

# Falmouth300 Survey

Question 1: How important is it to you that Falmouth commemorates the 300th anniversary of its incorporation as a Maine town?								
Answer Options	Very Im- portant	Fairly Im- portant	Important	Slightly Im- portant	Not at all Important	Don't Know/ No Opinion	Rating Average	Response Count
	41	18	14	7	4	0	5.01	84
							<i>answered question</i>	<b>84</b>
							<i>skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>

**Question 2: Please tell us why you feel this way.**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
	64
<i>answered question</i>	<b>64</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>20</b>

- I am graduating in the class of 2018 and it would be very meaningful to have a celebration of how far our town has come, and how far the people have progressed along with it.
- I am a member of the class of 2018, and I feel that it would be a very special celebration. However it's celebrated, the events will bring together the community in a great way while celebrating our great town.
- Celebrate community pride.
- Falmouth is viewed by many as a bedroom community to Portland. This is an event that could help embolden Falmouth's identity.
- Falmouth tax paying resident and sole prop. of Nat'l hist. landmark c1780 site/building "Hall's Tavern" as Quaker Tavern B&B.
- This is a way to recognize and honor those people who helped establish this town. It's a way for townspeople to come together for things like parades, festivals, etc. to have fun and meet their neighbors.
- It's a monumental anniversary. We should celebrate and appreciate our roots. The 125th anniversary at Saint Mary the Virgin Church was enlightening and successful.
- History and community coming together.
- It's a great opportunity to celebrate our past and reflect on our future as a community.
- I'm an old curmudgeon who feel the town spends too much money on nonn-essentials. The tax rate is terrible!
- Excellent opportunity to show newer residents (especially those "from away", of which there are many) the history of the town and surrounding communities. Also a good excuse to come together as a town and celebrate what we have - it's good to remind ourselves how fortunate we are to be living in such a nice place.
- Falmouth is among the oldest towns in the United States. Falmouth was the original 'Portland'. Falmouth has contributed greatly to the high quality of life in the southern Casco Bay region.
- Community celebrations have a long history in many Maine towns.
- 300 years is a long time! It will be great to provide historical information about Falmouth and how it came to be...especially because a lot of current residents are new to the town.
- Falmouth needs to celebrate as a community more :)
- 300 yrs!
- 300 is an eye catching number but it is really not more so than 299 or 301. Let's take it as an opportunity to tell the history of our town and let kids enjoy a fair.

**Please tell us why you feel this way.**

- We didn't move to Falmouth until retirement. Falmouth isn't our identified "hometown".
- It increases joy in life to celebrate landmark events.
- I was a new resident of Falmouth during the "sestercentennial" and felt that it was a good way to bring the community together.
- Its just an a beautiful place that just keeps getting better
- It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our town, its history and a look to the future. It is something in which we all can participate; I think it has the potential to increase a sense of community as people experience what binds us all, our town's particular biography. It may provide an opportunity to try something new (a town play, a local talent concert, a parade, a cake walk, a trek across Falmouth, who knows) that may be replicable another year, making a new tradition. It's an opportunity to celebrate! It's an opportunity to bring new people into a community project.
- I feel it would be a waste of our tax dollars. We already pay a high number and I would like to see those funds go to something worthwhile, not a one time event.
- Build sense of community between newcomers and long time residents. We have very few town gatherings. Only the Memorial Day parade.
- Milestones are important to acknowledge and celebrate. They provide an opportunity to remind residents of the town's history from its inception and the changes and events that have formed the town we know today. It is also a good time to look forward and set goals that ensure we pass along to the generations to come a community to be proud of.
- It's a significant milestone and we (as a town) should take the opportunity to reflect on our town's past and trace the its growth to the Falmouth we live in today.
- We'd look pretty lame if we didn't!
- It celebrates it's separation from Portland & it's transition to a "true Maine town" - pride of community, schools, the environment, & let's not forget that sea-coast.
- There has no socially important or justifiable reason(s) to spend any time, effort or more importantly money on any kind of 300th anniversary celebration. What can possibly be gained by any kind of celebration(s). Nothing!!!
- happens only one every 300 years!!
- Gives us an opportunity to look back at our 300 years of history and commemorate the great parts of that history and reflect on the mistakes and lessons learned. This will help us plan our future better.
- It's not the same old Falmouth from when we moved here nearly 40 years ago. We've been over run by folks from Massachusetts and Michigan and elsewhere who can't accept it as it was and wanted to tuen it into what they left (e.g massive libray- senior programs, community center)
- Falmouth has a proud history that should be celebrated, especially for and by Falmouth's children. They need to develop pride of place, to learn that important history of our country was made here and that Falmouth is far more than a bedroom community.
- There has been a great history in our town, and I feel it is imperative we celebrate!

**Please tell us why you feel this way.**

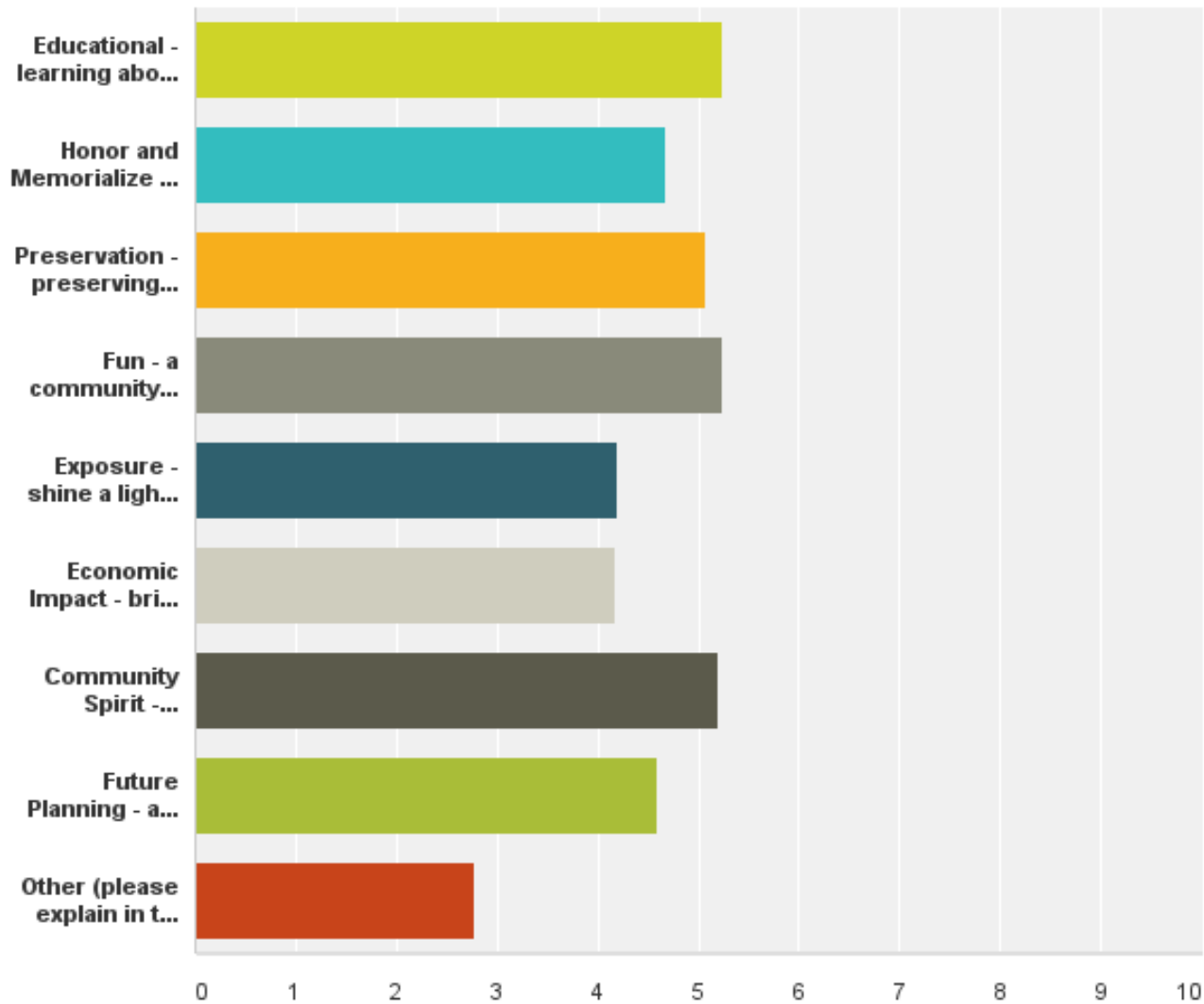
- It's something that hasn't happened often in this country - I feel it's important to celebrate the history of the town
- Falmouth's incorporation predates the Declaration of Independence. Although the town's boundaries have been changed over time, this is still significantly important to the entire country - much less our town.
- I was raised here from the age of two. I married and moved away in 1962; I returned in retirement in 2004. I came home to roost because I dearly love this town, its schools and its standards. We have a lot of history here. In fact Portland was originally part of Old Falmouth. Since my high school days in the '50's I can remember the building of Route One, the first shopping center at Shaw's and Allen's Acre. I lived on Route 88 when there was no Route 1 or even 295. Falmouth has a lot of history from the banks of the Presumpscot River to the rocky shore line along Falmouth Foreside. We can be proud of what we contribute to southern Maine in the way of beautiful scenery for the visitor to enjoy to the great shops on Route One as well as the corridor of the Gray Road in West Falmouth and its well manicured farmlands. So why not have a big parade and celebration to celebrate our 300th birthday!
- It is hard to know where you're going if you don't know where you've been. Most of our citizens know little about Falmouth's deep, rich history. Highlighting our town's role over the past three centuries (and then some) will build appreciation for what we have.
- Doesn't happen every year.
- It a nice milestone but we have lots of activities to keep us busy these days so I think we should go overboard.
- The community has changed a lot and should celebrate its history... this is a way to bring the community together.
- for all the reason listed in No. 3 below
- It is an opportunity to build community: to reach out to all our residents and invite them to be part of a significant occasion for our town.
- I'm not a resident. I have my business here. So it isn't as key as it would be if I lived in Falmouth.
- Great way to bring the community together and to learn about the history of Falmouth and how the town has shaped the growth of greater Portland and the state of Maine.
- 300 years is a long time
- I have lived in Falmouth for 21 years. When I first moved here I didn't feel like part of the community. However, since we had our daughter 13 years ago we have gotten involved in more activities in Falmouth, whether it be sports or community events. My Husband and I grew up in Westbrook. Westbrook has the Westbrook Together days and has various parades in the spring. These events always hold special memories to me. And these events always bring the community together. Falmouth has a great community. It would be so nice to celebrate 300 years and make memories for our children and to show our elders a community celebration from yesteryear. We have some of the best schools in the country and we just made so many great improvements to the town roads with the project on route 1. Plus I was so mad when the post wrote the article on the Heroin. We are so much more than that.
- It's important to celebrate a town's heritage and this is a great opportunity to increase Falmouth's visibility within the state.

**Please tell us why you feel this way.**

- THE COST. The town will no doubt spend a lot of money we can't afford. Stop spending!!
- I feel that the past should be recognized just as the future is.
- We are who we are as a community because of our past. "We stand on the shoulders of ... etc." Let's acknowledge and celebrate that.
- It is a very old town and this should be celebrated.
- It's good to recognize a storied history, thank (God) for longevity and prosperity, and to do so together as a community.
- Good to know how the town came to be. Connection to the community is important for a well rounded life.
- Only been here 10 years or so. Guess I don't know the history well so I will defer to those that have more experience. I guess when I think of a celebration like this I think it is good for two reasons: family fun and economic growth. So if those goals are kept in mind I think it can be worth the effort
- This is a once in a lifetime event for residents of all ages. Anniversaries are worth marking.
- 300 is a big number and it seems the centuries deserve more attention.
- Historical importance, pride in our town.
- Falmouth has played an important role in the development of the region, and this is important opportunity for educating both residents and others on its history and contributions to Maine.
- It's an opportunity to strengthen the community and celebrate.
- 300 years is a pretty long time for any town. I think as part of the original history of America, its important that we remember our beginnings, and we make a significant effort to pass that to the future generations. We should not take for granted and forget.
- Falmouth was very important in the develop of the state of Maine and it is important to recognize and celebrate its importance.
- Celebrations as recognition are nice as long as they do not tie up resources that should be put to better use.
- Just doesn't matter too much either way to me...so much time, energy and of course money will be spent..

**Q3 Please indicate how important you feel each category is in commemorating Falmouth's 300th anniversary.**

Answered: 84 Skipped: 0



**Question 3: Please indicate how important you feel each category is in commemorating Falmouth's 300th anniversary.**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Very Im- portant</b>	<b>Fairly Im- portant</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Slightly Im- portant</b>	<b>Not at all Important</b>	<b>No opinion</b>	<b>Rating Aver- age</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Educational - learning about Falmouth's history	52	11	13	4	4	0	5.23	84
Honor and Memorialize - collectively recognize those who served this town or country and made possible the Falmouth we share today	34	15	16	12	7	0	4.68	84
Preservation - preserving Falmouth's historic buildings, cemeteries, artifacts, documents, history	43	19	10	7	3	1	5.07	83
Fun - a community celebration	48	18	8	3	5	0	5.23	82
Exposure - shine a light on Falmouth to attract businesses, shoppers, visitors, new residents	18	18	22	14	10	1	4.20	83
Economic Impact - bring more revenue into Falmouth	18	16	24	13	11	1	4.17	83
Community Spirit - encourage pride and enthusiasm for Falmouth among its residents	50	14	10	4	5	0	5.20	83
Future Planning - an opportunity to look ahead and consider Falmouth's future	28	23	13	8	8	2	4.60	82
Other (please explain in the box below)	4	0	0	0	3	6	2.77	13
Other								11
<b><i>answered question</i></b>								<b>84</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>								<b>0</b>

**Question 3: Please indicate how important you feel each category is in commemorating Falmouth's 300th anniversary.**

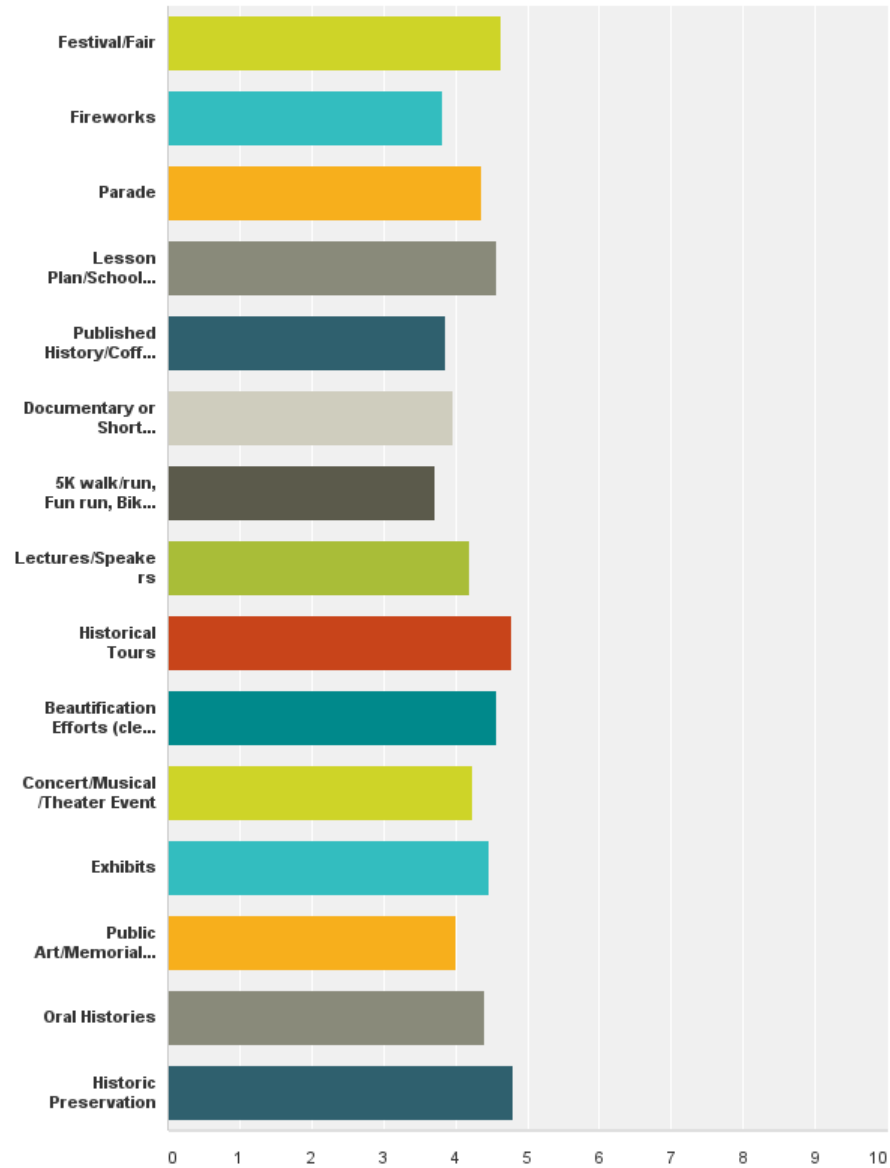
**Other (please explain in the box below)**

- Involve service clubs, i.e. Lions, non-profits i.e. Falmouth Historical Society & churches
- It will cost money and probably not bring in any significant business!
- Showcase any projects and/or programs Falmouth has accomplished.
- I think it should be a series of events over the year not just one day.
- To explain my slightly important ranking on Future Planning, having participated in the updating of the Falmouth Comprehensive Plan from '09 to '13 (and now in its implementation) I think we have a roadmap to keep us busy, the municipality, that is for ten or twenty years! More ideas are good, but not a high priority to me..
- we spend too much on projects that do not help the town.
- The whole notion is a complete waste of time, effort and money!!!
- Honor and Memorialize important historical sites and educate people about town history
- all good reasons
- community service conservation--celebrate the lands we have conserved, plus a major acquisition to mark the 300th
- It should be fun for all age groups



**Q4 Please rank the types of events/activities you think would best commemorate Falmouth's 300th.**

Answered: 84 Skipped: 0



**Question 4: Please rank the types of events/activities you think would best commemorate Falmouth's 300th.**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Very Im- portant</b>	<b>Fairly Im- portant</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not at all Important</b>	<b>Don't Know/ No Opinion</b>	<b>Rating Aver- age</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Festival/Fair	31	22	9	10	8	2	4.63	82
Fireworks	17	13	14	19	17	3	3.82	83
Parade	23	24	10	9	14	1	4.37	81
Lesson Plan/School Curriculum	26	22	18	5	8	2	4.58	81
Published History/Coffee Table Book	15	14	12	27	14	0	3.87	82
Documentary or Short Films/Podcasts	14	16	25	11	15	2	3.96	83
5K walk/run, Fun run, Bike or similar race	9	17	22	13	17	4	3.71	82
Lectures/Speakers	15	25	15	17	8	2	4.20	82
Historical Tours	32	22	13	11	5	0	4.78	83
Beautification Efforts (clean up cemeteries, for example)	22	32	13	6	7	3	4.57	83
Concert/Musical/Theater Event	17	24	17	13	7	4	4.23	82
Exhibits	23	23	11	16	6	1	4.48	80
Public Art/Memorial Plaque/Statute	14	23	15	13	14	3	4.01	82
Oral Histories	24	20	17	10	9	2	4.41	82
Historic Preservation	33	23	14	4	9	0	4.81	83
<b><i>answered question</i></b>								<b>84</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>								<b>0</b>

**Question 5: How likely are you to attend commemorative events?**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Very Likely</b>	<b>Likely</b>	<b>Not Likely</b>	<b>Not at all Likely</b>	<b>Don't Know/ No Opinion</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
	47	28	2	6	0	4.40	83
						<i>answered question</i>	<b>83</b>
						<i>skipped question</i>	<b>1</b>

**Question 6: Please share your ideas for commemorative events.**

- Wish lanterns. Food Trucks. Rec Sports games (\$ to enter)
- Perhaps a treasure hunt to the iconic places of Falmouth's past and present. Show highlights from each of the 100 year old intervals of time. Kayak race to Clapboard Island.
- Historical Tours. Historical "guess this location" and go to it for clues to the next location - prized donated by local businesses for the first 5 or (any number) who finish the whole course.
- Happy to open my c1780 Hall's Tavern to events
- Items that could be sold as a souvenir of 2018 such as a calendar featuring vintage pictures (schools & stores when they were originally built, 4 Corners as it looked many years ago, etc.) Some schools (Graves & Huston) have been torn down.
- Make it on weekend so it's easy to attend.
- Announce that the vacant stores in Falmouth shopping centre are going to be filled.
- You hit them in the list in 4
- Plant a commemoration garden. Pledge to spend a certain percentage of town budget every year on public art installations. Include the Audubon, Mackworth and parks in events.
- Kid friendly activities are very important to our family because we have elementary-aged and younger children. It would be great for them to feel like they are part of the event. They are our future :)
- I think focusing on the people is the best thing -- creating new sources of pride and highlighting those from the past.... Having both an in-person celebration of some kind where people of ALL ages can meetup at once, maybe hear a speech or two but then have fun together... but also things to keep and share, especially online things like video clips/interviews that could be shared via social media, would be good. And truly just focusing on the people that are community-oriented in the town -- identifying "Falmouthers with Spirit" or something... doing a whole interview/sound-bite campaign that can be posted on the town website but then also be shared... And it should include all kinds of people, but they must be community-oriented -- educators, councilors, volunteers, business leaders, harbormasters/police/fire dept, kids... everybody -- to give us all more reasons to be proud to be from this town/to live in this town. Having this 300th be an occasion to highlight what's at the heart of the town (the people that care about us all as a community) would be excellent in my opinion. And have it documented in a way that will last, and can be shared or watched again in the future would be great.
- The Town of Phippsburg did a great job. They had shirts, an commemative items made and sold them all all year. They did events every couple of months like historic walks/tours then and culminated in the summer with a parade with a fair and then later a blessing of the fleet. I loved it
- Put everything online

## Question 6: Please share your ideas for commemorative events.

- Re. published work: there is the already published history, not very complete, but a good document that could be part of the celebration. I would love to see oral histories, photos, published; I love social history and that would be a meaningful difference from the already published book. Re. lesson plan, do they still have a Falmouth history piece in 3rd grade? I think it should be updated (integrate oral histories, photos, visits to historic places. Guided walks in Falmouth in open space, along Rte. 80, out at the Presumpscot, with historic and naturalist guide. Do something on the water. We have a big anchorage that's well-known, and a public park out on Clapboard. Celebrate our public spaces somehow. Picnics, walks, nature walks.
- Abandon this asinine venture and do something worthwhile!!
- Celebrate the first century when Portland was part of Falmouth in a joint celebration with Portland and working with Maine Historical Society. This could include a re-connection with Portland of some kind. Bring a Tall Ship to Falmouth as part of a weekend celebration to highlight the importance of our waterfront and the history of shipbuilding and yachting in Falmouth. We could work together with Tall Ships Portland and Sailing Ships Portland to organize. As part of this, have a contest for kids ages 12 to 18 with the winners getting to go sailing on a tall ship from Falmouth for a week. Sailing Ships Portland at 207-619-1842. Formally name different neighborhoods with signs using their historical names. So for example, name the peninsula nearest to Portland Mackworth Point with signage as it was originally known. Get's away from the current name "the Flats." Public signage showing where ships were built identifying which ships were built where and by whom. Work with Maine Maritime Museum. Also public signage where there was interesting 18th and 19th century manufacturing. Hold a festival similar to the Clam Festival but call this one the Oyster Festival highlighting Maine's superior water for raising Oysters and that growing industry. Work with Gulf of Maine Research or the group trying to do economic development around aquaculture. Make the library a beneficiary of any monies raised by the events. Books have been around for 300 years so have an exhibit of old books at the library.
- Falmouth's celebrations should be a week long. It should run Sunday through Saturday evening. A parade should kick off the celebration and various groups within the town should enter floats - including the schools. There should be live music Wed night and Saturday night.
- 1. I suggest a festival on the soon to be completed Town Green near the Motz Activity Center. Churches and businesses and service clubs could have booths and exhibits. Bring back Old Home Days to the Town Green for a week around mid-July 2018. 2. Let's have a parade. I suggest the route be from the Legion grounds up to the Town Green. 3, Let's plan a series of lectures to be held at the High School auditorium in the winter of 2018 highlighting Falmouth history and include important people who made Falmouth the town it is today. 4. Why not sponsor an essay contest and publish in the pages of The Forecaster and The Notes. 5. Produce a documentary similar to "If walls could talk" done in 2011 when former elementary school campus closed.
- I would like to see monthly activities throughout the year, with a Fall celebration of our community. Similar to the 100th celebration of Acadia National Park.
- Please include some events at Maine Audubon, Mackworth Island, etc.
- To create, post and distribute a Timeline of significant events/changes/leaders since Falmouth was incorporated; To include at the commemorative festival local actors/students to role play, in period dress and speech, Falmouth residents over time.

**Question 6: Please share your ideas for commemorative events.**

- History tours/lectures - held in Falmouth and/or Portland public library. Exhibit of town history at Maine Historical Soc. Make accessible and available to people outside of Falmouth (ie in Portland)
- Historic Preservation...Time Capsule. I think a lot of things are important in that maybe I don't think a 5K would be that important but It might bring more people from out of the area to celebrate with us.
- A community celebration like the one we had to commemorate the final year of school at Lunt/Plummer
- A fair would be great, with activités for all ages and a special statue or public pice of art to commemorate the occasion.
- Should be held in Shaw's parking lot - this is center of town !
- Sailboat race, rowboat race, and other water activities. Swimming races. go kart races, Kite flying contest. Parade. Shore clean up. Band contest/concerts/ fiddle fest - folk music festival. Food and drink event (local restaurants, beer) - maybe food truck event. pie eating contest. Carnival rides
- The Falmouth Historical Society already has a lot of important artifacts and oral histories.

### Question 7: Additional comments.

- I don't see that the waterfront is included, i.e Yacht Club, Town Landing, Handy's, etc. Maybe a sailboat race could be held possibly involving Jr. sailors.
- If there are festivals, parades and a 5K, please make sure they are inclusive of all people, cultures, lifestyles and abilities. This should be a true community celebration! Additionally, please consider health in all planning - healthy food from local sources, and no sugar-laden drinks.
- The Girl Scouts would like to participate in a parade or festival.
- Please stop spending money we do not have. Hosting this event will cost the town a lot of money that could be used in better places. We have no sidewalks to get around town, you spend too much on consultants that do nothing for the residents of this town. Why not put the money that you would have used for this occasion into something that will leave a legacy with the town, not just a one time event. Your priorities are not in order.
- Have a group hug and go back about reasonably useful activities. No wonder outsiders laugh at Falmouth!!!
- Do anything you want as long as you don't spend tax dollars.
- Let's express appreciation to those individuals who volunteered to serve on the town's tercentennial committee. It takes willing individuals to plan a big party!
- Obviously it would generate some income. (Where would that money go?) Food Pantry donations? Trail Maintenance? Some Statue at Town landing or another place?
- Good luck with the planning.
- Thanks for your efforts
- I think fireworks are a waste of money and do not do much - but a parade of boats