

# **Falmouth Heights-Maravista Neighborhood Association**

Annual Meeting, Saturday, August 5, 2017

8:00 - 10:15 AM

Location: Falmouth Yacht Club

Meeting Minutes Draft 8/25/2017

Board : N= 12 Dave Buzanoski, Debbie Scott, Gerry Ryan, Greg Mazmanian, Howard Grosser, Joan MacClary, Kevin Smith, Lance Kussell, Larry Backman, Paula Lichter, Susan Gallagher, Mary Jo Bradley

Members: N= 47

Guests: N= 4 Selectman Doug Brown, Town Manager Julian Suso, guest speaker Charles McCaffrey, Neighborhood Police Liaison Sargent Jim Cummings

Recording Secretary: Erin Graciani

1. **Welcome:** President Howard Grosser called the meeting to order at 8:17 AM. He welcomed everyone to the 2017 FHMNA annual meeting and introduced the board members and invited guests.

2. **Standing Committee:** Nominating Committee.

A. MOTION made by Larry Backman to re-elect Board Directors for 3 year terms: Gerry Ryan, Howard Grosser, Kevin Smith. Seconded by Debbie Scott. Approved unanimously.

B. MOTION made by Larry Backman to re-elect Alternate **Director** Mary Jo Bradley. Seconded by Charles Matteo. Approved unanimously.

C. Board Openings were announced: 2 Directors; 1 Alternate. Interested individuals were asked to speak with Larry Backman or Paula Lichter after the meeting.

3. **Guest Speaker: Charles McCaffrey, Chairman, Coastal Resiliency Action Committee:**

Mr. McCaffrey introduced himself and acknowledged that coastal resiliency is a topic of interest to many town residents. He began with a story to illustrate how coastal issues have always existed by relating how the water levels and beach area have eroded at New Silver Beach since he was a child visiting that beach.

He explained that the Board of Selectmen have formed a committee to be informed on how the environment is changing and to make recommendations to them. There are 5 members of the committee: 3 appointed by the selectmen, 1 from the Planning Board, and 1 from the Conservation Committee. The committee's job is to evaluate the risks and the timing of those risks.

He explained that it is not the natural phenomena but rather our response to those natural changes that have created our coastal environment. Some examples include: erosion of bluffs that create our beaches; sea level water rise; changes in rainfall; and rising temperatures. We need to determine what are the immediate risks and what are more long term. We need to understand how these factors are impacting the infrastructure and planning. We may need to alter how we access the shoreline. He acknowledged that water access can prompt adaptation for businesses that depend on being near the shore and the residents that live along the shore. He explained that we anticipate sea level water rise of 2-3 feet or possibly 6 ft before the end of the century. How we address this is different than how we deal with current conditions such as a major hurricane.

The geography of our shoreline varies. There is a general public policy but there needs to be specific terms based on topography. The committee is supposed to draft a letter to the Selectmen this week. Those who live in the flood plain could have reduced rates for flood insurance if the town can prove that they are doing things that reduce the risks of flooding. It could result in a 5-45% reduction in flood insurance rates. The town may already have enough data to receive a 10% reduction.

The county will be looking at sea level rise for this area and we have the scientists in Woods Hole to examine this, including a coastal geologist. There was a group that looked at the causes of erosion and identified erosion prevention measures.

Q. What about storm surge?

A. Each one is different.

Q. Is having Martha's Vineyard across the sound helpful?

A. Artificial reefs that can help break the waves as they reach the shore may be helpful. (He gave an example of what NYC is doing: they have spent billions on researching & plans on coastal resiliency.)

Q. Howard Grosser - Will you have suggestions for individual homeowners?

A. That will be part of our recommendations.

Q. Joan MacClary - Are the jetties helpful?

A. Jetty's are a two-edged sword. We need a jetty at the harbor but they interrupt the natural movement of sand along the coast. Where you put a jetty, the sand builds up one side and erodes on the other so we need to analyze the long-term effects of placing jetties.

Q. Gerry Potamis - To be resilient, we have seen elevated homes. Are those structures neutral to the coastline? If we have a hurricane, will that house be standing?

A. Yes, but we have to look at if the high tide rises. You can't have the tide under the house. We have to be aware that maybe in 20-30 years you might not be able to rebuild that house. We need to change gradually.

Q. Charlie Matteo - What about the bridge at Bournes Pond? Should we build a new bridge?

A. Probably. That bridge will last for 20-30 years but in that time there might not be land on either side.

Q. Debbie Scott - Concerned about Great Bay Rd erosion.

A. That is a timing thing, Some towns are building raised roads.

4. **Secretary's Report** (Susan Gallagher): MOTION to accept minutes from 2016 Annual Meeting by Sue Gallagher, Seconded by Bob Cronin. Accepted unanimously.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Kevin Smith): Financial information is available to members upon request.

MOTION by Paula Lichter to accept treasurer's report. Seconded by Charlie Matteo. Approved unanimously.

6. **Standing Committees:**

A. Bylaw Review (Paula Lichter) - MOTION by Paula Lichter to change minimum number of Directors from 4 to 5 Seconded by Sue Gallagher. Approved unanimously

B. Membership Committee (Debbie) - Presently 310 households, 50/50 ratio of Falmouth Heights to Maravista (*ed note: 8/15/17, after renewals at Annual Meeting, 65/35*). 37% year round members. Debbie thanked the board for displaying signs encouraging neighbors to join the association.

## 7. **Appointed Committees:**

A. Clean Up (Mary Jo Bradley) - We had a cleanup day on 4/29 for the neighborhood, 30 people who came out and worked for 3 hours . We collected 35 bags of trash. It was very successful! Thanks to Greg and Dave (on the committee) who cleaned out the Heights bluff. We plan to do this again next spring.

Q. Michelle Matteo - Is there some way we can get rid of those nip bottles?

A. Greg - yes the nip bottles are a problem. We have talked with the town about the issue. There is some State legislation being proposed to institute a deposit on limited quantity bottles. Contact your State representatives to show your support.

Q. Could the board write a letter in support of this legislation?

A. Yes, we can. Also other towns have signs to discourage littering. We could ask the town to do this with a sign such as "Keep Falmouth litter free".

Q. Carol Ann Cronin - Last year we had a discussion about the number of trash barrels along the Heights beach. The town official stated that too many would encourage disposal of more trash including personal household trash. There are now recycle bins which are great. However, with fewer barrels in the offseason they are overflowing.

A. The DPW has placed twice as many barrels and there is still an issue. The DPW is doing a better job with more frequent trash collection.

B. Hospitality (Susan Gallagher) - Susan thanked the Falmouth Yacht Club for donating their space. She also thanked the Stop & Shop, Shaws and Windfall for their donations of gift cards for the refreshments.

C. Social (Lance Kussell) - Lance thanked the Falmouth Yacht Club for their hospitality. He reported that about 150 people attended the Spring Into Summer Social. It was a great opportunity to form new friendships and renew a lot of old friendships. The social committee is exploring an informal fall event next, possibly in October, and also looking at a semiformal event dinner dance for next year. Lance asked for an informal count to gauge interest in this idea for a Thursday or Sunday evening. Some were interested. He thanked the Social Committee members for their assistance.

## 8. **Liaisons:**

A. Beach Committee/Beach Department Liaison (Howard Grosser for Lorraine Luchner) - Howard spoke of the ongoing discussion for the past 3 years, 4 beach seasons, about civility on the beaches. The FHMNA has heard suggestions and comments on how the beach experience could be improved. The only thing that has been done thus far is the changing of the beach signs. The signs had been the same for 50 years and read "No ball playing". The board feels that the new wording that ball playing is "at the discretion of the lifeguard" impacts the safety on the beach. The Selectmen did have a discussion about beach at a previous BOS meeting. However it was specific to an incident at Grew's Pond/Goodwill Park and no policy changes were made. Howard wrote a letter to the editor on behalf of the Association. He, Andy Dufresne and Lorraine Luchner met with the Town Manager, Asst. Town Manager, Beach Superintendent and Beach Committee Chairman. At that meeting, they were told the signs are staying. We feel the beach signage change requires a town bylaw and thus needs to be updated by town meeting members. In order to have this issue discussed at town meeting,

we need to submit a warrant article. Howard sent a letter to all Town Meeting Members to ascertain if they were interested in discussing the beach rules at town meeting. He received responses from 1/3 of TM members reached. 75% of these responders were in favor of a TM discussion. The warrant article must be submitted by 8/25/17.

Comments from members:

- 1) Gerry Potamis - I highly recommend that we move forward with the bylaw and reach out to the town meeting members, not only the ones who represent our specific neighborhoods.
- 2) Mary Driscoll - I commend Howard on the letter and think it should go forward.
- 3) Paul Landozzi - I think we should submit a warrant but think we should remove the lifeguards responsibility from the sign, maybe beach monitors to enforce beach rules.  
A. Howard: the bylaw would be no ball playing but it would be up to management to develop the policy. It's the Beach Dept.'s responsibility to assign who deals with enforcing the rules
- 4) Marc Comstock - I don't think it's the beach vs. the town issue. The town needs to recognize that it's a town issue.  
A. Howard - It is town wide and the town needs to enforce laws if they have them. The bylaw is a start.
- 5) Andy Dufresne - We developed the regulations in the 60s for quality of life at the beach. The lifeguard is for public safety. The town management changed the signs and beach policy without going through the town meeting or the Board of Selectmen. The beach is for passive recreation: "if you want to play ball, go to a ball park". When the bylaw was passed it was no baseball or softball playing. I don't even know that frisbee was invented. I think the meeting was held at the wrong level.
- 6) Joe Netto - There have been similar issues at Menauhant. We all understand the intent of the original bylaw even if it doesn't list all games that are now in existence. The BOS should put this on their agenda and take this up at a meeting. A. per Howard: Sue Moran has already proposed that we discuss this at a Selectman meeting.
- 7) Bob Cronin - Could bylaw vary depending on the time of the year i.e. in winter vs summer?  
A. Much of bylaw is enforced only when beach is "open", 8-10 weeks, until 4 PM.
- 8) Jim Marnell - Q Who drafted the wording of the sign? A. Julian Suso and the Beach department. It is a pilot program for this season.
- 9) Lance Kussell - we need to focus on enforcement and emphasize respect of all beachgoers.

B. DPW & Conservation Committee Liaison (Joan MacClary & Gerry Ryan)

1) Various issues (Joan) - Replacement of the fence at Bristol Beach has been mentioned to Ray Jack. We have asked for replacement of missing bushes along Deacons Ave. Park (Inner Harbor). DPW trash pickup has been increased. One idea is for the town to identify a receptacle for items that are no longer wanted like beach chairs. We have requested that additional barrels be placed at the stairs by Terrace Gables and near the Tides Motel. There is a new stop sign at Nantucket Ave/Worcester Ct.

2) Worcester Ct/Ave Improvements (Joan) - The DPW will come up with a more formal schedule for maintenance of privets and the grass on Worcester Ct. Two new crosswalks are being installed from Worcester Ct to the Heights beach. There will be a new sidewalk from one side of the park to the other to encourage people not to walk in the streets. Granite curbing will be installed along the court on both sides protecting the new sidewalks and prohibiting parking in this area.

3) Worcester Ct/Ave timeline (Gerry) - Per Ray Jack: The water department has to run 9 water services across the street from the east to the west side. They will be completed this summer. The sidewalk, curbing and final paving will be completed after Labor Day. We appreciate Ray Jack and his team's efforts in the Worcester Ct project.

Q. Dave Holland - On Oak St., the white strip can become covered with sand so the white lines for crosswalk are not visible. Is it possible to have a street sweeper clean it to make the white line, visible?

A. Howard - After the sewer project is finished there will be new sidewalk in 2 years .

Q. Mary Driscoll - Can we get more foliage back along Deacons Ave?

A. On the list.

Q. Andy Dufresne - Last year I requested the removal of parking meters at the ball field in the off season. BOS controls parking meters. I think it impacts the young people from using the field.

A. We'll add this to our list.

Q. Paul ??? - Could we propose that stop signs be placed at Spring Bars Rd/Dillingham intersection.

A. Howard - it's a little out of geographic area. Check with Teaticket Civic Association.

C. Road Race Liaison (Gerry Ryan) - Total runners unchanged: 12,800. Per the town, parking will not be allowed along Worcester Court on race day. Signs will be posted and police will be present to enforce this. There will be tents on the grassy area on the corner of Worcester Ct. and Grand Ave. Security measures can't be completely disclosed but there will be dump trucks filled with sand in predetermined areas. Road closures around the finish line will be flexible until the bulk of the runners come in. The entire course will be closed by 8 am. Any questions about road closures should be directed to the Police Dept. Trash crews will be assigned including one specific to the ball field area. The race committee will once again respect the residents in the Heights. They will leave the area as clean as pre-race. Andy Dufresne thanked the Police Department.

D. Police Department Liaison (Dave Buzanoski) - Having a police officers at our beach the past 2 years has made a huge difference in the behavior at the beach. We have discussed the parking at the ball field and the cars parked all the way around including in the No Parking zones. If parked illegally, they will be ticketed. Another issue with complaints registered is basketball after hours. People have actually parked their cars on the incline to illuminate the court. According to Sargent Cummings, ball playing is allowed only until dusk.

9. **New Business:** none

10. **Announcements:** Peg Fitzgerald offered a legitimate bib (10 bibs for charity but 1 volunteer can't run) for the Road Race in exchange for a donation to the Robert Smith FHMNA scholarship foundation.

11. **Question & Answer period:**

Q. Lance Kussell - Concerns about the speed on Grand Ave.: " its turned into a grand prix". I would like to see police interdiction in the area. Just last night, a Porsche 911 was stopped by the boulders before going into the water. It was estimated to be going 70 mph. The hedge at Elysian Ave causes an obstructed view. The property owner has said it is town property and they must address it.

A. We will put these issues on our list.

- Q. Joe Blood - I have raised this last year: the Worcester Ct/ Lake Leaman intersection is not safe. The Stop sign is visible but you can't see to the right because of foliage that needs to be lowered .
- A. A town official came out and told the owner that the bush was not an issue. Joan will talk to the homeowner.
- Q. I'm curious what the speed limits are on the larger roads?
- A. 30-35 mph. We inquired about having one of those signs that tell people how fast they are going but were cautioned that if the average speed is higher than the posted speed it could result in the increase of the posted speed limit.
- Q. Andy Dufresne - The town put the electricity in for the concession stand. At one time the stand was removed daily, but the stand is now more permanent. The changes were made without consulting the residents and they are commercializing the area. The Beach Committee does not have the authority to make these changes.
- A. Greg Mazmanian - Our Beach Liaison will be addressing the ice machine and grease bucket from the snack trailer at the Heights beach. We believe that there needs to be some governance of the snack shack. We have concerns about hazards such as electrical wiring in water areas.

14. **Set date for next Annual Meeting:** August 4, 2018

15. **Adjourn:** MOTION to adjourn made by Larry Backman. Seconded by Paula Lichter. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.