

**Falmouth Tercentennial Committee**  
**Public Forum**  
**Monday, March 7, 2016**  
**6:30 pm**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Erin introduced the committee members.

**Overview of Falmouth300 Planning to date**

Erin gave a brief overview of the committee's work to date. The committee is looking for thoughts and ideas from the public to help them plan how to celebrate this event.

**Brainstorming**

**Why do we love Falmouth? What makes Falmouth special?**

- Good school systems;
- Low taxes relative to other places;
- near the ocean;
- any one person can make a difference—not overwhelmed like in a big city;
- small town feel;
- near lake/water;
- close to Portland;
- safe;
- natural beauty;
- open space;
- trails;
- engaged populace;
- culture – people, newcomers and old timers and how they meld;
- ballet in town;
- variety of businesses/local businesses;
- lots of leaders in town – nonprofits, business;
- doers in town;
- library;
- easy to do things/lots to do and choose from/easy to get there;
- good location/geography;
- good weather;
- local services – police, fire, staff;
- well-run town--good town governance;
- history – families with connection to the past;
- good churches;
- scenic architecture;
- architectural diversity;

- recreational opportunities – ice rink, tennis courts, sports stuff, clapboard island;
- one of many great towns in the area—surrounding by other great towns
- public spaces/walking trails.

**What is our purpose in marking Falmouth’s 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary? What is the goal? Why should we do this?**

- Build community;
- educate people about where the town is and came from—our place in Maine and the world—where we fit in;
- town pride;
- have fun;
- educate people on Falmouth’s place in history – where we fit in;
- get people invested in Falmouth and what it is—connecting people to that;
- building up/bringing in business into town;
- building tourism;
- investing money in Falmouth;
- increasing people’s connection to Falmouth;
- get a brewery & movie theater;
- legacy projects – something that will last beyond the initial celebration;
- multi-generational connection and activities;
- honoring the founders of the town/those that came before us;
- showcase Falmouth

**Who is our audience?**

- Town families;
- Falmouth citizens;
- surrounding towns, the state, and beyond;
- connect with other communities celebrating their 300<sup>th</sup> in the same year worldwide;
- new businesses and existing businesses;
- tourists/visitors;
- artists;
- history buffs;
- school kids and teachers;
- new residents—might attract them;
- retirement community;
- alumni;
- expats—those who lived here but now live elsewhere

**Events and Activities?**

- Parade;
- Hot air balloon festival;
- outdoor movie night;
- bus tour of historical parts of town;
- brew festival/garden with commemorative 300<sup>th</sup> beer;

- historical treasure hunt/geocaching;
- map exhibit;
- mural of history/art project;
- class of 2018 projects;
- fireman's muster;
- cluster of activities (weekend/weeklong);
- art/craft walk;
- monthly activities all year long;
- mark significant historical events throughout the whole year;
- social media/Facebook page;
- cross Falmouth trail trek;
- library sundae;
- fire open house;
- water activities
  - showcase rivers.
  - blessing of the fleet;
  - Falmouth regatta;
  - boat parade;
  - fishing tournament;
  - swim to clapboard;
- triathlon: canoe across highland lake, run along the trails, bike, swim to clapboard – could be a relay;
- Winter event/festival/activities
  - snowmobiling;
  - snowball fight;
  - snowshoeing event;
  - ice fishing derby;
  - skating event;
  - sledding;
  - recreate/use the old ski slope;
- Steve Melchiskey – commemorative wine;
- vintage baseball game (old home days);
- Uniforms/Logo/Branding
  - special uniforms for high school teams;
  - special logo/branding on town vehicles/uniforms/street banners;
  - scout badges;
- incorporate old means of transportation;
  - trolley/old wagon trail –
  - trolley museum loan us the old trolley;
  - trip on narrow gauge railroad;
  - use the old Canadian rail line at Bucknam Road;
- recreate the amphitheater at Underwood Springs park;
- music;
- bring back old home days;
- special town band—300 Town Concert Band/Chandlers band;
- incorporate something at/featuring Mackworth Island;
- cooking – old recipe contest, chili/chowder cook-off, restaurant cook-off;
- tie in Falmouth's farming history to farmer's market;
- genealogy—how to seminar;

- map series – open space overlays, historic overlays;
- Reunions—“Come home to Falmouth”
  - family reunion weekend – picnic;
  - high school reunions;
  - former residents
- prom;
- square dance/barn dance;
- ecumenical outdoor service;
- incorporate Falmouth history in 4<sup>th</sup> grade history project—Blaine House tea, photo project;
- high school art & theater;
- art/photo show at Town Hall of student work;
- Story telling/Oral histories
  - story corps – telling room, with a podcast;
  - students interviewing people;
  - professional storyteller/festival/series (MOOSE storytellers);
  - Al Hall in Yarmouth;
  - channel 2;
- historic publication;
  - Charlotte Wallace & Helen Knight history;
- Merchandise
  - piece of Falmouth LL Bean merchandise;
  - commemorative merchandise for holidays (launch in 2017);
  - merchandise series – prints, mugs, etc. issued quarterly;
- recognize/tie in native Americans (Barry Dana, former chief of Penobscot Nation [current chief is Kirk Francis]; Mitchell Bear at UMaine);
- monthly guest lecture series – history, folklore, natural history, Audubon;
- agriculture/demo garden – UMaine extension;
- highlight the original settlements/neighborhoods with events and parties;
  - Mast Road – mast trade;
  - molasses trade – Blackstrap Road;
  - canoe race/tubing down the Presumpscot;
- engage local celebrities;
- antique cars – show/parade (Copp Brothers); car rally; attract groups beyond Falmouth; get car club to do it for us
- Resolutions/Proclamations
  - council resolution from towns that were part of Ancient Falmouth (Cape Elizabeth, Portland, Westbrook, South Portland) to change their name to Falmouth for one day; “We are all Falmouth”
  - proclamation from state government;
  - First Parish Unitarian church in Portland has a plaque;
- bike race;
- tying in with holidays – heritage 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, beef up memorial day parade;
- fireworks;
- countdown clock;
- art pieces around town, like the Portland lighthouses or school chairs used during Farewell Festival;
- promotion in magazines – Downeast, Yankee;
- wine festival/tour;
- historical markers on houses/places – QR codes and a Falmouth app.

### **Putting it all together: Patterns/themes?**

- Education;
- many events, not just one day;
- community involvement – involve all members of the community;
- business involvement;
- highlight heritage;
- celebrate natural aspects/attributes—lots of outdoor activities;
- return of former residents, students, etc.;
- variety of activities;
- use/expand existing events;
- get outside groups to do stuff/committee not do it all;
- seasonally aware/leverage seasonal events.

### **Next steps**

Erin and Melissa will produce a copy of minutes and circulate to group. The Tercentennial Committee will meet on March 16 to review ideas and distill information down to a recommendation for the Town Council to consider in April. Anyone interested will be added to an email list to continue to receive updates.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm