

Vision and Values Verbatim Questions – suggested by community members via discussion board.

<https://lab2.future-iq.com/town-of-falmouth-vision-and-values-project/discussion-topics-overview/topic-1-vision-and-values-community-survey/>

As of: October 22, 2020, 7:14 AM. (This document will be updated on an ongoing basis.)

Falmouth in 2020

- Falmouth's strengths as a community
 - What are Falmouth's current strengths as a community?
- Current challenges and threats facing Falmouth as a community
- Impact of COVID on community now and into the future
 - Has COVID led to any changes in the way you envision our community today and into the future?
- Community resources – likes, dislikes and what is lacking
 - What community resources do you like and dislike, and what resources does Falmouth lack?
 - What are the most important features of the town that you like and enjoy?
 - What are the things about the town that you dislike and would like to see changed?
 - What do you like most and least about living here?
 - What do you see as problem areas or opportunities for improvement?
 - Are there additional public programs, facilities, or events that are needed or desired?
 - What types of additional recreational facilities would you like to see?
 - What type of financing of the recreational facilities you would like to see?
 - Do you support adding privately funded cultural destinations, in keeping with Falmouth's character and neighborhoods, that would support the tax base, e.g., sculpture park, botanical garden, outdoor concert venue

Falmouth in the Future

- Changes needed in Falmouth looking out to the future
- What does Falmouth want to be known for in the future
 - How would you like Falmouth to look and feel in the coming years?
 - What role does Falmouth play within the Greater Portland region? What role does Falmouth want to play in the region? Bedroom community/suburb? Suburb with a small town feel (central business districts, destination businesses for others in the region such as restaurants, retail shops)? Destination for outdoor activities (hiking, biking, skating)?
 - Who are we and what do we want to be known for?
- Falmouth 10 years from now
 - Where should Falmouth be in 10 years, 20 years, longer?
- Falmouth 20 years from now
 - What would we like Falmouth to look like in 20 years?
- Top 3 challenges to address in the coming years and how
 - What three challenges do you see as the most important for Falmouth to address in the coming years? What concrete ideas do you have for addressing those challenges?

- What are the biggest threats and pressures we face as a community?
- Top 3 changes that would improve the quality of life in Falmouth and how
 - What 3 changes would most improve quality of life here in Falmouth?

Social Equity

- Inclusivity and Diversity – including race, gender, religion and socio-economic class
 - How is the community tackling equality and inclusion with the LGBTQ+ community that goes beyond a statement of support and provides action and education?
- Attracting under-representing community to reside in Falmouth

Fiscal

- How to grow property tax base to support the town
 - How should we grow the property tax base to support the town?

Transportation

- Improvement of public transportation
 - Could we make our public transportation free/heavily subsidized through taxes?
- Traffic congestion
 - How will Falmouth manage traffic on main roads?
 - Do you support widening rural/commuter/state roads to support associated new traffic?
- Walkability and importance of sidewalks, bike lanes, paths and signage
 - How important is it that there are crosswalks, sidewalks, walking paths, bike lanes and signage in Falmouth?
 - How can we make all areas of the town (east and west) more safely accessible to cyclists, pedestrians, and runners?
 - Do we want more sidewalks / bike paths like we have close to the town landing?
 - Where are changes or improvements needed to roads, sidewalks, bikeways?
 - Do you feel that Falmouth is a pedestrian/bike friendly community? If not, what changes would you like to see for improvement?
 - How important is it to have safe pedestrian walkways that connect parts of the town?
 - Should Falmouth be planning to extend sidewalks throughout all sections and neighborhoods in town? Should bike lanes/wide shoulders be planned for all roads?
 - Work has begun to create walkable and bike-able spaces in Falmouth. How can we best continue this work, and how can we foster a community where a variety of modes of travel are used and welcome/safe?

Commercial Use

- Creating 'town center' and where should it be created
 - Should we attempt to create more of a town center with public buildings surrounded by commercial and high density (e.g., apartments) residential buildings, if so where should this be done?
- Creation of commercial area for retail
 - Should the town attempt to create a commercial (shops and restaurants) and high-density residential area next to Casco Bay?

- Where should commercial development be encouraged and to what extent? should commercial development be encouraged in order to off-set or stabilize residential property tax rates?
- Attracting business to Falmouth
 - What businesses and hours of operation should we encourage to move to Falmouth?
 - What types of businesses, growth and development would you like to see (and not see) and in what locations?
 - How do we create a vision that invites new residents and new business to invest in Falmouth Future? Do we need non-residents input?
 - What types of additional businesses would you like to see?
- Tourism for Falmouth in the future
 - Should the town attempt to pull in more tourism including hotels?

Open Space

- Commitment to and preservation of Open Space
 - Should there be a more strict limit on development to maintain open space?
 - How important are preserved lands for public access?
- Preservation/creation of public spaces and projects to foster community in the future
 - What additional conservation areas and/or public recreation areas would you like to see?
 - What kinds of gathering and public spaces do we want to preserve or create in order to foster community in the coming years
 - How do we envision our connection with and preservation of natural spaces and wildlife in Falmouth in the future?
- Rating of Falmouth on protection of natural resources
 - How would you rate Falmouth on its protection of natural resources (water quality, air quality, forests, wetlands)?
- Connection of open spaces and Falmouth land trust trails
 - Would you like open spaces/Falmouth land trust trails to be interconnected if at all possible?
 - Would you be interested in the town/Falmouth land trust acquiring land at the Falmouth shopping center to connect with the Falmouth nature preserve and land being acquired near Johnson road?

Housing

- Amount of residential growth and whether focused in one area or spread across Falmouth
 - What kind of growth (in number of new homes per year) makes sense?
 - How important is it for Falmouth to continue limiting the annual number of building permits for new housing units of all types?
 - Is it important enough to meet comprehensive planning requirements for focusing the majority of future growth in limited areas of the community (designated growth areas) rather than allowing it to spread throughout town?
 - Should growth be focused on one area of the town or spread over the entire town, more or less equitably?
 - What do you want to see for housing in Falmouth?

- Should there be developments with duplexes, if so, how many?
- Should we encourage the growth of apartments or condominiums within the community, and if so, where should we encourage their growth (along route 1; route 88; route 100?)
- Should future residential development be encouraged in all zones of town? If so, to the same extent throughout town? Should increased residential development be encouraged at all?
- Should Falmouth limit “sprawl”? If so, how?
- Does Falmouth wish to encourage residential developments on traditional cul-de-sacs or should roadway connectivity be: a) encouraged? b) required?
- Expansion of affordable housing
 - Do you want more affordable housing for those who are low income?
 - How many affordable housing units do you support construction of over the next decade? How willing are you to subsidize these units? Do you support using town-owned land for this purpose?
 - Do you support construction of affordable housing in specially zoned areas?
- Commercial developments and green zone between residential areas
 - Should new commercial developments be required to have a larger buffer / green zone between them and residential areas?
 - Should Falmouth permit or limit multi-use development (residential and commercial together)? If so, where?
- Zoning that allows multifamily housing in single family house neighborhoods
 - Are you in favor of current zoning that allows multifamily housing to be built in neighborhoods comprised of mostly single family homes?
 - Should Falmouth be a town of primarily single family homes?
 - Is there any section of Falmouth in which multi-family units should be available? rental or owner occupied? multi-story, two-story (e.g. town house), or single story (garden apartment style)?
 - How much new construction of multi-family units do you support over the next 10 years? Areas of Falmouth that should be zones for development, which are not currently
 - Are there areas of Falmouth that should be zoned for development which are not and are there areas which should be zoned for non-development which are not?
- Creating community accommodation for seniors
 - Should we create more community-residences for the elderly?
 - How much do you support tax relief for seniors to they can age in place in Falmouth
- Falmouth's value on varied housing stock
 - What value does Falmouth place on having a varied housing stock (large and small single family, attached or two-family, apartments attached to homes, multi-dwelling buildings)?
 - What value does Falmouth place on having a variety of price points in its housing stock? Having affordable housing? “entry level” housing? rental housing? senior housing? Should any of these be limited to specific areas of town?

Town Management – Leadership

- Falmouth leadership and perpetuating a vision of leadership in the future
 - How can a town perpetuate a vision of leadership into the future?
- Town government and representation of residents' values
 - Do you think town government does a good job representing the values of the residents of the town? If not, what would you do differently to improve the situation?
 - Do business owners perceive a partnering approach working with town representatives?
- Most important thing that the Town Council should be working on now
 - What are the most important things that Town Council should have on their work plan?
- How to encourage community members to serve as Councilors
 - How do we encourage the best of our community to serve as Councilors?
- Continuing to attract the best in town management
 - How do we maintain and continue to attract the best in town management?
- Tax payers receiving good value municipal services
 - Are taxpayers receiving good relative value municipal services?
 - What is the most important place for the town to spend its' money?
 - Are there any places that the town is wasting its' money?
- Tax Impact and increase over the next 10 years
 - What percentage tax increase are you willing to support over the next 10 years [e.g., on a scale of x to y % or tied to cost of living/inflation?] Fact: Falmouth homeowners' tax, on average, has increased x% since 2010.
- Importance of Falmouth's administrative costs in line with Maine towns of similar size
 - How important is it that Falmouth's administrative costs be in line with Maine towns of similar size? Fact: The cost of top three Falmouth staff is W: York is X; Kennebunk is Y; Orono is Z.
- Previous community surveys and results
 - When was the last time the town conducted a similar survey, and what did it accomplish based on the feedback it received?

Environmental Issues and developments

- Sustainable development
- Banning of plastic bags
- Electric charging stations
 - How do we encourage electric vehicle charge stations?
 - Do we need ordinances in place to control charge stations?
- Litter reduction
 - How can we encourage litter reduction along our roadsides?
- Community Garden

Site Specific

- The future of Route 88
 - Will Route 88 continue to be a busy, noisy and potentially dangerous commuter route that many people use to avoid the Rte 1 traffic lights, or will the Falmouth community reclaim it as a neighborhood road that connects many residential streets as areas together and that could be a valued, safe and attractive community asset?
- Enhancement of Town Landing area
 - Can we enhance the town landing area?

General and Overarching Themes

- Health Care
- Education
- Food Security
- Employment Opportunities
- Climate Change
- Protection of Falmouth's character
 - How can the town do a better job protecting the character of our remaining unique waterfront neighborhoods?
 - what does it mean to have "rural character"? Does Falmouth wish to have some portion of town have that character?
 - Do you favor reducing Falmouth's residential growth rate to preserve its townlike character?
 - Do you support subzones within current districts to maintain the unique character of distinct neighborhoods?
 - Do you support architectural guidelines to preserve the character of individual neighborhoods?
- Where do residents stand on a continuum between lifestyle choices that help guide choices
 - Where do residents stand on a continuum between potentially contrasting lifestyle choices that can help guide choices: Residential tranquillity vs. urban amenities; low taxes vs. high town services; private v. neighborly setting; single family housing v. diverse development; volunteering v. hiring services; others?