



SERVICES TO GILL IN 2023

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND LAND USE

- Provided technical assistance related to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the Northfield Mountain pumped storage and the Turners Falls dam hydroelectric projects, resulting in a signed recreation settlement agreement. The process continues into 2024.
- Prepared a memo summarizing known short-term rental numbers in Franklin County, revenues for towns that have opted to implement the lodging tax, and existing bylaws across the state related to short-term rentals. Towns can use that info to develop policies and bylaws, if desired.
- Facilitated a monthly meeting with the MA Attorney General's Neighborhood Renewal Program, allowing FRCOG regional health agents to facilitate rehabilitation and eventual occupancy of abandoned housing in Gill.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) administrators on results from 81 GM students, representing 59% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning.
- Worked with GMRSD administration and staff to implement restorative practices school climate improvements.
- Provided training, materials, and technical assistance for the evidence-based PreVenture substance use prevention and mental health promotion program in the school district.
- Supported town officials with information and technical assistance on spending opioid settlement funds.
- Provided outreach materials to cannabis businesses that focus on safeguarding children and pets from cannabis exposure by emphasizing safe storage, plus other tips and resources.

SHARED MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Gill contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment; elevator maintenance, fire alarm testing, fire extinguisher services, and dog tags and licenses. Staff also conducted a collective five-year bid for student transportation encompassing nine Franklin County School Districts, including the Franklin County Technical School.
- The Franklin County Cooperative Inspections Program issued 107 building permits, 66 electrical permits and 32 plumbing/gas permits, and 25 certificates of inspection for Gill in 2023.
- The FRCOG Town Accounting program produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and departments. Accountants certified free cash and submitted a schedule A at year-end; assisted in completing the recap for tax rate submission; and customized, developed, and distributed reports for committees and departments. They assisted with the annual audit, if necessary. Accounting data was accessible over a secure internet connection to a server at the FRCOG office, and backed-up daily.
- FRCOG staff organized and facilitated educational meetings for members of town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.
- Gill is a comprehensive member of the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), a regional health district based at the FRCOG. CPHS Staff:
 - Facilitated COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics between state mobile vendors and local schools, libraries and senior centers. Clinics in CPHS towns served 726 individuals and provided 1075 doses of vaccine, including a clinic at Gill Elementary that served 77 people and provided 133 doses of vaccine.
 - Hosted drop-in nursing hours at Stoughton Place Community Room, serving 23 different people in 62 separate contacts.

- Gave 259 Flu and 257 COVID vaccinations at drop-in nursing hours and home visits. Gill residents received 24 vaccines, including 4 at home visits.
- Completed state-mandated infectious disease surveillance and reporting for communicable disease cases in district member towns, checking state online disease tracking system daily and following up as required, including for 40 Gill cases.
- Offered sharps collection and box exchange in collaboration with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at all drop-in nursing hours: 69 boxes exchanged.
- Offered tick-bite prevention outreach by providing educational materials and co-hosting 7 permethrin “shoe spraying” events with boards of health.
- Through a district program and MA Department of Public Health subsidy, Gill residents sought 11 low-cost tick tests, a savings value of \$385. Of the tested ticks, 55% tested positive for the Lyme disease pathogen.
- Began hosting district “Train the Trainer” events: The first taught community members to train peers to recognize and respond to opioid overdose.
- Provided guidance to the board of health, and regularly attended meetings.
- Assisted businesses, organizations, and individuals with the CPHS on-line public health permitting system; evaluated and made determinations on 67 applications for Gill, and on an additional 14 applications for regional permits. Among these, health agents reviewed 9 food establishment and 2 temporary food establishment permit applications, involving 13 food inspections; inspected 7 recreational camps for children; reviewed 1 application for a short term rental permit, 3 well applications, and 6 applications for beaver control permits.
- To enforce the septic code for the town, agents witnessed 13 soil evaluation/percolation tests; reviewed 10 septic system plans, reviewed and issued 2 local upgrade approvals and 8 septic installation permits, visited sites, conducted final installation inspections, and prepared certificates of compliance; and witnessed 11 Title-5 inspections prior to property transfer.
- Responded to and managed multiple housing cases with varying degrees of complexity. This included the closing of 2 long-standing vacant housing cases in Riverside, both now viable homes.
- Assisted Gill businesses and residents with sanitary code compliance.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables and training sessions that Gill public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Emergency Preparedness

Child Emergency Assessment & Stabilization – 1

Public Health & Community Awareness

Food Safety – 5

TRANSPORTATION

- Completed an inventory and assessment of culverts on all town-maintained roads.
- Participated in the Northern Tier Rail study to examine the feasibility of passenger rail service connecting North Adams, Greenfield, and Boston.
- Compiled a MA Complete Streets Funding Program Prioritization Plan.
- Engaged in a contract to install Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs in spring 2024.
- Completed the summary report for Gill Electric Vehicle Charging Station Survey.
- Provided assistance to facilitate the Route 2 Task Force.