

Falmouth Heights-Maravista Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting, Saturday, August 1, 2020

8:30 - 10:00 AM

Location: Zoom 896 7263 0219

Meeting Minutes DRAFT (for member vote to approve in August, 2021)

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Dave Buzanoski, Debbie Scott, Paula Lichter, Gerry Ryan, Joan MacClary, Sandy Trainor, JJ Alberts, Sarah Welcome, Carol Ziemian

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kevin Smith

N.B. Because this meeting was expected to be held via Zoom, it was deemed prudent to deliver ballots for all votes reported below, either by email or US Mail, to be returned in the same manner with ample time to receive all votes. All votes received, per FHMNA Bylaws, are considered a quorum.

1. Welcome - David Buzanowski (Co-President) called the FHMNA Annual meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

2. Standing Committee - Nominating (Paula Lichter) –

A. Paula introduced **Carol Ziemian** and **Sandy Trainor** who each signed up for a 1-year term last year and are now each renewing for a 3-year term. Summaries of their accomplishments during their first year on the Board were distributed with the ballot via email or US mail. The vote to appoint both Carol and Sandy for another 3 years was unanimous approval with 50 votes each with no abstentions.

B. Two new Directors are **JJ (John) Alberts** and **Sarah Welcome**, whose background summaries and goals were distributed earlier with the ballot. JJ was approved by the Board of Directors to begin a 3-year term on June 8, 2020 and will be helping us develop programs for our residents and increase our social presence. He will also take over for Gerry Ryan (who is retiring from the Board) to serve as our Liaison to the New Balance Falmouth Road Race. Sarah was approved by the Board of Directors to begin a 2-year term on June 29, 2020 and will help us revamp our digital systems including increasing our membership using digital means, while also serving on the Member Handbook Committee. The vote for JJ and Sarah was unanimous with 50 votes each and no abstentions.

C. We also have two members retiring from the Board: **Gerry Ryan**, who has been with us for 9 years, initially became involved while becoming a champion for the town to install sidewalks on Worcester Court and Worcester Avenue. When she joined our Board, she became our Liaison to the Traffic Advisory Committee and to the New Balance Falmouth Road Race Committee. **Kevin Smith** has been a Director since 1985 and served as Treasurer for 24 years since 1996. Kevin followed in the footsteps of his father, Robert T. Smith, who moved here in 1968, became a Director and then President from 1976 to 1982. In the 1980s. Kevin helped raise a lot of money for the Association's legal fund by designing and leading a very popular historical walking tour of the Heights. We will miss both Kevin and Gerry and we thank them for their service.

D. We have a number of Director openings. If anyone is interested, please see me.

3. Secretary's Report (Carol Ziemian) – Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting were previously delivered to members with the ballot. The vote to accept the 2019 Annual Meeting Secretary's Report received 50 approvals with no abstentions.

4. Treasurer's Report (submitted by Kevin Smith; read into record by Debbie Scott)

The 2020 Annual Financial Report was previously delivered to members with the ballot. Because of the time needed for delivery and receipt of voting, the report was dated 8/1/19 – 7/1/20. The vote to accept the Treasurer's Report received 50 approval votes with no abstentions.

Financial information is available to members upon request to membership@fhmna.org.

5. Correspondence (Dave Buzanoski) - FHMNA received a nice thank you note from this year's recipient of the Robert T. Smith Memorial Scholarship (named after outgoing Treasurer Kevin Smith's father). Sage Getchell of Falmouth wrote, "Words cannot express how grateful I am to have been chosen as the recipient of your scholarship. Thank you very much for your support and believing in my dream to go to college. Warm regards, Sage Getchell." This scholarship will be continued and we will discuss how it will be issued in the future.

6. Standing Committees

A. Bylaw Review (Paula Lichter) - The By-law Committee meets every 5 years. The next meeting will be in 2021.

B. Membership Committee (Paula) - We are in the middle of our membership renewal cycle. Many in the past paid at the annual meeting but that is a problem this year. As of now, 176 households have renewed their memberships which represents 250 people. We are still waiting to hear from 120 members. Sixty-four percent of all households are in the Heights and 36% are located in the Maravista neighborhood. Ninety-five percent of our members have email. This year we sent out a question with the renewal application asking if members would want to have their information included in a Membership Directory. Of those who responded, 54% said yes, 35% said no and 11% did not answer the question. In the months to come, we will explore the possible production of such a Directory to better help us create a sense of community. Lastly, 26% of our members now use PayPal.

7. Appointed Committees

A. Clean Up (Dave) –Mary Jo Bradley and Greg Mazmanian, both former Directors, helped the Chairman of the Clean Up committee by doing a lot of work and contacting people. We held a restrictive clean-up due to the Corona virus. We only had 18 people participate as compared to 30 last year. We did not socialize as in the past and we were assigned specific locations. We are thinking of doing another clean-up in the fall but the date has not been established yet. If anyone who signed on to Zoom today is interested in helping with the Fall Clean-Up, just send us a note.

B. Social (Sandy) - The Spring into Summer Social was also a casualty of Covid-19. Sopranos was awesome last year and were planning to give us the facility without a facility fee. At the social, we were looking forward to finding out what kind of events the membership would like us to sponsor. Now we are hoping that in the future a membership assessment tool might help us successfully accomplish this by learning more about you and your interests. As for the Little Library, the town Select Board approved the Little Library proposal and offered to install it as well. It has been successful and people are putting books in and taking others out regularly. Only one note of caution: please send us an email and tell us you have books to donate and I will get back to you and arrange a pick-up. Because we are the custodians of the library, we want to make sure donations are not just left on the lawn near the Little Library. "It is an outstanding little library, said Dave. Remind us who built it, Sandy." "George Erickson designed and constructed the Little Library. Tim Gallagher did the stained glass at cost and did not charge us for his labor. It was a community and Association effort. Thanks to them both," said Sandy. "And thanks to Sandy, as well," said Dave.

8. Liaisons

A. Beach Committee-Department (Carol): Thank you from the FHMNA Board for your vigilance and input during this difficult time due to Covid-19 and throughout the year. It helps us serve you better when you contact us with your concerns so that we can reach out to the correct town officials and departments and ask them for their help to resolve the issues. As Liaison, I attended the Beach Committee's first meeting since January on July 15, 2020 on Zoom. I learned a lot and was able to submit 4 questions at the end of the meeting which were shaped by many of you. Before I go on, I would like to thank our volunteer, James Downey, who reports to us on a regular basis. He walks the beaches daily and observes issues that should be addressed if we are to preserve the beauty and safety of the Heights and Bristol Beaches. As you may have noticed, an electric sign has been added to the Heights Beach in part because many voiced concern over the lack of effective signage or signage regarding COVID restrictions which was missing on the Heights Beach for a short time. Like it or not, and people have voiced their approval and disapproval, the new electric sign is more or less getting the job done. No Ball Playing was not on the list of rules projected by the sign until after it was brought up at the meeting. It was added to the list. The week after the meeting, plans were in place to put new signs on the lifeguard chairs on both beaches. As for crowd size and social distancing, the Beach Committee has put into place a 1-5 coded reporting system conducted 3 times a day by the parking attendant at each beach. A 1 or 2 describes a beach that is not over-crowded and is maintaining acceptable social distancing. A 3 suggests a beach is getting too crowded and a 4 or 5 indicates the groups are too large and social distancing is overall being violated and that there may not even be 6 feet between groups so that beachgoers can reach the water safely. The codes are called in to the Beach Superintendent (Maggie Clayton) and in turn, if it is a 4 or 5, the Superintendent notifies the Health Department. This is a health issue and not a police issue. As for the parking lots not being at full capacity even though some of you feel it is unfair because you may have paid for a beach sticker, until the crowds dissipate more, the position of the Committee is to be proactive. All lifeguards, except for one, returned this summer, which was good for all Falmouth Beaches since Covid-19 presented problems concerning recruiting and training. The singular guard who did not return to the job (Maggie) was promoted to Superintendent of Beaches. The need for longer hours for parking attendants was brought up during the Q and A session. The lots often turn into mayhem after 4 PM. Due to lack of funds, the committee said a resolution was highly

unlikely. Adding hours to the police patrols by the two officers assigned to the Heights and Bristol Beach was also unlikely because of lack of funding. In the meantime, your vigilance, as well as sharing your concerns with us, is still the best way to make our beaches safer and better places to be.

B. Board of Selectmen (Dave) - Very little being discussed that specifically relates to us at this time except maybe for the grinder pumps. Partial reimbursement is in the works and was voted on by the Select Board last year, but the amount is still to be determined. The Waste Water Superintendent gave her report to the Select Board last year and said their residual fund was sufficient to at least provide a partial refund. Apparently the Waste Water Department has notified all residents who have not completed the required paperwork and signed off with the town that their work was completed. It is the owner's responsibility and they were being given additional time to submit the proper paperwork before rebates for those who installed grinders could be addressed. This is one of the reasons for the delay. The good news is that rebates for those who installed grinder pumps will be taken up early this fall.

C. Coastal Resiliency (Debbie) No report at this time.

D. DPW & Conservation Committee (Joan MacClary) – I spoke to Peter McConarty, DPW Department Head, that concern was expressed by one of our members about the Mutt Mitt pole on the sidewalk in the Heights that was dangerously placed. It has been moved to a grassy area. Big chunks of wall came loose near the end of Montgomery Avenue and I moved them next to the trash bins. They will need to be replaced or re-cemented. They are aware of this. But in the long range, the concrete walkway in the Heights needs to be addressed. There are a lot of dangerous holes and cracks that can cause people to trip. They are aware of this and a long range plan is on their agenda. There is a new bike rack near the BBC now so our Association will not need to purchase one. There was considerable erosion at the end of Grand Ave and Elysian, but it has already been taken care of. I spoke to Brett Fitzgerald about the painting and functioning of hydrants. They have a systematic way of painting and flushing and maintaining hydrants. It is on-going and rolling and has been taking place. They will be doing more painting north of Jericho Path this Fall. Some people voiced concern over the lack of fencing around the toilets this year. Due to Bruce Mogardo's illness, some things did not take place this year. The stockade fencing should be back next year and I will see to it that it is addressed. The toilets are placed lower on the Heights Beach because they become less visible to those whose dwellings are right across the street on Grand Avenue.

E. New Balance Road Race (Gerry Ryan) - A COVID-19 scheduled "At Home Edition" of the race has been arranged by the organizers. Race participants may run or walk seven miles on one day or one mile each of seven days in the same or different locations. See falmouthroadrace.com for details.

F. Police Department (Dave) - Members have raised many issues that I took up with Sgt. Cummings. One was the noisy cars driving in the Heights on Falmouth Heights Road and Grand Avenue. Your first call should be to the police, not the Association. To get action, have specific information. Color, kind, time, and license plate number if you have it. Try to identify the problem and they will try to address it. Speeding on Maravista is still an issue. They are aware of the situation and said they are patrolling it more often. For those who would like speed bumps, it is not likely to happen; it is too much of a major

thoroughfare. The crowds on the beach on the 4th of July came up as well. It was apparently a party motivated by social media. The Police Dept. and Health Dept. were called and they broke up the large parties and poured out the liquor that was found. The police are not dealing with distancing issues. That has to be reported to the Health Department. Paula added, "The letter from Sgt. Jim Cummings will be emailed to you today or tomorrow."

G. Traffic and Safety (Gerry) – The last Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was held in January. No agenda items concerning the Heights and Maravista neighborhoods at that time. The only issue brought before them was in September and December 2019. A resident requested a stop sign for Worcester Court at Nantucket Avenue. TAC recommended a Stop Bar and it was painted on the roadway. The motel there trimmed back their bushes for better visibility. This was the only issue brought before them concerning our area. If you have concerns, please contact James Porter at jporter@falmouthpolice.org or us and we will forward it. Everything has to be funneled through Officer Porter and then he places it on the agenda. Nothing gets discussed if it is not on the agenda. TAC makes their recommendation to the Town Manager who either approves or disapproves. If approved, he sends it to the DPW and it gets into the queue.

Debbie: The meeting schedule for some departments was sparse this year so our advocacy has been limited. This is more than likely due to the Corona virus.

9. Old Business - Abandoned properties (Dave): I would like to add an issue raised at last year's annual meeting, vacant or abandoned properties. The Town Manager who was in attendance said that it is a difficult issue if the owner is paying taxes. We are talking about neglect and abandoned derelict buildings. Not about not mowing the lawn or painting the front door. Broken windows and neglect. The Town Health Department has issued an Order of Neglect to the property on Miami Avenue. Due to the conditions inside and out, it has become a health issue. They should be taking steps at their next meeting in terms of fines and recommendations. There are other buildings that have caused concern and we will address those in the future.

10. New Business – Membership Directory (Sandy) – As Chair of the Social Committee, I was hoping to develop a profile of our members to better serve you with activities that interest you. Dave mentioned that most organizations have a membership booklet with the names and other items the member(s) chose to have included. Some members are willing to include contact information and others not, which Paula pointed out earlier. The Board is still discussing this, but we have not made any definitive decisions at this time.

11. Announcements (Dave) - There are two openings on the town Beach Committee if anyone wants to apply. Dave shared that having an FHMNA member would be welcome from our point of view.

12. Question & Answer period (Debbie) – Please utilize the Zoom Chat feature to direct questions to the entire Board or to a specific Board member.

Q1: Dr. Margaret Fitzgerald -Thank you to all who have served this great association. I would be most interested in seeing the walking tours started again, particularly if the research done in the past is shared.

A1: We will look into it.

Q2: Bob Maloney - Why are the port-o-potties on the Heights Beach back to being beside the stairs with the vent at face level when using the stairs. Also, in the past, they were facing each other rather than opening the door towards the beach. They also had fencing around them that is not there this year. Any chance of reducing the number of potties on the beach? It seems like one rather than two at a spot may be enough. Could they be a more muted color?

A2: Joan said they do make tan ones. They would be less intrusive and blend in with the sand rather than the florescent red we have now. All beaches would prefer tan port-o-potties. The vendor we are using only has red. We have been using him for three years. But I will address this.

Q3: Steve Reichheld Sr.- I can understand why people would want to walk dogs on the beach, but it is not allowed for health reasons from May to September. As I can view the beach, there are at least 10 people walking dogs in the AM and also in the PM. I do not believe it is well marked or promoted that this is not permitted. I would like individual signage and notification through the Vista and online. Really, it is not OK to have dogs, many unleashed, peeing on the beach. Thanks.

A3: Dave -There is a town ordinance against this. Perhaps we need more signs. Carol, maybe you can mention it to the Beach Committee. Perhaps it is a Health Department issue or Animal Control issue. I will look into who to call about this.

A3: Paula - This is not a police issue, although tickets were once given to people on the beach with dogs. It is similar to masks and social distancing. Unfortunately, not a high priority for the police. The fact that it is before and after the posted beach hours does not help. We have been complaining about this for years, but the Animal Control Officer goes home at 6 PM. She doesn't come around often enough. (N.B. Animal Control: 508-457-2552 or 508-457-2550 x3. www.falmouthmass.us/148/Animal-Services)

Q4: Marilyn McMillan - Any update on the new town-wide ban on the use of the automated sprinkler systems?

A4: Debbie- The water ban is town wide. There was an article in The Falmouth Enterprise yesterday. All automatic sprinklers are banned unless you have your own well. This is a done deal due to the water shortage and low water pressure some residents are experiencing.

A4: Dave - Warnings and fines will be issued to those ignoring the ban.

A4: Comment: Steve Reichheld Sr.- Just would like alert in Vista.

A4: Comment: Marilyn McMillan-Thanks. That's where I saw the notice. It was serendipitous that I read it last evening. It's just helpful to get the word out. I'm all for conserving!

Q5: Dr. Margaret Fitzgerald -To whom do you report water ban violations? Sprinklers?

A5: Dave - I assume the Water Department. I will look into this. And let you know.

A5: Joan - Yes, Steve Rafferty, the head of the Water Department.
<http://www.falmouthmass.us/314/Water-Department>, 508-457-2543, dpw@falmouthma.gov

13. Comments

C1: Marilyn McMillan-THANKS for ALL your work on our behalf! Very GOOD meeting: very well prepped and delivered!

C2: Paula - I thought I saw someone ask about new members. Debbie checks the real estate sales listed in The Falmouth Enterprise regularly and sends those in our neighborhoods a welcome letter and a copy of our brochure which includes a member application.

C3: Dave -I want to read our mission statement for two reasons: to give people time to ask a question using Chat and because it will remind our members what our mission is. "Our mission is to preserve and improve the residential character of the Falmouth Heights and Maravista neighborhoods while encouraging activities that promote civic pride and healthful enjoyment of our community."

14. Set date for next Annual Meeting. (Dave) The morning of August 7, 2021. (Paula) Hopefully we will return to the Falmouth Yacht Club and not be forced to depend on Zoom.

15. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Paula and seconded by Debbie. All present voted Aye. The meeting ended at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Ziemian