality is not expending funds.
9. **Record Keeping:** The Municipality shall be responsible for keeping documentation (i.e. proof of purchase in the form of an invoice which lists the vendor name and address, item purchased, item price, number of items purchased and shipping costs if any) by calendar year, of how RDP funds were expended and the remaining balance of RDP funds. MassDEP may conduct record audits to ensure compliance with this Contract.
10. **Reporting:** By February 15th of each year, for the duration of the Contract, the Municipality shall submit the annual Recycling and Solid Waste survey and the RDP Spending Report through its ReTRAC Connect™ account. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements will jeopardize future grant awards and RDP payments.
11. **Environmental Compliance:** The Municipality understands receipt of RDP funds from MassDEP does not in any way imply that the Municipality is in compliance with applicable environmental regulations. This Municipality shall not be construed as, nor operate as, relieving the Municipality or any other person of the necessity of complying with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and approvals. The Municipality’s facility(ies) are subject to inspection at any time by MassDEP and noncompliance with applicable environmental regulations may result in formal enforcement actions, including penalties.
12. **Addendums:** Should MassDEP award additional RDP funds, an addendum to the Contract shall be provided to the Municipality. The same terms and conditions apply to the addendum.

13. RDP Payment Calculation:

The Municipality's payment has been calculated as follows:
(Value of each point) x (Total RDP Points)

| | |
|--|---|
| a. Solid Waste Program | 4 |
| b. Organics | 0 |
| c. Bulky Items | 2 |
| d. ReUse Points | 0 |
| e. Yard Waste | 0 |
| f. Household Hazardous Waste | 2 |
| g. Center for Hard to Recycle Materials | 2 |
| h. Comprehensive Hauler Regulation Adopted | 0 |
| i. Enforced Residential Curbside Recycling | 0 |
| j. Outreach and Education | 1 |
| k. Recycling Center Access | 0 |
| l. Textile | 1 |

TOTAL RDP POINTS 12

VALUE OF EACH POINT \$ 350

RDP PAYMENT AMOUNT \$4,200

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, MassDEP and the Municipality hereby execute this Contract.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

By: _____ (Date)
John Fischer, Deputy Division Director
Bureau of Air and Waste
Department of Environmental Protection

Town of Gill
VC6000191798

By: _____ (Date)
(Signature and Title)

(Print Name)

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 November 9, 2021.

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 November 9, 2021, 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 Three and 60/100 Dollars (\$43.60).

Given under our hands the 22nd day of November, 2021.

Gregory M. Snedeker

Charles J. Garbiel II

Randy P. Crochier

Board of Sewer Commissioners of the Town of Gill

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 October 25, 2021.

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 October 25, 2021, 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 Thirty Five and 53/100 Dollars (\$35.53).

Given under our hands the 22nd day of November, 2021.

Gregory M. Snedeker

Charles J. Garbiel II

Randy P. Crochier

Board of Sewer Commissioners of the Town of Gill

Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: National Opioids Settlement <no-reply@e.nationalopioidsettlement.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:08 PM
To: administrator@gillmass.org
Subject: National Opioids Settlement Notice

NPD AN-786-422
Ray Purington Town Administrator
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354-9758

**TO MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPALITIES:
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT.
SUBDIVISIONS MUST SUBMIT SIGNED DOCUMENTATION TO PARTICIPATE.
THE DEADLINE FOR PARTICIPATION TO MAXIMIZE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS IS
JANUARY 2, 2022.**

If your subdivision is represented by an attorney with respect to opioid claims, please immediately contact them.

SETTLEMENT OVERVIEW

After years of negotiations, two proposed nationwide settlement agreements (“Settlements”) have been reached that would resolve all opioid litigation brought by states and local political subdivisions against the three largest pharmaceutical distributors, McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen (“Distributors”), and one manufacturer, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and its parent company Johnson & Johnson (collectively, “Janssen”).

The proposed Settlements require the Distributors and Janssen to pay billions of dollars to abate the opioid epidemic. Specifically, the Settlements require the Distributors to pay up to \$21 billion over 18 years and Janssen to pay up to \$5 billion over no more than 9 years, for a total of \$26 billion (the “Settlement Amount”). Of the Settlement Amount, approximately \$22.7 billion is earmarked for use by participating states and subdivisions to remediate and abate the impacts of the opioid crisis.

The Settlements also contain injunctive relief provisions governing the opioid marketing, sale and distribution practices at the heart of the states’ and subdivisions’ lawsuits and further require the Distributors to implement additional safeguards to prevent diversion of prescription opioids.

Each of the proposed Settlements has two key participation steps. First, each state decides whether to participate in the Settlements. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by and through Attorney General Maura Healey, has joined both Settlements. Second, the subdivisions within each participating state must then decide whether to participate in the Settlements. Generally, the more subdivisions that participate, the greater the amount of funds that flow to that state and its participating subdivisions. Any

subdivision that does not participate cannot directly share in any of the settlement funds, even if the subdivision's state is settling and other participating subdivisions are sharing in settlement funds.

This letter is part of the formal national notice program required by the Settlements.

WHY IS YOUR SUBDIVISION RECEIVING THIS NOTICE?

You are receiving this letter because Massachusetts has elected to participate in both of the Settlements against (1) the Distributors, and (2) Janssen, and your subdivision may participate in the Settlements. This notice is being sent directly to subdivisions and also to attorneys for subdivisions that we understand are litigating against these companies or are otherwise eligible to participate in the Settlements. If you are represented by an attorney with respect to opioid claims, please immediately contact them. Please note that there is no need for subdivisions to be represented by an attorney or to have filed a lawsuit to participate in the Settlements.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?

This letter is intended to provide a brief overview of the Settlements. Detailed information about the Settlements may be found at: <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>. This national settlement website also includes links to information about how the Settlements are being implemented in your state and how settlement funds will be allocated within your state. This website will be supplemented as additional documents are created. The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office has also set up a state-specific website at: <https://mass.gov/fighting-the-opioid-crisis>.

HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENTS?

You must go to the national settlement website to register to receive in the coming weeks and months the documentation your subdivision will need to participate in the Settlements. All required documentation must be executed and submitted electronically through the website and must be executed using the "DocuSign" service. As part of the registration process, your subdivision will need to identify, and provide the email address for, the individual who will be authorized to sign formal and binding documents on behalf of your subdivision.

Your unique Subdivision Registration Code to use to register is: 5F1B5G.

HOW WILL SETTLEMENT FUNDS BE ALLOCATED IN EACH STATE?

The settlement funds are first divided among the participating states according to a formula developed by the Attorneys General that considers population and the severity of harm caused by the opioid epidemic in each participating state. Each state's share of the abatement funds is then further allocated within each state according to agreement between the state and its subdivisions, applicable state allocation legislation, or, in the absence of these, the default provisions in the agreements.

Many states have or are in the process of reaching an agreement on how to allocate abatement funds within the states. Information about allocation-related agreements and related legislation can be found on the national settlement website, which will be supplemented as more intra-state allocation arrangements are finalized. Massachusetts cities and towns can also visit the Massachusetts AGO website at <https://mass.gov/fighting-the-opioid-crisis> for Massachusetts-specific information.

You may be contacted by the Attorney General's Office with additional information regarding the allocation of settlement funds in Massachusetts. Subdivisions with representation can expect information from their attorneys as well. We encourage you to review all materials and to follow up with any questions. The terms of these Settlements are complex, and we want to be sure you have all the information you need to make your participation decision.

WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE

A vast majority of states have joined the Settlements, and attorneys for many subdivisions have already announced support for them. For example, the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee, charged with leading the litigation on behalf of more than 3,000 cities, counties and others against the opioid industry, and consolidated in the national multi-district litigation ("MDL") pending before Judge Dan Aaron Polster in the Northern District of Ohio, recommends participation in these Settlements.

Subdivision participation is strongly encouraged, for the following reasons:

First, the amounts to be paid under the Settlements, while insufficient to abate the epidemic fully, will allow state and local governments to commence with meaningful change designed to curb opioid addiction, overdose and death;

Second, time is of the essence. The opioid epidemic continues to devastate communities around the country and it is critical that the funds begin to flow to allow governments to address the epidemic in their communities ***as soon as possible***;

Third, if there is not sufficient subdivision participation in these proposed Settlements, the Settlements will not be finalized, the important business practice changes will not be implemented, the billions of dollars in abatement funds will not flow to communities, and more than 3,000 cases may be sent back to their home courts for trial, which will take many years;

Fourth, the extent of participation also will determine how much money each state and its local subdivisions will receive because approximately half of the abatement funds are in the form of "incentive payments," *i.e.*, the higher the participation of subdivisions in a state, the greater the amount of settlement funds that flow into that state;

Fifth, you know first-hand the effects of the opioid epidemic on your community. Funds from these Settlements will be used to commence abatement of the crisis and provide relief to your citizens while litigation and settlement discussions proceed against numerous other defendants in the opioid industry;

Sixth, because pills do not respect boundaries, the opioid epidemic is a national crisis that needs a national solution.

NEXT STEPS

These Settlements require that you take affirmative steps to “opt in” to the Settlements. If you do not act, you will not receive any settlement funds and you will not contribute to reaching the participation thresholds that will deliver the maximum amount of abatement funds to your state.

First, register your subdivision on the national settlement website so that information and documents required to participate can be sent to you. You will need the email address of the person who will be authorized to sign on behalf of your subdivision. This is the only action item needed at this time.

Second, have your authorizing person(s) or body begin to review the materials on the websites concerning the settlement agreement terms, allocation and other matters. Develop a list of questions for your counsel or the Attorney General’s Office. In the very near future, your subdivision will need to begin the process of deciding whether to participate in the proposed Settlements, and subdivisions are encouraged to work through this process well before the January 2, 2022 deadline to be an initial participating subdivision. Again, the Attorney General’s Office, your counsel, and other contacts within the state are available to discuss the specifics of the Settlements within your state, and we encourage you to discuss the terms and benefits of the Settlements with them.

Third, monitor your email for further communications, which will include a Participation Agreement, Release, (where applicable) a model Resolution, and instructions on executing using DocuSign.

We urge you to view the national settlement website at <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/> and the Massachusetts AGO Website at <https://mass.gov/fighting-the-opioid-crisis> at your earliest convenience for additional information and documents regarding the Settlements.

If you wish to speak about the Settlements with someone in the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, please email MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov.

[Unsubscribe](#)



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Frequently Asked Questions About Statewide Settlements With Opioid Distributors and Johnson & Johnson

Your municipality should have recently received a notice about two national opioid settlements. This page provides answers to frequently asked questions regarding the notice and the settlements.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[\(1\) My municipality received a Notice in the mail about two Opioid Settlements. Is it real?](#)

[\(#\(1\)-my-municipality-received-a-notice-in-the-mail-about-two-opioid-settlements.-is-it-real?-\)](#)

[\(2\) Has the State joined the Settlements? \(#\(2\)-has-the-state-joined-the-settlements?-\)](#)

[\(3\) If my municipality joins, will it receive direct payments?](#)

[\(#\(3\)-if-my-municipality-joins,-will-it-receive-direct-payments?-\)](#)

[\(4\) If my municipality joins, how much of the Abatement Funds will it receive?](#)

[\(#\(4\)-if-my-municipality-joins,-how-much-of-the-abatement-funds-will-it-receive?-\)](#)

[\(5\) How were those percentages set? \(#\(5\)-how-were-those-percentages-set?-\)](#)

[\(6\) How can my municipality join the Settlements? \(#\(6\)-how-can-my-municipality-join-the-settlements?-\)](#)

[\(7\) Is there a deadline for returning the Subdivision Settlement Participation Forms?](#)

[\(#\(7\)-is-there-a-deadline-for-returning-the-subdivision-settlement-participation-forms?-\)](#)

[\(8\) Where will the statewide Abatement Funds go? \(#\(8\)-where-will-the-statewide-abatement-funds-go?-\)](#)

[\(9\) Do municipalities have a role in the statewide Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund?](#)

[\(#\(9\)-do-municipalities-have-a-role-in-the-statewide-opioid-recovery-and-remediation-fund?-\)](#)

[\(10\) What about attorney's fees? \(#\(10\)-what-about-attorney's-fees?-\)](#)

[Show More](#) ▼

(1) My municipality received a Notice in the mail about two Opioid Settlements. Is it real?

Yes. The [Notice](/doc/sept-24-2021-notice-regarding-national-opioids-settlement) your municipality received relates to two [Settlements](/lists/national-opioid-settlements-with-distributors-and-jj) resolving opioid claims against the nation's 3 largest distributors, Cardinal, McKesson and Amerisource Bergen, and opioid-maker Johnson & Johnson ("**the Settlements**") for their role in the opioid epidemic. The Notice went out to all Massachusetts cities and towns.

Under the Settlements, the State and its municipalities stand to receive [up to \\$537 million](/doc/maximum-potential-abatement-payments-into-massachusetts) ("**Abatement Funds**") to abate the opioid epidemic over the next 18 years, starting in early to mid-2022. The more municipalities that join, the more the [Distributors](https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Incentives-Distributors.pdf) and [J&J](https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Incentives-JandJ.pdf) will pay under the Settlements.

(2) Has the State joined the Settlements?

Yes. Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, together with the majority of state Attorneys General across the country have signed on to the Settlements. Those AGs and [lawyers representing thousands of municipalities](/doc/jan-3-2018-order-appointing-plaintiffs-executive-committee-in-national-opioid-litigation) in the national opioid litigation [strongly encourage](/doc/july-21-2021-plaintiffs-executive-committee-press-release-re-national-opioid-settlement) municipalities to join.

Municipalities that join will be helping to bring additional abatement resources to communities and families throughout the state for substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

(3) If my municipality joins, will it receive direct payments?

Yes. Massachusetts municipalities that join the Settlements will receive direct annual payments to expend on municipal abatement strategies developed with input from public health experts, municipal leaders, and families affected by the crisis.

(4) If my municipality joins, how much of the Abatement Funds will it receive?

Under the default terms of the national Settlements, Massachusetts municipalities that join the Settlements would directly receive 15% of the total Abatement Funds, [divided among the municipalities in the percentages reflected in the Settlements \(/doc/allocation-percentages-for-municipal-abatement-funds\)](#). We anticipate Massachusetts municipalities will receive considerably more than the 15% default. We are still working through the specifics and plan to update this FAQ.

(5) How were those percentages set?

Lawyers and experts in the national opioid litigation developed the allocation model based on nationally available federal data on opioid use disorder, overdose deaths and 2006-2016 opioid shipments into Massachusetts, by region and community.

(6) How can my municipality join the Settlements?

Municipalities can join the Settlements by sending their completed [Subdivision Settlement Participation Form \(/lists/subdivision-settlement-participation-forms\)](#) (with an original signature) to:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Attorney General

Attn: Opioid Settlement Team

One Ashburton Place

Boston, MA 02108

Alternatively, municipalities may register on the national settlement website and submit their Subdivision Settlement Participation Forms electronically via DocuSign, once the DocuSign system is operational.

(7) Is there a deadline for returning the Subdivision Settlement Participation Forms?

Municipalities should return their Subdivision Settlement Participation Forms by January 2, 2022.

Municipalities that anticipate joining but will not be able to submit a Subdivision Settlement Participation Form by January 2, 2022, should notify the AG's office by sending an email to

MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov (mailto:MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov) as soon as possible.

(8) Where will the statewide Abatement Funds go?

Abatement Funds that are not distributed directly to municipalities will go to the recently-created [statewide Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund](#) (/service-details/opioid-recovery-and-remediation-fund-advisory-council-statute) to fund additional prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery programs throughout Massachusetts. The Attorney General has already directed more than \$11 million to the Fund from other state opioid settlements.

(9) Do municipalities have a role in the statewide Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund?

Yes. The Fund is overseen by the state's Executive Office of Health and Human Services together with a [Council comprised of 10 municipal appointees appointed by the Massachusetts Municipal Association and 10 state appointees](#) (/service-details/opioid-recovery-and-remediation-fund-advisory-council-members). The appointees are qualified by experience and expertise regarding opioid use disorder.

In its first year, the Council met four times and focused on reviewing the scope of the opioid crisis in Massachusetts, the existing landscape of substance use prevention and treatment programming in Massachusetts, and opportunities to address racial and geographic inequities in substance use prevention and treatment. The Council dedicated significant time to developing a set of principles for future expenditures from the Fund.

On September 30, 2021, the Council voted unanimously to approve a [proposal](#) (/doc/orrf-advisory-council-meeting-presentation-93021-0/download), based on suggestions and feedback provided by the Council, to spend \$10 million from the Fund to expand harm reduction services, increase access to methadone, expand supportive housing, and fund outreach teams to provide treatment, rehabilitation, and supportive services in home and community settings. The Council filed its [first Annual Report](#) (/doc/orrf-advisory-council-annual-report-2020-0/download) on October 1, 2021.

(10) What about attorney's fees?

Some municipalities in Massachusetts and other States retained attorneys on a contingency fee basis to file opioid litigation. The national Settlements establish a \$1.6 billion Attorney Fee Fund and \$200 million Cost Fund for attorneys representing municipalities that join the Settlements. [The Settlements require attorneys who recover from those funds to waive enforcement of their contingency fee entitlements](#) (/lists/relevant-excerpt-from-ex-r-of-the-settlements) as to all of their clients and notify their clients

accordingly.

The state's investigation and litigation against the opioid industry is handled by government lawyers in AG Healey's office. No money from these Settlements will go to pay any state lawyers.

(11) Where can I get more information about the Settlements?

Municipalities that retained attorneys to file opioid litigation should consult their attorneys.

To speak with someone on the Attorney General's opioids team,
email MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov (<mailto:MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov>).

Additional settlement-related information is available
at <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/> (<https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>).

Check back for updates to this FAQ.

PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for registering your subdivision on the national settlement website and for considering participating in the proposed Settlement Agreement with McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., and AmerisourceBergen Corporation (collectively “Settling Distributors”). This virtual envelope contains a Participation Form including a release of claims. The Participation Form in this envelope must be executed, without alteration, and submitted in order for your subdivision to be considered potentially “participating.”

The sign-on period for subdivisions ends on January 2, 2022. On or after that date, the states (in consultation with the subdivisions) and the Settling Distributors will determine whether the subdivision participation rate is sufficient for the settlement to move forward. If the deal moves forward, your release will become effective. If it does not, it will not.

Information about the Settlements may be found at the Massachusetts AG’s website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-statewide-settlements-with-opioid-distributors-and-johnson-johnson> and at <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>. These websites will be supplemented as additional information becomes available. Municipalities that retained attorneys to file opioid litigation should consult their attorneys with questions. To speak with someone on the Attorney General’s opioids team, email MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov.

Settlement Participation Form

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Governmental Entity: GILL TOWN | State: MA |
| Authorized Signatory: Ray Purington, Town Administrator | |
| Address 1: 325 Main Road | |
| Address 2: | |
| City, State, Zip: Gill | Massachusetts 01354 |
| Phone: 413-863-9347 | |
| Email: administrator@gillmass.org | |

The governmental entity identified above (“Governmental Entity”), in order to obtain and in consideration for the benefits provided to the Governmental Entity pursuant to the Settlement Agreement dated July 21, 2021 (“Distributor Settlement”), and acting through the undersigned authorized official, hereby elects to participate in the Distributor Settlement, release all Released Claims against all Released Entities, and agrees as follows.

1. The Governmental Entity is aware of and has reviewed the Distributor Settlement, understands that all terms in this Election and Release have the meanings defined therein, and agrees that by this Election, the Governmental Entity elects to participate in the Distributor Settlement and become a Participating Subdivision as provided therein.
2. The Governmental Entity shall, within 14 days of the Reference Date and prior to the filing of the Consent Judgment, dismiss with prejudice any Released Claims that it has filed.
3. The Governmental Entity agrees to the terms of the Distributor Settlement pertaining to Subdivisions as defined therein.
4. By agreeing to the terms of the Distributor Settlement and becoming a Releasor, the Governmental Entity is entitled to the benefits provided therein, including, if applicable, monetary payments beginning after the Effective Date.
5. The Governmental Entity agrees to use any monies it receives through the Distributor Settlement solely for the purposes provided therein.
6. The Governmental Entity submits to the jurisdiction of the court in the Governmental Entity’s state where the Consent Judgment is filed for purposes limited to that court’s role as provided in, and for resolving disputes to the extent provided in, the Distributor Settlement.
7. The Governmental Entity has the right to enforce the Distributor Settlement as provided therein.



8. The Governmental Entity, as a Participating Subdivision, hereby becomes a Releasor for all purposes in the Distributor Settlement, including but not limited to all provisions of Part XI, and along with all departments, agencies, divisions, boards, commissions, districts, instrumentalities of any kind and attorneys, and any person in their official capacity elected or appointed to serve any of the foregoing and any agency, person, or other entity claiming by or through any of the foregoing, and any other entity identified in the definition of Releasor, provides for a release to the fullest extent of its authority. As a Releasor, the Governmental Entity hereby absolutely, unconditionally, and irrevocably covenants not to bring, file, or claim, or to cause, assist or permit to be brought, filed, or claimed, or to otherwise seek to establish liability for any Released Claims against any Released Entity in any forum whatsoever. The releases provided for in the Distributor Settlement are intended by the Parties to be broad and shall be interpreted so as to give the Released Entities the broadest possible bar against any liability relating in any way to Released Claims and extend to the full extent of the power of the Governmental Entity to release claims. The Distributor Settlement shall be a complete bar to any Released Claim.
9. The Governmental Entity hereby takes on all rights and obligations of a Participating Subdivision as set forth in the Distributor Settlement.
10. In connection with the releases provided for in the Distributor Settlement, each Governmental Entity expressly waives, releases, and forever discharges any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States or other jurisdiction, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

General Release; extent. A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.

A Releasor may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which it knows, believes, or assumes to be true with respect to the Released Claims, but each Governmental Entity hereby expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles, releases and discharges, upon the Effective Date, any and all Released Claims that may exist as of such date but which Releasors do not know or suspect to exist, whether through ignorance, oversight, error, negligence or through no fault whatsoever, and which, if known, would materially affect the Governmental Entities' decision to participate in the Distributor Settlement.
11. Nothing herein is intended to modify in any way the terms of the Distributor Settlement, to which Governmental Entity hereby agrees. To the extent this Election and Release is interpreted differently from the Distributor Settlement in any respect, the Distributor Settlement controls.



I swear under penalty of perjury that I have all necessary power and authorization to execute this Election and Release on behalf of the Governmental Entity.

Signature: _____

Name: Ray Purington

Title: Town Administrator

Date: _____



PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for registering your subdivision on the national settlement website and for considering participating in the proposed Settlement Agreement with Johnson & Johnson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc. (collectively “Janssen”). This virtual envelope contains a Participation Form including a release of claims. The Participation Form in this envelope must be executed, without alteration, and submitted in order for your subdivision to be considered potentially “participating.”

The sign-on period for subdivisions ends on January 2, 2022. On or after that date, the states (in consultation with the subdivisions) and the Settling Distributors will determine whether the subdivision participation rate is sufficient for the settlement to move forward. If the deal moves forward, your release will become effective. If it does not, it will not.

Information about the Settlements may be found at the Massachusetts AG’s website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-statewide-settlements-with-opioid-distributors-and-johnson-johnson> and at <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/>. These websites will be supplemented as additional information becomes available. Municipalities that retained attorneys to file opioid litigation should consult their attorneys with questions. To speak with someone on the Attorney General’s opioids team, email MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov.

Settlement Participation Form

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Governmental Entity: GILL TOWN | State: MA |
| Authorized Signatory: Ray Purington, Town Administrator | |
| Address 1: 325 Main Rd | |
| Address 2: | |
| City, State, Zip: Gill | Massachusetts 01354 |
| Phone: 413-863-9347 | |
| Email: administrator@gillmass.org | |

The governmental entity identified above (“Governmental Entity”), in order to obtain and in consideration for the benefits provided to the Governmental Entity pursuant to the Settlement Agreement dated July 21, 2021 (“Janssen Settlement”), and acting through the undersigned authorized official, hereby elects to participate in the Janssen Settlement, release all Released Claims against all Released Entities, and agrees as follows.

1. The Governmental Entity is aware of and has reviewed the Janssen Settlement, understands that all terms in this Election and Release have the meanings defined therein, and agrees that by this Election, the Governmental Entity elects to participate in the Janssen Settlement and become a Participating Subdivision as provided therein.
2. The Governmental Entity shall, within 14 days of the Reference Date and prior to the filing of the Consent Judgment, dismiss with prejudice any Released Claims that it has filed.
3. The Governmental Entity agrees to the terms of the Janssen Settlement pertaining to Subdivisions as defined therein.
4. By agreeing to the terms of the Janssen Settlement and becoming a Releasor, the Governmental Entity is entitled to the benefits provided therein, including, if applicable, monetary payments beginning after the Effective Date.
5. The Governmental Entity agrees to use any monies it receives through the Janssen Settlement solely for the purposes provided therein.
6. The Governmental Entity submits to the jurisdiction of the court in the Governmental Entity’s state where the Consent Judgment is filed for purposes limited to that court’s role as provided in, and for resolving disputes to the extent provided in, the Janssen Settlement.
7. The Governmental Entity has the right to enforce the Janssen Settlement as provided therein.



8. The Governmental Entity, as a Participating Subdivision, hereby becomes a Releasor for all purposes in the Janssen Settlement, including but not limited to all provisions of Section IV (Release), and along with all departments, agencies, divisions, boards, commissions, districts, instrumentalities of any kind and attorneys, and any person in their official capacity elected or appointed to serve any of the foregoing and any agency, person, or other entity claiming by or through any of the foregoing, and any other entity identified in the definition of Releasor, provides for a release to the fullest extent of its authority. As a Releasor, the Governmental Entity hereby absolutely, unconditionally, and irrevocably covenants not to bring, file, or claim, or to cause, assist or permit to be brought, filed, or claimed, or to otherwise seek to establish liability for any Released Claims against any Released Entity in any forum whatsoever. The releases provided for in the Janssen Settlement are intended by the Parties to be broad and shall be interpreted so as to give the Released Entities the broadest possible bar against any liability relating in any way to Released Claims and extend to the full extent of the power of the Governmental Entity to release claims. The Janssen Settlement shall be a complete bar to any Released Claim.

9. In connection with the releases provided for in the Janssen Settlement, each Governmental Entity expressly waives, releases, and forever discharges any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States or other jurisdiction, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

General Release; extent. A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.

A Releasor may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which it knows, believes, or assumes to be true with respect to the Released Claims, but each Governmental Entity hereby expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles, releases and discharges, upon the Effective Date, any and all Released Claims that may exist as of such date but which Releasors do not know or suspect to exist, whether through ignorance, oversight, error, negligence or through no fault whatsoever, and which, if known, would materially affect the Governmental Entities' decision to participate in the Janssen Settlement.

10. Nothing herein is intended to modify in any way the terms of the Janssen Settlement, to which Governmental Entity hereby agrees. To the extent this Election and Release is interpreted differently from the Janssen Settlement in any respect, the Janssen Settlement controls.



I swear under penalty of perjury that I have all necessary power and authorization to execute this Election and Release on behalf of the Governmental Entity.

Signature: _____

Name: Ray Purington

Title: Town Administrator

Date: _____



Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: COA-Council on Aging <councilonaging@montague-ma.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 12:14 PM
To: Tracy
Cc: Nour Elkhattaby Strauch
Subject: Age Friendly town initiative

<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities/info-2014/an-introduction.html>

Hello, Ray. Could you take a look at this info regarding age=friendly towns/cities when you have a chance. Lifepath is working on this program and hoping to have all towns in their catchment area participate. Montague selectboard has already joined in and the Lifepath administrator for the program (cc'd above) has asked me to see if Gill would engage as well. Lifepath is doing the share of the work with an ad hoc steering committee (e.g. developing surveys, submitting info, etc.) and there is no required financial commitment. Nour Elkhattaby from Lifepath would welcome the opportunity to talk to you or to the selectboard if you'd/they'd like an overview or we can just directly apply with Nour's help. I believe all that would be required is a short MOU from the selectboard or a simple letter of support. Given that Lifepath is committed to do the lion's share of work on this, I see no downside to doing this. Fundamentally, it seeks to assess the town's needs vis-a-vis livability for elders and by puts elder needs closer to the surface when infrastructure or social initiatives are under discussion. Let me now what you think. Thanks

Roberta L. Potter, Director
Gill Montague Council on Aging
PO Box 166
Turners Falls, MA 01376
(413) 863-9357



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TOWN OF GILL

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



www.gillmass.org

November 22, 2021

Mr. Michael E. Festa
AARP Massachusetts State Director
1 Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston MA. 02108

Dear Mr. Festa:

As the executive body of Gill Massachusetts, we request your consideration of our Town's application, as part of LifePath's Age- and Dementia-Friendly Project in Franklin County and North Quabbin, to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, affiliate to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Our community recognizes the need to prepare for an increasingly older population, and the importance of planning and policies that consider the needs of citizens of all ages. This is a matter of equity, but also a means through which we can better sustain our community's social and economic vitality.

We look forward to joining the AARP Age-Friendly Communities Network in order to focus on this goal of achieving a more livable community for older adults and people living with dementia. We believe a process that identifies needs and opportunities for the development of more age- and dementia-friendly policies and procedures will enhance the relevance and impact of our planning efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of the Town of Gill's membership in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Sincerely,

Selectboard of the Town of Gill

Gregory Snedeker, Chair

Charles Garbiel

Randy Crochier

Cc: Roberta Potter, Director, Gill-Montague Council on Aging
Nour Elkhattaby Strauch, Age-Friendly Program Manager, LifePath