



## **METRO REGIONAL COALITION COUNCIL RESOLUTION** **Regarding the housing affordability crisis in the Greater Portland region**

- WHEREAS,** the affordability of housing throughout the Greater Portland region continues to decline according to the Maine State Housing Authority and as documented by the Greater Portland Council of Governments; and
- WHEREAS,** our region needs young workers and families to support our existing and future economy, and to offset our region's demographic challenges; and
- WHEREAS,** middle income households are declining in our region because of the cost burden of housing; and
- WHEREAS,** the cost burden of housing is impacting our senior population, making aging in place more difficult; and
- WHEREAS,** these findings show a lack of adequate housing choices for current residents and future residents/workers, and the region faces a crisis of housing affordability; and
- WHEREAS,** travel between home and work in our region is becoming longer, adding additional costs to commuting households and stressing our transportation systems with more traffic congestion; and
- WHEREAS,** our region's economic and community wellbeing depends on expanding housing choices which in turn will support all our residents; and
- WHEREAS,** the municipal leaders that represent the Metro Regional Coalition acknowledge that the inadequacy of affordable and available housing is a regional crisis and share a commitment to making housing more affordable for every person no matter their income level; and
- WHEREAS,** the municipal leaders that represent the Metro Regional Coalition have met and jointly agreed to pursue solutions to this crisis by acting singly and together to take steps at the municipal level to encourage the expansion of the number of housing units that lower and middle income households can afford without incurring unacceptable housing costs burden; and
- WHEREAS,** the Town of Falmouth has demonstrated prior support of affordable housing development including multiple locations in its growth areas; and

**Resolution No 48-2020**

**WHEREAS,** the Falmouth Town Council is committed to addressing the region's need for expanded housing choices by continuing and enhancing their support of affordable housing development that is consistent with the Town's land use planning policies and ordinances; and

**WHEREAS,** the Falmouth Town Council will encourage the development of land use policies in its next Comprehensive Plan update with a goal to achieve no less than 10% of new housing be affordable to current and future Falmouth residents; and

**WHEREAS,** the Falmouth Town Council will document our progress toward that goal by producing an annual report for the Metro Regional Coalition detailing success stories and progress made in the prior 12 months toward expanding regional housing choices in our community:

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2019, THAT:**

The Council hereby resolves to work with the Greater Portland Council of Governments and the Metro Regional Coalition to expand the number of housing units that can be afforded by lower and middle income households in our community by adopting and improving policies and incentives which allow our community to contribute to achieving the overall regional goal of expanding the number of housing units in our region that are affordable to lower and middle income households by 10% no later than 2025.

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

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