

Falmouth Heights - Maravista Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting, Saturday, August 3, 2024, 9 AM -12 PM

Falmouth Public Library Hermann Meeting Room

Draft Minutes to be voted at 2025 Annual Meeting (as of 11/9/24)

Present:

Directors: 8 Dave Buzanoski, Debbie Scott, Greg Mazmanian, Carol Ziemian,
Paula Lichter, Joan MacClary, Bruce Buch, and Peg Fitzgerald

Members: 75

Guests: 6

Total: 89



1. **Welcome** (David Buzanoski – President) – David called the meeting to order at 9:15 and introduced our speakers: Town Manager **Michael Renshaw**, Falmouth Wastewater Superintendent **Amy Lowell**, Chairman of Water Quality Management Committee **Steve Rafferty**, and Director of Falmouth Department of Public Works **Peter McConarty**. and two members of the Select Board: **Doug Brown** and **Robert Mascali**.
2. **Standing Committee – Nominating**: David Buzanoski called for a vote to renew Debbie Scott's, Greg Mazmanian's, Joan McClary's and David's Board Membership until July, 2027. Debbie moved to accept, and Charles Mateo seconded. The vote taken was unanimous. A vote to accept the nomination of New Board Director Bruce Buch, whose term expires July, 2025, was taken. Debbie moved to accept, and Robert Ziemian seconded. The member vote taken PASSED unanimously.

3. **Secretary's Report** (Carol Ziemian) – A vote to approve the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting was taken. Gerry Potamis moved to accept. Gerry Ryan seconded. The member vote taken passed unanimously.
4. **Treasurer's Report** (Greg Mazmanian) – Greg, with Bruce Buch's assistance, reviewed the Treasurer's Report that was projected on the screen located in the front of the room. Members may request a copy of the detailed financial report by emailing info@fhmna.org. Charles Matteo moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lorraine Luchner seconded. The member vote taken PASSED unanimously.
5. **Speakers:** Upon request, the order of speakers was changed. Town Manager Renshaw requested that Amy Lowell and Steve Rafferty speak first.



Amy Lowell spoke concerning the outfall pipe and the need for a coastal area to discharge treated water. She emphasized that with the further installation of sewers that are planned for the immediate area, the need for an outfall pipe will grow greater. She said residents in the room might have seen crews doing borings during the last ten months. They are about 60% complete. Construction cost of \$60 million will be voted on at this year's Town Meeting. (CLICK this link [Great Pond Phase 1 Sewer Project Update 8/3/24](#) to read Ms. Lowell's PowerPoint presentation).

Ms. Lowell called on **Stephen Rafferty**, Chairman of the Water Quality Management Committee, who shared his PowerPoint presentation entitled "2024 Falmouth Outfall Status Report" on the need and potential plans for the installation of an outfall pipe off the Heights. (CLICK this link [2024 Falmouth Outfall Status Report](#)) to read Mr. Rafferty's PowerPoint presentation.)

Mr. Rafferty said our estuaries are struggling due to nitrogen. Only 11% of our folks currently have sewers. He spent much time describing the process and the need for data gathering and acquiring numerous permits required by the state, the National Marine Fisheries and others. He outlined the cost and projected dates for construction as well as the potential impact it will have on residents concerning the disruption of roadways and parks (the Kite Field and Worcester Court) and quality of life concerning noise and aesthetic losses of the immediate area during various phases of construction. He included the following calendar dates of importance: data gathering from 2024-2025, EI Report 2025-2026, design 2028, and construction 2029-2032. He said three months of actual drilling is anticipated and fusing the outfall pipe perhaps at Worcester Court could take 1-2 weeks. Then it will be transported down to the ocean and placed in the water. Worcester Court will be returned to its pre-construction condition.

Q&A: Several FHMNA members asked serious questions concerning the project. The history of erosion at the base and shoreline across from the Kite Field was brought and recent Board member Mary Driscoll addressed her concern over how a serious storm or hurricane might affect the outfall pipe. She pointed out that during Hurricane Bob the road near the Kite Field was washed out. She questioned what the impact of the outfall pipe would be on the houses and its route if there was a serious hurricane. According to Rafferty, the pipe will be buried 80-100 feet under the cliffs. Also, the plan is to do the work in a way that has the least impact on the neighborhood.

Member Jack Belcher drew attention when he asked whether or not there would be “intelligence” inside the outfall pipe. His questions about guarantees that the pipes would be equipped with monitoring technology to prevent potential failure piqued a lot of interest, but this was not solidly confirmed by the speakers.

Amy asked if she could speak again and then clarified that highly treated water would be carried from a treatment plant and discharged into the marine environment (ocean); this would not be a combined sewer outfall pipe because such pipes are a health concern.

Another FHMNA member said with concern that Nantucket designed two plants in the 1980s but a third one never got built because in one year they had two leakage problems with the first two.

Rafferty made it clear that we won’t abandon our pumping stations, but we will redirect the water coming from them.

Another FHMNA member asked whether we should be concerned knowing that the outfall pipe relies on gravity and when there is a severe storm the pipe will undulate and salt water will enter the pipe and eventually muck might enter as well. How will we get the muck out? How much does that cost to clean? How much time does it take? How will it affect the flow? He said there are many ways to design this, but we haven’t found them yet. This water is lighter than salt water.

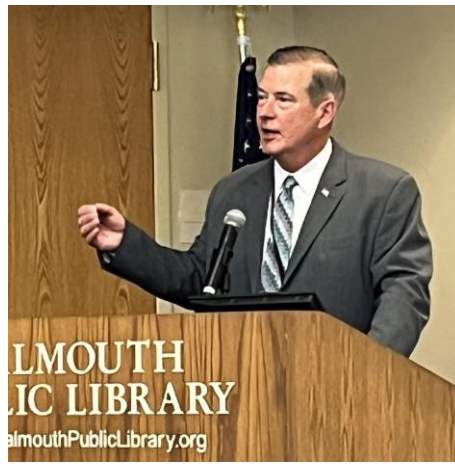
Rafferty said they would send down a diver to pull plugs off and help the diffuser.

FHMNA member Joe Netto responded that we are building another, SPR (a trenchless sewage pipeline) with a spiral wound liner. We only have two now, but we will have a third by then to handle backup.

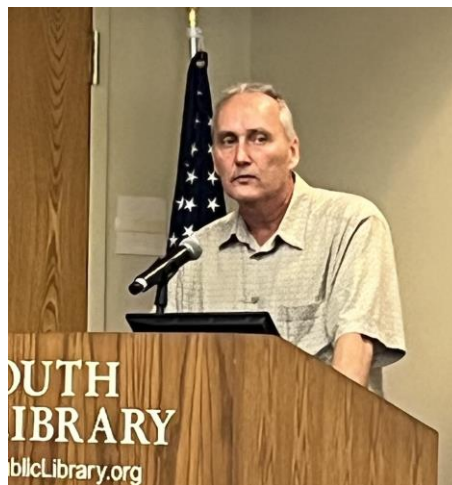
FHMNA Board member Bruce Buch questioned whether there was an alternative to using Worcester Court. If they use it, will it affect all the cross streets? “2300’-2600’ is one long pipe”! If Worcester Court is used to build the pipe, what impact would it have concerning noise? What hours of the day would the work take place?

Rafferty said that the cross streets would be cut off. Contractors might have something else in mind.

FHMNA member Chris Moody asked how they plan to get the pipe from Worcester Court to the Kite Park. Ed Jaloweic suggested Chris and anyone else with similar concerns attend the next Water Quality Management Committee (WQMC) meeting. Many of these questions will be answered there. He said, “I am on the committee and I am passionate about this. You asked a great question.” [Click here](#) to view the WQMC town page and link to meetings/agendas.



Town Manager **Michael Renshaw** spoke briefly and began by praising the FHMNA and its rich history and longevity, 133 years old. He discussed some of the challenges he faced as a new manager and said he was pleased that the town has addressed the need for an improved Emergency Communication system. He also said they have realigned their employees and staffing which called for a cultural change and paradigm shift. It required a lot of work from the Human Resources Department and all the department heads. Retention is important but effectiveness is too. Renshaw used the Police Department as an example. We are fully staffed now. We increased salaries. Kudos to our New Police Chief too. Staffing was our number one goal. We have had good progress. We have 82 buildings scattered throughout the town. He said, "We are conducting a comprehensive building study and I am proud to say we are wrapping up our study and we will use data to become better stewards of what we have, and we can build it into our 10-year building plan."



Director of Falmouth Department of Public Works, **Peter McConarty**, said a few words and reminded us that there are 8 different departments within the DPW. He likes attending our meetings as he learns something every time he visits. "I can't get up my confidence level sitting in my office," he said. He complimented Amy and Steve, whom he said are doing the right thing and that we are moving forward but it will take time. In addition, he said that by the end of the year a flashing red light will be installed where Worcester Court and Spring Bars Road meet. The Traffic Advisory Committee is also looking at a possible 4-way stop near Randolph Street and Maravista because there have been some serious accidents there. During the next couple of months, the Coastal Resiliency Engineer is thinking about bringing in a consultant to address the erosion of all south facing beaches. Take note that Eversource will be pulling their cables in the Surf Drive Parking lot this Fall that will be going over to the Vineyard.

As for Bristol Beach, McConarty said that when dredging they left a lot of sand there to protect the dunes and the road as well. They are also looking at safety zones near the beaches. They are thinking of reducing the speed limit to 20 MPH. But be forewarned that it will be enforced 12 months a year beginning in 2025. In addition, there is a plan moving forward to have an access point for kayaks at the conservation area, a 9.6 acre plot behind the Little Pond Place apartment complex. It should be open to the public either this fall or next spring.

McConarty also said that the construction of the Menauhant Bridge will begin soon. They are looking to reduce costs by using recycled natural materials. As for the dredging at Bristol Beach, it contributed to piling up a wall of sand to help protect the dunes and the road from erosion. The Beach Committee will be looking at the south facing beaches and will be using a drone to monitor them and preserve them. There are several multi-year projects going on.

Dave thanked our speakers and guests in attendance and said the speakers were welcome to leave before the rest of the formal meeting began.

6. **Correspondence** - Dave called on Greg to announce the name of the recipient of the \$1000 FHMNA Scholarship winner for 2024: Sam Collins of Maravista. He will be attending Northeastern University this Fall.
7. **Standing Committees** - Membership (Bruce Buch): As of July 31st, we had 281 households and 466 members. 71% were in the Heights neighborhood and 29% were in the Maravista neighborhood. These numbers do not reflect those few new members who joined today.

8. Appointed Committees

- a. Clean-up (Dave) – Our Spring clean-up was held on April 27 and 25 folks, diehards, participated. MaryJo Bradley picked up donuts and coffee and helped Dave set up. Greg gave out assignments. It was overall very successful. Invitations for a Fall Clean-up will be emailed.
- b. Spring Social (Carol) – With just shy of 100 in attendance, the June 23, 2024 social was overall a success and attendees expressed their approval for the new venue (The Coonamessett) and the brunch menu as well. A vote was taken at the Annual Meeting in terms of their interest in attending a brunch or lunch this Fall. By show of hands, the majority in attendance preferred brunch (a redo) on a Sunday as opposed to a Saturday, and either at the end of September or the beginning of October. Once planned, the date of the Fall social will be announced and invitations emailed to the members.

9. Liaisons

- a. Beaches (Carol) - The 4th of July was managed better this year. The police presence and Police Chief Lourie are to be lauded. As for Bristol Beach, several members have bemoaned the loss of the beach area at Bristol due to the sand piled up to protect erosion of the dunes as well as the drop off at the waterline. Based on Carol's conversation with a member of the Beach Committee, there are no plans to correct it at this time. It is not up to the Beach Committee but a Conservation Commission decision to protect the dunes. The Beach Committee reminds those who have mobility issues to call the Beach Department a day ahead and they will provide a motorized beach chair at the site so an individual can be transported to and from the water. Also, the lifeguards are very willing to assist anyone with impaired mobility for assistance. As for the parking attendant stands, the committee recognizes that there have been a few hiccups, but they are being addressed. Originally there were no chairs, attendants had to bring their own, but now they are provided.

- b. Coastal Watch (Debbie Scott) - Debbie recapped some of that which Peter McConarty said concerning the dredging that has gone on at Bristol Beach and the banking of sand to protect and conserve the dunes.
- c. DPW (Joan MacClary) - Joan complemented Peter McConarty on his thorough report concerning the work the DPW is engaged in as well as the long-range plans to address the needs of our neighborhoods. She emphasized the importance of the light that will be installed where Worcester Court and Spring Bars Road meet. She also discussed briefly the need to see to it that the new Spring Bars park for kayaks be closed at night to secure safety for all in the area.

Dave briefly commented on the good work the department conducted the 4th of July weekend.

- d. Road Race (Debbie) - The 52nd running of the Falmouth Road Race is scheduled for Sunday, August 18, 2024. It begins with the Wheelchair Division at 8:40 am, the Elite women at 8:50, the Elite men at 9:00 am and seeded runners and wheelchair duos at 9:03 am. The general field of runners will begin at 9:05 am. The finish area will be dismantled starting at 11:45 am. Traffic will be restricted during race time and there will be no parking on Worcester Court per order of the Town of Falmouth. Grand Avenue will be closed from Walden Avenue to Worcester Court at 4:00 am and will reopen later in the afternoon (est. 2 pm). Other Heights streets will close at 5:00 AM. The finish line setup is similar to last year. Security and emergency vehicle access is always a priority. The entire route of the Falmouth Road Race is a “No Drone Zone”.
 - e. Police (Dave Buzanoski) – Dave agreed that the Police Department did a good job this year covering the 4th of July weekend, without any major incidents.
 - f. Select Board (Dave)– Dave commented that we do have anything before the SB at this time. However, the next matter on the horizon would be the outfall pipe which may be discussed at the 2024 Town Meeting to be held on November 18. Lastly, the Select Board passed a new entertainment policy this past July (N.B. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the new policy on the Town Website.)
 - g. Traffic and Safety (Joan)- Joan reiterated much of what McConarty said concerning traffic issues in the Heights and lauded his work and communication with the FHMNA.
 - h. Trash/Waste (Peg Fitzgerald) - Dave commented that there is nothing new here except that The Falmouth Enterprise column, “Talking Trash” by Mary Ryther or Alan Robinson, is worth reading and the tips on recycling are very helpful.
10. **Old Business –SouthCoast Wind Project** - (Dave) - Dave emphasized that we still need to be vigilant. It appears that ISO-NE (Independent System Operator-New England) is now holding things up. Rhode Island is already all set but the Cape is not. Portsmouth, RI agreed to accept the cables destined for Falmouth, but ISO-NE didn’t want two sets of cables coming from one source. SouthCoast had requested an extension to the re-bidding process in order to better understand the impact of the DOE (Department of Energy's) Infrastructure Act funding credits. Please note that until we hear otherwise we are still on the table.

11. **New Business - Dues** (Greg) – Greg, FHMNA Treasurer, explained that the Board recognizes the need to communicate with our members that our spending rate will exceed our **revenue** rate in the near future. We have discussed the rising costs of what our work requires. Web site services, ad size announcements in The Falmouth Enterprise, signage and more gets more and more expensive. Therefore, after much consideration, we concluded that we need to raise our annual dues if we are going to remain solvent in the near future. So, today we are recommending that we raise our annual membership dues to \$30 for a single membership and \$40 for a family membership. Our dues have remained constant since 2015 which reflects our frugality, but everything costs more now including technology. Greg asked the members for their input. Those that spoke were all supportive. Marc Comstock even suggested perhaps we could raise the amount even more. Joe Netto reminded everyone that “You get what you pay for.” A vote to increase annual membership dues was taken. Gerry Ryan moved the Motion; Mary Driscoll seconded. The vote taken to raise membership dues to \$30 for a single membership and \$40 for a family membership was passed unanimously. The change will take effect for the FY 2026 beginning August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026 (renewal requests to begin June 15, 2025).

12. **Question and Answer Period** -

Several members became involved by either asking questions or offering commentary concerning the issues facing our two neighborhoods and/or their general observations of the state of affairs including worry over the anticipated increase of traffic near Lucerne Ave when the back exit is opened at the new Kendall Lane development, the increased traffic already on Alma Road which is being used as a cut-through street of late with drivers who are often going high speed, and similarly on Russell Road. One member asked what can be done about this; the answer given was that if people want speed bumps they should know that at least 3/4s of the people who live there have to agree to a speed bump in order to get one in.

One member also expressed dismay at the lack of good pickle ball courts for residents, while another praised the attempt to paint the whole fence lining the waterside of Grand Ave in the Heights. Although it is not complete, she said it looks better and is back to the color it used to be, white.

A member commented that since Goodwill Park is locked and secured at night it is logical that the new Spring Bars park with a launch for kayaks also be closed and locked at night to secure safety for all in the area.

The recent passing of Frank Rizzotti’s wife Kathleen was also brought up again so members could remember to offer their condolences to Frank who attended the morning meeting.

13. **Next Annual Meeting:** Date set for August 2, 2025.

14. **Adjourn:** Dave moved to adjourn at 11:50; Debbie seconded. The Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Carol Ziemian
FHMNA Secretary