

News & Updates from the Town of Falmouth
April 2023
Volume 5, Issue 8

The Falmouth Focus

SPECIAL PRINT EDITION

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING UPDATE KICKS OFF APRIL 11

The Town of Falmouth is updating its Comprehensive Plan to guide future growth and policy decisions for the Town for the next decade. This planning process will build upon the work completed during the Vision & Values Project completed in early 2022.

The six pillars, established through the Town's Vision & Values process, will be the foundation of the Plan and will guide the development of policy recommendations that will support the community values identified in the pillars. Like preceding Comprehensive Plans, this updated Plan will define a long-term vision and roadmap for Falmouth's future. It will guide Town decisions on managing growth and redevelopment, investing in capital improvements, and addressing

community issues including affordable housing, economic development, and environmental protection.

Why Update the Plan?

A comprehensive plan is a document designed to guide the future actions of a community. It presents a vision for the future, long-range goals and objectives, and an implementation strategy for how to achieve the community's vision over time. Planning helps to ensure that future growth and policy decisions are consistent with the Town's vision and that the community is prepared to respond to potential changes, including economic shifts, environmental impacts, and technology innovations.

Additionally, the state of Maine incentivizes communities to establish

comprehensive plans through Maine's Growth Management Act. Only communities that adopt a consistent comprehensive plan can take advantage of certain state initiatives, such as grant and funding opportunities, and can enact zoning, impact fee, and rate of growth ordinances

BUILDING COMMUNITY TOGETHER FALMOUTH'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

We Want to Hear From You!

The Town of Falmouth is updating its Comprehensive Plan. This long-term roadmap for Falmouth's future will guide Town decisions on managing growth, investing in capital improvements, and addressing community issues. Join the conversation to help the Town develop a Plan that reflects the values of the community.

Kickoff Event

Tuesday, April 11
7:00-8:30pm

Falmouth Elementary School
Cafeteria, 58 Woodville Rd.



TOWN HALL HOURS

- Monday: 7:00am-4:30pm
- Tuesday: 8:00am-4:30pm
- Wednesday: 8:00am-4:30pm
- Thursday: 8:00am-4:30pm
- Friday: Closed

ONLINE SERVICES

www.falmouthme.org/home/pages/online-services

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Comprehensive Plan..... | 1 |
| Save the Dates! | 2 |
| Letter from the Chair..... | 3 |
| Recent Grants | 3 |
| Road Construction..... | 4 |
| Citizen of the Year | 4 |
| Stay Connected | 4 |

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING (CONT.)

for their community. [Learn more about Maine's Growth Management Act here.](#) **In other words, to control growth on a local level, the State of Maine requires municipalities to develop a comprehensive plan.**

will then be drafted, reviewed, revised, and, finally, presented to the community.



Who is Working on this Plan?

The Town Council has established an ad hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee to provide oversight of the update process and serve as the Town's "planning committee" under Title 30-A, Section 4324 of the Maine Revised Statutes. Councilors Asherman, Kuhn, and Trickett serve on this committee. Find more information, including committee agendas, at: falmouthme.org/comprehensive-plan-update

engaged community in developing and implementing a successful update to the Comprehensive Plan and is planning a robust engagement process to enlist community feedback. Your input is critical! Residents, business owners, community organizations, local leaders, regional agencies, and schools can all play a part. The intent of this engagement process is to continue the community-wide conversation about the future of Falmouth that began during the Town's Vision & Values Project, and to provide opportunities for more thorough discussion of issues and challenges raised during the visioning process.

There will be multiple opportunities to be involved and to provide input on the future of your community, including a newly developed engagement website, in-person events, and virtual meetings. Please join us!

PROJECT WEBSITE

Visit the project website for:

- information,
- events,
- surveys,
- and other ways to get involved.



Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit: www.falmouthme.org/comprehensive-plan-update

The Planning Process

The Comprehensive Plan Update will be divided into three phases. The first is establishing the history and context of where we are as a community and how we got here. We will analyze background documentation and data, summarize existing conditions and challenges, seek community input, and develop a shared understanding of the history that brought us to this juncture today.

In the second phase, we will tackle recommendations for the future by engaging the community on policy and strategy ideas to achieve the Town's vision. We will draft a future land use plan and develop policy recommendations. Finally, we will develop a plan for implementation by engaging the community on implementation strategies. The final, updated plan

www.falmouthme.org/comprehensive-plan-update

In addition, the Town has contracted with BerryDunn to provide technical assistance and engagement strategies throughout the process.

We Need You!

The Town of Falmouth recognizes the importance of a thoughtful and

SAVE THE DATES!

Join us for these upcoming events and workshops to share your ideas.

April 11, 2023

Comprehensive Plan Kickoff Event

May 3, 2023

Workshop 1: People & Community

May 24, 2023

Workshop 2: The Natural Environment

June 7, 2023

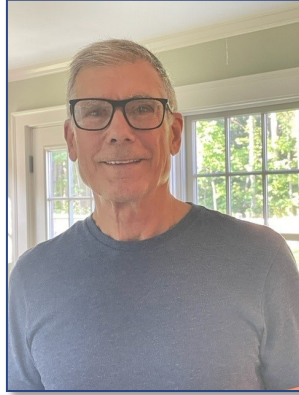
Workshop 3: The Built Environment

LETTER FROM COUNCIL CHAIR, PETER LAFOND

Dear Neighbor:

As I write, we have just come through a significant snow event. It is hard to believe that, by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, spring will be upon us. April not only brings a change of season, but an exciting opportunity for residents to be involved in the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update. Please take the time to read the cover story in this issue and note upcoming ways to get involved in this important project. Over the last two years, we have received incredible community feedback during the Vision & Values process whereby we identified our vision for Falmouth's future. The updated Comprehensive Plan continues this work, outlining a roadmap for how we achieve that vision. I invite you all to get involved as much as you are able through online forums, public meetings, surveys, and other engagement opportunities. See page 1 & 2 for details.

I am also hopeful that, by the time you read this and barring no unforeseen circumstances, the long-awaited landfill solar array will be operational. This project withstood multiple delays due to COVID-19, supply chain issues, and uncooperative weather. However, once complete, we will enjoy the benefits of solar power offsetting some 70% of the Town's energy use and take pride in using renewable energy to reduce impacts on our environment. In addition, a draft of Falmouth's Climate Action Plan is nearing completion. This plan will guide us in our continued efforts to mitigate the environmental impacts of climate change on our community.



Spring also brings an uptick in road construction efforts. The West Falmouth Sewer Project continues. MaineDOT's project to replace the Bucknam Road Bridge (and later Johnson Road Bridge) will also ramp up, causing traffic delays and headaches

for many of us. These are necessary repairs and improvements. We thank you in advance for your continued patience and caution when driving through these work zones. See page 4 to learn more.

Finally, we can look forward to the continuation of special

events brought to us by the very active Community Wellness Committee. I enjoyed attending Falmouth Trails Day last fall and their meditation event this winter drew a large crowd. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming activities.

I also want to remind you of our Coffee with Councilors virtual events in April and May. This is a chance to chat informally with two Town Council members about topics that interest or concern you. The next session is April 13 from noon to 1pm. An event is also planned for May, date to be determined. Find more details on the events calendar at:

www.falmouthme.org

I am joined by the entire Town Council in wishing you a warm and happy spring.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter".

RECENT GRANT AWARDS

Police: \$15,000
Maine Department of Marine Resources for a Resiliency Study for the Harbor

Sustainability: \$50,000
Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grant to fund energy efficiency projects at Hurricane Valley Farm

Wastewater: \$20,000
Maine Department of Environmental Protection for a Climate Adaptation Plan to improve wastewater resiliency by identifying risks and proposing improvements

Wastewater: \$50,000
Maine Department of Environmental Protection for a Fiscal Sustainability Plan to track and manage our infrastructure assets and inform capital planning

STAY INFORMED, GET CONNECTED



E-Alerts are sent directly to your email about the issues that interest you. To

enroll, click “E-Alerts” on our homepage to select the bulletins you want to receive.



[Facebook.com/
FalmouthME](https://www.facebook.com/FalmouthME)



[Twitter.com/
MaineFalmouth](https://twitter.com/MaineFalmouth)



[Instagram.com/
myfavoritefalmouth/](https://www.instagram.com/myfavoritefalmouth/)



[YouTube.com/user/
FalmouthMaine](https://www.youtube.com/user/FalmouthMaine)

The Falmouth Focus is a bi-weekly digital newsletter of the Town of Falmouth. Special print editions are sent via mail to residents twice annually. Visit www.falmouthme.org/subscribe to subscribe to the digital edition. Send newsletter feedback to: ecadigan@falmouthme.org

TOWN OF FALMOUTH

271 Falmouth Road
Falmouth, ME 04105

Phone: 207-781-5253
www.falmouthme.org

ONGOING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

West Falmouth Sewer Project

West Falmouth sewer improvements continue with the upgrade of the Falmouth Road Pump Station. Work began in early March and will continue

into summer. The Falmouth Road Pump Station is located at the Falmouth Road parking area and main entrance of the

McCarran Preserve.

The parking area, trailhead, and trail access from Falmouth

Road will be closed for the duration of construction. Trail access from the Falmouth Schools campus entrance at 52 Woodville Road will remain open.

Beginning in April, pipe installation on Middle Road will resume with the replacement of pipe currently suspended under the Falmouth Spur Bridge. This work will result in single lane bridge traffic for approximately 1 month. Site restoration and final paving will commence in the spring, weather dependent.

Learn more about the West Falmouth Sewer Project and subscribe for updates at: www.falmouthme.org/west-falmouth-sewer-project

Bucknam Road Bridge

MaineDOT’s work on the Bucknum Road Bridge Replacement Project continues. This large-scale project includes replacing the bridge and

improving traffic signals. Work will continue through 2024.

The Town is working with MaineDOT to provide timely updates to residents about changes in traffic patterns, closures, or delays as a result of construction. The Town has created a project page on its website with updates and

additional information. You can also subscribe for email updates. Find the project page at: www.falmouthme.org/bucknam-road-bridge-replacement-project.

Johnson Road Bridge

Once the Bucknam Road Bridge is completed, MaineDOT will begin the replacement of the Johnson Road Bridge over 1-295. Some preparatory work has already begun on this site. Unlike Bucknam Road, MaineDOT will close Johnson Road at the bridge for the duration of the project. The Town will continue to update residents via its project page at: www.falmouthme.org/bucknam-road-bridge-replacement-project.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Town is accepting nominations for the 2022 Citizen of the Year Award, honoring

an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the municipality and sets a positive example of citizenship. Nominations of 500 words or less may be submitted in writing by May 4 via email to Julie Baxter at

jbaxter@falmouthme.org, or by mail to Town Manager’s Office, 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105.

The Town Council will judge nominations on the following criteria:

- Contributions to community welfare
- Civic achievement
- Volunteerism
- Conscientious service to Falmouth Town government

