



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

Mon., March 11, 2024

***Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting

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

Location: Town Hall, 2nd floor meeting room, 325 Main Road, Gill

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

- Updates & followup from Dec. 18th nuisance dog hearing for dog owned by Travis Johnson, 239 West Gill Rd.
- Update – Jenkins' bequest of 19 Boyle Road – discussion of March 4th site visit by members of Selectboard and Historical Commission. May include a vote on accepting or disclaiming the bequest (joint meeting with Historical Commission)
- Elected vs Appointed – Treasurer, Tax Collector, and other positions – discussion of merits, process, and timing (revisiting 2/27/23 discussion)
- FirstLight & FERC Relicensing – “Ready for Environmental Analysis” notices issued Feb 22nd, 60-day period to file comments and motions to intervene
- Review of Minutes: 8/29/22, 9/12/22, 10/11/22, 11/21/22, 12/5/22, 12/19/22, 1/30/23, 2/13, 2/27, 3/13, 3/28, 3/30, 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/20, 7/3, 9/11, 9/25, 11/06, 11/27, 12/4, 1/2, 2/12, 2/26

New Business

- Replacing switcher in Town Hall AV system – joint meeting of Selectboard & Cable Committee
- Gill Newsletter – future of the newsletter after the May issue, when several key, long-time volunteers are retiring
- Resignation – Tim Batchelder as Administrative Clerk, effective 3/15/24
- Appointment – Brian Donahue, 71 Hoe Shop Rd, to the Town Forest Committee through 6/30/24
- Sewer Abatement - \$17.46 to Jeff Suprenant for water used to fill a hot tub
- Chapter 90 allocation for FY25 - \$146,502.36
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
- Public Service Announcements, if any
 - Gill-Montague Senior Center – Tech Drop-in hours & 6-week computer laptop class
- Warrants
 - FY24 #18 Vendors (\$44,428.42) & Payroll (\$36,050.05) – reviewed & signed on 02/26/24
 - FY24 #19 – review & sign

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon 3/25	5:30 PM	Selectboard Meeting	Town Hall
Mon 4/8	5:30 PM	Selectboard Meeting	Town Hall



Framework for considering elected and appointed offices

Rev 05.12.11

Below are eight criteria supporting a position or board being elected and eight criteria supporting one being appointed. The criteria are essentially opposites of each other. Where one increases, the other decreases, and vice-versa.

Note that few if any positions or boards will fall entirely in one column or another, and most will fall in the middle on some criteria. The general purpose of this list is to provide a framework for discussing each position or board on its own terms and deciding what is the best fit for the particular community.

Criteria supporting a position or board being ***ELECTED***	Criteria supporting a position or board being ***APPOINTED***
1. It has significant policy-making responsibility.	1. It has minimal policy-making responsibility.
2. It has few ministerial responsibilities and tasks whose performance is guided almost entirely by statute.	2. It has many ministerial responsibilities and tasks whose performance is guided almost entirely by statute.
3. Someone with little training or expertise in its area of work could quickly and easily become effective in the work.	3. Someone with little training or expertise in its area of work would have significant difficulty in performing the work effectively, potentially creating significant risks for the community.
4. Its role and tasks are easily and widely understood by the public.	4. Its role and tasks are complicated and NOT easily and widely understood by the public.
5. The nature of the position or board's role makes it relatively simple for the public to evaluate the performance of its non-policy-making duties (for example, efficient use of resources, etc.).	5. The nature of the position or board's role makes it relatively difficult for the public to evaluate the performance of its non-policy-making duties (for example, efficient use of resources, etc.).
6. The position or board is helpful as a check or balance against another center of power in the community.	6. The position or board is not needed as a check or balance against another center of power in the community.
7. It is not critical to the effective and efficient functioning of the government for this position or board to cooperate regularly with other officials.	7. It is critical to the effective and efficient functioning of the government for this position or board to cooperate regularly with other officials.
8. In the particular community in question, election for the position historically produces a very competitive race between highly-qualified candidates.	8. In the particular community in question, election for the position historically produces little or no competition and few or no highly-qualified candidates.

PART I ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT
(Chapters 1 through 182)

TITLE VII CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS

CHAPTER 41 OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS

Section 1B Appointed town offices and boards; acceptance by voters

Section 1B. Any office or board, except the board of selectmen and the school committee, elected under the provisions of section 1 may become an appointed position or board by a majority vote of the annual or special town meeting and acceptance by the voters of the town at the annual town elections; provided, however, that any vote by a special town meeting taken under the provisions of this section shall take place at least 60 days prior to the acceptance of the voters at the annual town election. Such acceptance by the voters shall be in the form of the following question, to be placed on the official ballot:

Shall the town vote to have its elected (Title of office or board) become an appointed (Title of office or board) of the town? Yes ____ No ____

If a majority of votes cast in answer to said question is in the affirmative, said office or board shall become appointed in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Any incumbent of such office or board serving at the time of acceptance by the voters shall continue to hold said office and to perform the duties thereof until the expiration of the term for which said individual was elected or until said individual otherwise vacates such office; provided, however, that any individual elected to an office or board which becomes an appointed office or board at the same election, under the provisions of this section, shall hold said office and perform the duties thereof until the appointment to said office is otherwise made under the provisions of this section.

Such appointment shall be made by the board of selectmen for a term not to exceed three years, unless such mode of appointment or term is otherwise provided by law.

Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: Andrea Donlon <ADonlon@frcog.org>
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2024 2:16 PM
To: 'Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard'; 'StevenE - Montague Town Administrator'; 'WalterR@montague-ma.gov'; Bryan Smith; 'allamas@northfieldma.gov'; 'Barbara Jacque'
Cc: Kimberly Noake MacPhee
Subject: Hydro relicensing - upcoming deadlines
Attachments: Northfield Mountain P-2485-071 REA Notice 02-22-2024.docx; Turners Falls P-1889-085 REA Notice 02-22-2024.docx

Importance: High

Dear Town Administrators,

As you may have seen in yesterday's Recorder, the long-awaited moment is here: On February 22, FERC issued their Ready for Environmental Analysis "REA" notices for the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project and the Turners Falls project. The REA restarts the FERC relicensing process and opens a 60-day comment period for stakeholders to file motions to intervene and comments. See attached.

Submitting a Motion to Intervene is important and required if the town wishes to have legal standing in the FERC process. The deadline for submitting the Motion to Intervene and comments to FERC is **April 22**. FRCOG is available to assist each town with preparing the Motion to Intervene and we will be sending a draft to each town for review in early March. In addition to reviewing this document, we've put together a list of items for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need assistance.

- The Select Board is the signatory to the Motion to Intervene and it must be e-filed with FERC by April 22nd. We can assist the town with the e-filing process. An account must be established for the town if one does not already exist. It is better to create an account now or confirm an existing account so we don't hit any e-filing snags and miss the deadline.
- Share with town residents the opportunity to submit comments to FERC. The Connecticut River Conservancy has great information on their website and in their Hydropower Update newsletter. They are available (virtual office hours) to answer questions <https://www.ctriver.org/event/hydropower-office-hours/> and assist town residents in drafting comments. CRC has also developed a Comment Guide at <https://www.ctriver.org/wp-content/uploads/CRC-FERC-Comment-Guide-updated-2.22.24.pdf>
- Discuss whether there are any non-recreational or fish/flows issues related to the hydropower projects that are of interest to your town. If so, please start assembling comments and let us know so we can assist with putting the comments into the appropriate format. We'll be sharing FRCOG's erosion comments for your consideration as appropriate to your town. An important thing to keep in mind is that your town signed the Recreation Settlement Agreement and that means town comments must support that agreement and not oppose any element of the fish and flows settlement. This is an important legal distinction that our lawyers will make sure FRCOG and the towns adhere to so our comments don't get rejected by FERC and we don't contravene the terms of the Recreation Settlement Agreement.
- One area to consider in comments is FirstLight's **Historical Properties Management Plan (HPMP)** that was prepared as part of the Amended Final License Application dated December 2020. FirstLight submitted the HPMP with the intention that this document be the plan they follow for the next 50 years – **so it is important for the town to review it and submit comments** (*this is an area of relicensing that nobody else is looking at other than possibly Mass. Historical Commission*). If there are no comments on it, FERC will likely accept it as

written. The town or its Historical Commission should have received a copy. If not, please contact Mark Wamser ASAP at mwamser@gomezandsullivan.com and request a copy.

- You may also recall that FERC required FirstLight to conduct a **Traditional Cultural Properties** (TCP) study (study 3.7.3). This is a separate study from one about historical properties, and it ideally would inform the HPMP. For various reasons, the TCP was very incomplete and has not been incorporated into the HPMP. I will be working with Joe Graveline from Nolumbeka Project to craft a couple of sentences that the towns can consider adding into a comment letter to support the efforts of tribal groups and indigenous ally organizations.
- Our attorney Ron Shems is continuing to work with us to make sure our filings adequately articulate our needs. He is also now working with a colleague, David Mears, who will be reviewing our filings. I am familiar with David through my earlier position at CRC – you can read his bio at <https://www.tarrantgillies.com/our-team/david-k-mears/>

In addition to the FERC process, the **401 Water Quality Certification** through MassDEP will begin soon. FirstLight is required to file their application to DEP within 60 days of the REA notice posting. FirstLight has posted in the FERC docket a letter to DEP requesting to have a pre-filing meeting. We expect the 401 application to be filed within the next month or so. That will trigger another comment period, as outlined on DEP's web page: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/401-wqc-for-the-firstlight-hydroelectric-re-licensing-project>. This web page has a place where you can sign up to get updates – I just got my first update message this afternoon. Will your town be interested in attending the hearing and filing comments? We will be in touch soon about coordinating our comments on erosion and the 401.

Andrea and Kimberly

Andrea Donlon (she/her)

Senior Land Use & Natural Resources Planner
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
12 Olive Street, Suite 2
Greenfield MA 01301
Office phone: 413-774-3167 x127
Cell phone: 413-325-4426
Email: adonlon@frcog.org



www.frcog.org | [Find us on Facebook](#) | X (Twitter): [@FranklinCOG](#)



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: Janet Masucci <janetmasucci@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 1:42 PM
To: Ray Selectboard; Tom Hodak; Charles Garbiel; Randy Crochier; Greg Snedeker; clerical@gillmass.org
Subject: Replacing the switcher

To the Cable Advisory Committee and Selectboard,

I would like to propose that we replace the switcher in our AV system immediately or as soon as possible. I would like to bring this item to our next Selectboard meeting.

Dean Garvin @MCTV is recommending a switcher that is simpler, more reliable, and it has inputs for both SDI and HDMI so that none of the cameras will need mediation to convert the signal and also better connectors that are more secure and less likely to be unreliable.

The switcher we've been using is so unreliable, that even though I had set up ahead of time, and it was working perfectly an hour earlier, just before the six town meeting that we had recently, it froze up, and I had to resort to using a single camera on a tripod at the very last minute. Sometimes the sound doesn't come into the switcher, and we have to jiggle a cable to make it work. It's in the switcher, we replaced the HDMI cable twice.

Thank you for considering this,
Janet

Sent from my iPhone

Riverside Healing and Bodywork
Janet Masucci
64 French King Hwy
Gill, MA 01354

www.JanetMasucci.com

--

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.
www.avg.com

Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: Barbara Watson <bWatson1066@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 03, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Claire Chang
Cc: Susan LaScala; Sandy Brown; Alden Booth; Janet Masucci; Allen Tupper Brown; Patricia Crosby; Vicki Jenkins; Sue Kramer; Michi Wiancko; Teri Rice; Toby; Andy Cole; Greg Snedeker; Randy P. Crochier Sr.; Charles Garbiel; Gill Ray; Tom Hodak; Tim Batchelder, Gill Admin Clerk; Doreen Stevens; Peter Turban; Bill Tomb; Lynn Stowe Tomb; Ted Castro-Santos; Jocelyn Castro-Santos; Ray Steele; Jen Simms; Steve Damon; Danny Botkin; Deb and Doug Edson
Subject: Re: heath town newsletter!

Dear Claire,

Thank you so much for sending the Heath newsletter-- it is truly an impressive publication! It also arrived at an auspicious moment: it's time to pass the baton.

I have been involved with our newsletter for almost twenty years, dating back to when we copied it on a fancier version of a mimeograph machine, compliments of NMH. I simply don't have the energy to put into it any more.

Our editor, Susan LaScala, and layout guru, Harry van Baaren, are also finding this undertaking more onerous as their interests and energies are elsewhere.

In short, after the next issue comes out (c. May 1st), the three of us will retire. As I am replying to the lengthy list of people you cc'ed, it is our hope that some of you will keep this community asset alive. Once you can find some new volunteers, we are happy to show them the ropes.

In closing, I want to thank NMH for its long-standing support in the free use of its copiers, Ray Purington and the town hall staff for all their help in getting the newsletter ready, and our many volunteers who have collated and folded thousands of pages.

Sincerely,

Barb, Susan & Harry

On Thu, Feb 29, 2024 at 4:47 PM Claire Chang <claire@solargreenfield.com> wrote:

I just got a copy of the heath town newsletter and WOW! there are really interesting articles in it.

maybe we have some people in town who could contribute some interesting topics for the next issue?

maybe contribute towards color copies? I would help pay for color!

thank you

Claire Chang

TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST FORM (Revised 03/03/22)

If the usage figures are believed to be incorrect for the current billing cycle, an abatement form must be filled out, signed, and dated to allow the Town to respond and consider the request. **The bill must be paid before any abatement will be considered.** Sewer abatements will not be granted for the following uses: watering gardens; watering lawns; washing vehicles, buildings, driveways, etc.; no water meter reading or use.

Abatement requests must be in writing to the Sewer Commissioners within 30 days of the Bill Date. (NOTE: 30 days of the Bill Date, NOT the Due Date.)

Sewer Bill Date: 10/12/23

Sewer Bill #: 6450

Dear Sewer Commissioners: I am requesting abatement of my sewer bill for the noted reason(s).

- ☒ Metered water used for filling swimming pools or spas (complete chart below)
(Abatement shall not be granted if calculated amount is less than \$10.00)
- ☐ Inaccurate readings (must be confirmed by Water Commissioners)
- ☐ Excessive reading due to broken water pipes (must prove that excess water did not enter sewer system)
- ☐ Other (explain below)

Explanation: HOT TOP

Use date is
outside service
date range for
10/12/23 bill.
Hold until next quarter

Usage History:

Date	"A" Meter Reading Before (Cu. Ft.)	"B" Meter Reading After (Cu. Ft.)	"C" # of Cubic Ft (B - A)	"D" Sewer Rate (from bill) 0.3278 \$/cu. ft.	\$ Requested for Abatement (C x D)
<i>Example</i>	075074	075162	88	0.3278	28.85
<u>10/16/23</u>	<u>33390</u>	<u>33440</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>0.3278</u>	<u>16.39</u>
				0.3278	17.46
				0.3278	
				0.3278	
Total requested					<u>\$ 16.39</u>

0.3491 RP

RP

Continued on second page

\$17.46

SEWER ABATEMENT REQUEST FORM, page 2

Signature

Jeffrey Sorenson

Today's Date

10/16/22

Name

JEFFREY SORENSON

Account # (from bill)

6450

Address

25 ORISKANY ST

GILL, MA 01354

Tel.

417-522-2385

Email

Meter location if different from above address

Submit this completed form to the Sewer Commissioners (Selectboard):

Mail: 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354

Email: administrator@gillmass.org

Do not send this form with your sewer payment. Do not send sewer payments with this form.

Please keep a copy of this form for your records.

-----Town Use Only Below This Line-----

Date received by Sewer Commissioners

10/26/23

(Town has 90 days from receipt to process abatement.)

Sewer bill is paid & no outstanding sewer charges?

2/29/24

☒ YES ☐ NO

Tax Collector signature

RP

Sewer Commission response:

Approved _____

Denied _____

Date _____

Sewer Commissioners



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

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 27, 2024

Ray Purington
Town Administrator
Town of Gill
325 Main Road
Gill, MA 01354

Dear Ray Purington,

We are pleased to announce that under the administration of Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, a total of \$400 million for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 was filed for the MassDOT Chapter 90 Program to support local infrastructure across the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns over the next two years.

This funding demonstrates the Administration's continued support in strengthening municipal partnerships and providing financial resources that support transportation improvements at the local level.

This letter certifies that, contingent upon legislative approval of the \$200 million annual bond authorization, Gill's Chapter 90 apportionment for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$146,502.36.

This apportionment will automatically be incorporated into your existing Chapter 90 contract with MassDOT with no further action needed by the municipality. Apportionments for all communities are available online at www.mass.gov/chapter-90-program. Please note that while the bill enacting these funds has been filed, the funds are not available for municipal use until final legislative approval is obtained.

The Chapter 90 Program is an integral part of maintaining and enhancing your community's infrastructure and is an essential component of our state-local partnership. We look forward to working with you in the coming year to continue the success of this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. T. Healey", written in a cursive style.

Maura Healey
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Driscoll", written in a cursive style.

Kim Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor