



**TOWN OF FALMOUTH RESOLUTION**  
*Council Commitment to Public Engagement about Planning*

- WHEREAS,** the Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2013 and 2014 and key elements of that plan identified strategies to manage growth in designated areas of the community; and
- WHEREAS,** some of these strategies were incorporated into an amendment of the Zoning and Site Plan Review Ordinance in 2016; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2016 Ordinance amendments increased the amount of housing that could be built in the Growth Area of the town; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2017, there have been several proposals for new housing and commercial development that would have required amendments to the Zoning and Site Plan Review Ordinance; and
- WHEREAS,** residents have raised concerns about the ordinances passed in 2016 and recent requests for additional ordinance amendments to accommodate new housing and commercial development; and
- WHEREAS,** the Falmouth Town Council has held recent workshops to discuss growth in the community, public outreach, and how best to plan for the future of the town with a robust public engagement process.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH ASSEMBLED THIS 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2019, THAT:**

The Falmouth Town Council does hereby commit to the following:

- A. Evaluate current practices for reviewing development proposals that are of significant scale and include requests for ordinance amendments, and consider new practices and processes that would encourage public input in those development reviews; and
- B. Evaluate current ordinances that require public notice for site plan and subdivision review and determine whether changes are necessary to notify the public when there is a proposed development of significant scale; and
- C. With the assistance of a professional communication consultant, evaluate current communication systems and develop new, improved and enhanced systems, as needed, to serve the current needs of Falmouth. Such systems and tasks are to include:
  - External Systems -
    - Identify problem areas within the Town's rules, policies and structures that contribute to a breakdown of trust and effectiveness as viewed by residents, councilors, staff and committee members.
    - Evaluate communication effectiveness that encourages a diversity of viewpoints and develop actions to address communication issues in all areas of our community and its leadership (residents, councilors, committee members, staff, businesses and other stakeholders).

Internal Systems –

- Identify problem areas within the Town’s rules, policies and structures. Design a more efficient and consistent system that will enable councilors, staff and committee members the ability to be well informed to make good decisions.
- Evaluate communication effectiveness and make improvements that will encourage: diversity of viewpoints; improved horizontal and vertical flows; consistency; full understanding by all users; and reliability.
- Ensure that staff, elected officials, and volunteers are properly trained and equipped to manage system improvements.

- D. With the assistance of a professional planning consultant, work with the public to develop a community vision and values; and
- E. With the assistance of a professional planning consultant, help the town develop a plan to update the 2013 Comprehensive Plan with robust community input.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ellen Planer, Town Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_