

**Annual Report of the Boards and Committees of
The Town of Falmouth**

2022



June 20, 2023

Board of Assessment Review (BAR)

Members: Richard Olson (Chair), Lois Lengyel (Secretary), Randy Harding, Robin Sawyer, and William Lunt.

Staff: Lisa Sangillo

Note: The Assessor is a defendant in Appeal proceedings and does not serve as staff to the Board. The Assessor is Ben Thompson, Cumberland County Regional Assessing Department.

Mission:

The Board is responsible for reviewing and revising, an appeal from the property owner, assessment appeals denied by the Town Assessor.

2022 Accomplishments:

The Board had one appeal in 2022 from Wal-Mart Stores East LP. At the hearing on June 22, 2022, the Board heard testimony from Andrew Hood of Stavitsky & Associates who represented Wal-Mart as well as from Benjamin Thompson of Cumberland County Regional Assessing who is the Assessor for Falmouth and Sally Daggett of Jensen Baird representing the Assessor. After careful deliberation, the Board voted 4-0 (Lengyel was absent) to deny the Taxpayer's requested abatement and affirmed the assessment citing the Taxpayer did not meet the burden of proof.

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- N/A

Goals and Suggested 2023-2024 Work Plan Assignments:

- N/A

Board of Zoning Appeals

Members: Anthony DeRice (Current Chair), Cory Vargo (Current Vice Chair), Alexander Pratt, Nick Guerette, Joseph Lloyd, Sarah Verville and Chris Doehne

Staff Liaison: Justin Brown

Mission:

The Role of the Board is to hear applications for conditional uses, variances, and appeals of decisions made by the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO).

2022 Accomplishments:

The Board addressed a total of 27 separate applications in 2022 (2021 total was 40).

- 11 applications were reviewed under section 19-77 for Enlargement of Non-Conforming.
- 6 applications were reviewed under section 19-84 for Teardown/Rebuilds.
- 3 applications were reviewed under section 19-86 for Non-Conforming Structures in a Shoreland Zone.
- 1 application were reviewed under section 19-120 for a General Variance request.
- 1 application were reviewed under section 19-122 for a Disability Variance request.
- 1 application was reviewed under section 19-54 for a Home Occupation.
- 4 applications were reviewed under section 19-119 and/or 19-123 for Conditional Use.

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

N/A

Goals and Suggested 2023-2024 Work Plan Assignments:

N/A

Community Wellness Committee

Current Members: Andrea Ferrante, Chair, Doug Michaud, Vice Chair, Julie Butler (resigned), Joel Glass (resigned), Lisa Joy (resigned), Carol Kauffman, Nancy Lightbody, Denise Martin, Cate Petit, and Doug Zlatin

Council Liaison: Tommy Johnson and Pete LaFond

Staff Liaison: Marguerite Fleming

Mission:

The Committee works to determine best strategies and practices to inform and promote wellness for Falmouth residents.

2022 Accomplishments:

- Published a Wellness Resource Guide.
- Launched series of wellness focused articles published monthly in the *Falmouth Focus*
- Hosted two mini-events: Gardening for Wellness in June and Falmouth Trails Day in October
- Distributed more than 500 yellow tulip bulbs to mark Mental Illness Awareness Week in partnership with the Yellow Tulip Project
- The Human Services Sub-Committee administered the FY23 social services funding application process. This was the most competitive application cycle to date with 17 applications submitted, 5 of which were first time applicants. \$35,000 was distributed to 15 social service agencies that served more than 1,715 residents last year.

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- Work on Human Services Needs of the Community Such as a Medical Equipment Closet- The Police Department is preparing to take over the existing durable medical equipment lending program. Staff may coordinate a call for donations.

Goals and Suggested 2023-2034 Work Plan Assignments:

- Goals
 - Encourage residents to hold block parties as a community building initiative during July and August 2023
 - Continue to write monthly articles in the *Falmouth Focus* to encourage and educate residents toward increasing wellness in life.
 - Create and offer 4-6 mini-events in addition to a larger annual event.
 - Continue to support social service agencies through grant program
- Suggested Work Plan Items
 - Update Wellness Resource Guide.
 - Plan an Annual Wellness Event-currently aiming for June 22, 2024.

Conservation Commission

Members: Nancy Lightbody (chair), Rich Bicknell, Sarah Boudreau, J.P. Connolly, Jerry Goodall and Steve Merz (resigned)

Council Liaison: Tommy Johnson

Staff Liaison: Theresa Galvin, Sustainability Coordinator

Mission:

The Falmouth Conservation Commission shall strive to protect the natural resources of Falmouth, including fresh and coastal waters, and improve the Town's ecological integrity and wildlife diversity. It shall increase public awareness of the intrinsic value of the Town's interconnected ecosystems and shall work to study, protect, and conserve them.

2022 Accomplishments:

- Pesticide and Fertilizer Restriction and Regulation
 - Met with members of the Ordinance Committee and Town Council regarding updating the current timeline for the ordinance
 - Received and analyzed the applicators' annual reports from the third year of the ordinance.
- Living Lawns Educational Campaign
 - Continued to implement a robust education program on various media to inform residents and property owners about the proper use of pesticides and fertilizers
- Invasive Terrestrial Plant Management
 - Continued to educate citizens about the ecological threats caused by invasive terrestrial plants and possible ways to get rid of them
 - Continued to participate in the Maine Invasive Species Network annual meeting.
- Tree City USA/Arbor Day and Earth Day
 - Held annual Arbor Day and Earth Day clean-up events
- Continued to collaborate with and/or be members of the following committees: REAC, LMAC, Planning Board, CAPC, and HLLT

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- Natural Resource Protection-Did not complete any work related to this. Item to remain on Workplan B list.
- Meet with the Council to better understand ordinance amendments re: natural resource protection- Did not complete any work related to this. Item to remain on Workplan B list.

Goals and Suggested 2023-2034 Work Plan Assignments:

- Suggested Work Plan Items
 - Amend Pesticide and Fertilizer Regulations Ordinance to ban pesticide and fertilizer use with a phased in approach.
 - Update the Town-wide Invasive Terrestrial Plant Management Plan including searching for a knowledgeable and, if possible, local business to take over the invasive work previously performed by an out-of-state contractor on roadside rights-of-way.

- Plastics Reduction Initiative.
 - goal: reduce the existence of single-use, non-essential plastics and the resulting waste
 - Get the word out about the downside of plastics proliferation including the degradation of plastic products into microplastics, which may cause environmental contamination; “Forever chemicals,” or PFAS; and roadside litter, which often includes plastics;
- Continue to work with Public Works to be sure that Falmouth is ready to comply with Maine’s new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law

Falmouth Memorial Library

Mission:

The Falmouth Memorial Library enhances the quality of life of our community by inspiring lifelong learning, providing free and open access to information, and fostering community connections.

2022 Accomplishments:

- Traffic inside the building has continued to reflect the excitement and appreciation our community has for the newly renovated and expanded Library. We had a very busy summer especially; August was our single highest traffic month since we've reopened – with a door count of over 3,200 people.
- The study rooms are a huge success – we often have people waiting for the next available room in the afternoons – from students looking for a group study space, to tutors helping students, to workers looking for a quiet space to work or zoom with high speed internet. Though we are open to the entire public, we did a limited survey this Fall to learn that these are primarily Falmouth residents by a wide margin, though interestingly not all are card-holders. Space has increasingly become as important as materials circulation for some community members.
- For all card-holders (resident and non-resident), last fiscal year we saw a 38% increase in new cards issued over the previous fiscal year, which ITSELF was a 75% increase over the last “normal” year pre-renovation (FY19).
- As we've reinvigorated existing programs and old favorites, we've also added creative new programs and events, like our new monthly Cookbook Club, and for the upcoming tax season we'll be welcoming the popular AARP Tax Aide volunteers. We've also been able to re-engage with both long-term and new partner organizations in our community to deliver robust educational content, including Falmouth Historical Society, Town of Falmouth Sustainability Office, Maine Humanities, Falmouth Schools, OceanView at Falmouth, Greater Portland Council of Governments, Efficiency Maine, Camden Conference, Falmouth Land Trust, National Digital Equity Center of Maine, EcoMaine, Maine CDC, and University of Maine Cooperative Extension.
- Recently a representative of Maine State Library reported that for the first time the percentage of checkouts of eAudiobooks overtook eBooks in the state cloudLibrary lending platform. This is significant in that eAudiobooks are more expensive up front to license. Spending for cloudLibrary content at the state level doubled during COVID, and while it has come down a little, it is still much higher than pre-COVID spending.
- One of the highlights of 2022 was our Flash Read event held to celebrate the conclusion of our annual summer reading program. We had perfect weather for a multi-generational celebration of reading, complete with music by the Flukes, flavored ice treats, and an amazing magician. We're hoping to make this an annual celebration at the Library.
- We had a great turnout for our Ugly Sweater 5K and Merry Mile in 2021, and are looking to have another strong year for this annual library fundraiser. It was so nice to be back after the COVID hiatus, and we were able to raise over \$5k for the Library. In general, fundraising was strong in FY22 – we ended the fiscal year with a significant increase in giving to our Annual Fund, and individual donations. However, while we ended higher than in previous

years, we will have challenges meeting the more aggressive goal we set in FY23 with an all-volunteer Board.

- We were able to increase overall staff hours this fiscal year, but also continue to face challenges and opportunities with staffing turnover in a tight labor market. The challenge is obviously that short-staffing strains our ability to meet all the service expectations of our patrons on a day-to-day basis, six days per week. The opportunity is that as we continue to explore new ways of working in our new building, we've been able to use some of this attrition to focus resources in new ways – for example, increasing our staff hours in youth services, which is a high demand space and popular programming destination for young families. We were able to increase our weekly storytimes from two to four, though one is currently on hiatus until a full-time staff member returns from leave.
- Most of our operating costs are fixed expenses – building maintenance/reserve, and personnel. At the same time our most basic costs (i.e. books) are also increasing at a high inflation rate. We've been fortunate that our service contracts have mostly kept to reasonable or no increases, but basic supplies costs continue to exceed expectations – from high pulp costs leading to rising book prices; publisher consolidation and policy changes pressuring eBook licensing costs; to fuel costs raising the fees for Inter Library Loan delivery. In previous years our consortium and state partners were able to absorb some of those increases, but that relief is unexpected to continue after this current fiscal year, and we expect significant price increases for everything we buy or lease.

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- N/A

Goals and Suggested 2023-2034 Work Plan Assignments:

- N/A

Harbor/Waterfront Committee

Members: Marty Bruno (Chair), Richard Garrett, Richard Craven, Pete Leavitt (Portland Yacht Club Rep), Chris Dyer (Handy Boat Rep), Manny Kourinos and Peter Dion

Council Liaison: Janice de Lima

Staff Liaison: John Kilbride and Harbor Master Young

Mission:

The Harbor/Waterfront Committee studies and evaluates public use and access to coastal waters and advises the Town Council on policy matters and proposed regulations concerning the Town's coastal waters. The Committee oversees the maintenance and care of the Town owned waterfront facilities through the Harbormaster and in conjunction with state and federal authorities and serves as a board of appeals to hear appeals from any persons aggrieved by any decision, act of failure to act by the harbormaster. Finally, the Committee consults with the Town Council before any moratorium on moorings is enacted.

2022 Accomplishments:

- The Harbor/Waterfront Committee had a productive year. The committee continues to be fully staffed with a dedicated group of volunteers, a mix of residents and representatives from the private clubs.
- One member has an expiring term and will be renewing. Marty Bruno was voted as Chair for 2023. There was an excellent addition to town staff in 2022 with Dave Young as the new Harbormaster and the committee continues to work extremely well with Chief Kilbride and his department.
- The committee participated in topics this year ranging from aquaculture requests, usage of commercial floats, management of town facilities, town landing usage, coastal resiliency, and general inquiries from residents. The landing and overall waterfront is a tremendous town asset and continues to be well used and managed thanks to both the Falmouth Police and HC.

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- Review Float Storage- This will be addressed by the Harbormaster as needed.

Goals and Suggested 2023-2034 Work Plan Assignments:

- Infrastructure upgrades including the boat ramp, parking lot, and kayak racks.

Highland Lake Leadership Team (HLLT)

Members: Nancy Lightbody, Dennis Brown,

Council Liaison: Hope Cahan, Kevin McElearn, Heather Hunt, Jeff Dennis, Gretchen Anderson, Alaina Chormann, John MacKinnon, Jarrod Maxfield,

Staff Liaison: Theresa Galvin, Sustainability Coordinator

Mission:

The mission of the Highland Lake Leadership Team (HLLT) is to work together to improve and maintain the water quality of Highland Lake for the benefit of the residents, the Towns, and Future generations.

This effort includes the Towns of Falmouth and Windham, the Highland Lake Association, the Maine DEP, and the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD). To accomplish this mission, the HLLT developed and are implementing a Strategic Plan that identifies important management issues through input from key stakeholder groups. These management issues are then prioritized, goals are determined, and implementation activities are identified - including institutional and public roles, timing, and funding.

2022 Accomplishments:

- **Ordinance Committee** – Both Falmouth and Windham have done a great job in protecting the lake from development, making Highland Lake the best protected lake in Maine. The Committee is developing a nutrient management plan for Falmouth and Windham to consider. This plan is still being edited before being presented to the two Towns.
 - Consideration of three ordinance improvement proposals:
 - Enforcement options for septic system inspection as properties change ownership within the watershed zone as described in MRS Title 30-A, §4216. Transfers of Shoreland Property
 - Using the Short-Term Rental ordinance to require rental properties to have adequate septic systems for the number of guests that they are advertising that the site can accommodate.
 - Requiring all properties that change ownership to meet the phosphorus control point system rules, which would result in essentially all buildings in Highland Lake Watershed to meet the point criteria over the next 50-75 years.
- **E&O** – Continued outreach to residents around the lake through HLA Annual Meeting, newsletters and social media. Established “community building” efforts through event meet-ups, contests and new online [merchandise store](#).
 - Created and published - Lake Friendly Living, Property BMPs Handout, Private Road Maintenance BMPs, Pet Waste infographic, Invasive Plant identification and mitigation
 - Held a Lake Friendly Living plant workshop in May
 - Collaboration with Little Sebago Lake Association on Communications ideas.
 - Received 50 responses to our HLLT Communication’s Survey with largely favorable results

- **Watershed Management Plan** – 25 of 43 problem sites have been fully mitigated in Falmouth. All “High impact” sites have been addressed along with the majority of medium impact sites. Remaining medium and low sites are more challenging to get property owner support. We are well ahead of the 3 Phases outlined in the [2018 Watershed Management Plan](#) and are looking to update our goals for the next 3 years. A 319 grant proposal will not be submitted this year, as there is not enough remaining work in the watershed plan to justify a grant application.
- **Water Quality Committee** – Established 2022 measurement plan sharing responsibility of data collection between HLA and USM. All WQ data has been published and archived at HLA.

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- Ordinance to regulate manure usage and the keeping of animals in the High Lake Overlay Zone: Two ordinance committee meetings were held to discuss a possible nutrient management ordinance. The Committee is in the process of revising the language in the proposed ordinance.

Goals and Suggested 2023-2024 Work Plan Assignments:

- **Ordinance Committee** – Continue to develop the draft ordinance language for the Nutrient Management Ordinance proposal. Committee to work on next steps for recommendations on 1) Septic Inspection rules, 2) STR waterfront rules and 3) Establishing the “Point System” for property change of ownership. *As recommendations are approved by the HLLT, they will be forwarded to the Towns for processes.*
- **E&O** - Continue messaging to shoreland zone property owners to minimize stormwater runoff, eliminate pollutants, increase buffers and capture and infiltrate stormwater on their property.
- **Watershed Management Plan** - Focus on Road Maintenance Plan education and support for Private Road Associations within the Watershed. Look for additional problem sites to target for state and local grants as available.
- **Water Quality Committee** - Continue water testing to support nutrient management efforts by testing streams (including e coli at select streams). Working with the town of Westbrook on Dam maintenance efforts that could help support lake level management to benefit both Highland Lake and Mill Brook.

Land Management & Acquisition Committee (LMAC)

Members: John Adelman, Chair, Fred Farber, Chris Wasileski, and David Gagnon

Council Liaison: Ted Asherman

Staff Liaisons: Lucky D'Ascanio, Parks and Parks & Community Programs Director, and Caleb Hemphill, Open Space Property Steward

Mission:

LMAC advises on matters related to the management of the Town's designated open space program.

2022 Accomplishments:

- Volunteer Support – Staff have continued to engage new members of the community and trail users to help with property and trail maintenance and improvements. This support is vital to the program as there is always more work to be done than staff time. Members of the biking community remain particularly active and have donated weeks of time to provide safer trail options in several sections of trails where topography provides a challenge for multi-use trails.
- The Town was awarded Lands for Maine's Future grant funding for trail/parking upgrades to NFCF in 2022. A new trail connector was installed and a new parking area off Blackstrap Road at the Cross-Falmouth Trail crossing was completed with substantial help from Falmouth Public Works staff in late summer 2022. In conjunction with this project was the re-routing of the trail crossing at Blackstrap Road. The new crossing configuration enhances visibility and safety for all trail users, including snowmobiles that also cross Blackstrap Road at this location.
- Land Trust/Town Open Space Management Proposal – Staff worked extensively with the Falmouth Land Trust (FLT) and the Committee followed and supported the development of a proposed contract with FLT for management of Town open space operations. This proposal was presented to the Council and was approved on 02/13/23 with an effective starting date of March 1, 2023.
- Pine Grove Preserve – the condition of the forest at Pine Grove Preserve redirected both committee and staff time to this property. Staff worked with the Town Forester evaluating the property and the committee reviewed and made recommendations to the Council. Following Council approval, the forest management plan was implemented from August into October 2022. Trails were reestablished and marked and a new parking area was installed with substantial help from Falmouth Public Works staff.

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- N/A

Goals and Suggested 2023-2034 Work Plan Assignments:

- Work with the Sustainability Coordinator and staff to create an updated invasives management plan for FY24
- Meet every other month to monitor FLT OS Management and determine future role of LMAC

Parks & Community Programs Advisory Committee (PACPAC)

Members: Chair-Karen Jones, Janet Dye, Melanie Collins, Doug Zlatin, Scott Simmonds, and John Lane

Council Liaison: Tommy Johnson

Staff Liaison: Lucky D'Ascanio, Director of Parks and Community Programs

Mission:

PACPAC advises and cooperates with the Parks and Community Programs Director to initiate and maintain relevant community programs and accessible public parks.

2022 Accomplishments:

- The committee began the year meeting remotely as the pandemic was winding down and continued work on developing a Parks Evaluation Form. The committee spent the first quarter of the year individually evaluating parks and in May the committee was joined by the Town Manager and Town Administrative Analyst and completed two separate Park Tours led by the Parks Supervisor. The committee identified Underwood Park as the first location to focus on regarding general park improvements and in cooperation with staff, created a General Parks Improvement Schedule. A neighborhood meeting is slated for January 10, 2023 to solicit public input for Underwood Park. It is important to note that capital funding has been "on hold" regarding moderate upgrades to Underwood Park for several years as the council reviewed the needs of the harbor as well as the Johnson Road intersection. PACPAC is very excited the park improvements will come to fruition in the next year.
- The committee once again started meeting in-person in April of 2022 and added a "Wellness Committee Liaison Report" to their agenda. Current PACPAC member Doug Zlatin is the committee's liaison as he also is a Town Wellness Committee member.
- The "Spotlight on Staff" agenda item showcased two Parks & Community Program's staff members this year; Kim Doyon, Senior Programs & Services Coordinator and Caleb Hemphill, Open Space Property Steward/Trails Manager.
- A few committee members volunteered to assist with the Very Merry events again this year helping out at the Tree Lighting as well as the Ugly Sweater Race.
- On-going work plan items continue to include creating a yearly work-plan, reviewing Community Program brochures three times a year and cooperative planning with other committees such as Wellness and LMAC (Land Management & Acquisition Committee).
- Early in the year, long-time committee member and Chairperson, Karen Jones made it known that she would like to step down as chair but still remain on the committee. There has been recent interest from a current committee member and the committee will be voting on a new chair at our first meeting of the new year.

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- Create Proposal for Underwood Park Upgrades Including Town Landing Parking with Harbor Committee Input-Aceto Landscape Architects has developed a Master Plan based on input from two public forums. The site plan was presented at the May PACPAC meeting and will be presented to the Council on June 21, 2023.

- Improve Waterfront Access with Harbor Committee Input-Staff recommend incorporating kayak rack installation into the larger Town Landing resiliency study. Staff provided a report to the Ordinance Committee on existing and enhanced community programming at Town Landing.
- Create Mile Markers for Exercise Walking/Running-staff selected two recreation loops- OceanView and Route 1. The signs and posts have been purchased. Aiming to complete installation by end of fiscal year 2023.
- Plan to Improve Public Parks-Following the Underwood Park public process, the staff team anticipates prioritizing additional park improvements at other locations by the end of the year.

Goals and Suggested 2023-2034 Work Plan Assignments:

- Determine next steps with Underwood Improvement project and develop cost analysis for implementation.
- Prioritize schedule for additional park improvements at other facilities.
- Continue to work collaboratively with the Town Wellness Committee to create opportunities for all residents.

Planning Board

Members: Peter Kenlan (Chair), David Sinnett (Vice Chair), Jamie Mason, Ashlan Oberholtzer (Resigned), Karen Farber, Jocelyn Lavallo (Resigned), Jason Denby, Ariel Greenlaw and Erika Tepler

Mission:

The Planning Board is a citizen board made up of seven members appointed by the Town Council to implement the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan by regulating development practices. With the assistance of Town Staff, the Planning Board reviews proposals for various development applications.

2022 Accomplishments:

- The Board held 12 regular monthly meetings.
- Processed 34 development applications and issued 26 approvals to applicants.
- Held three public hearings on proposed amendments to the Zoning and Site Plan Review Ordinance.
- The approvals granted in 2022 include:
 - 2 new final subdivision approvals:
 - i. Blackstrap Road - 3-Lot single family conservation subdivision.
 - ii. Eagles Lane – 12 Lot single family conservation subdivision.
 - 2 subdivision amendments:
 - i. Approval to remove a stormwater detention pond on Cavendish Way.
 - ii. Amended re-approval for Tuscan Way to add a drainage easement and landscape modifications.
 - 4 Site Plan Approvals:
 - i. Solar Array at the Town Landfill on Woods Road (Re-Approval).
 - ii. UMaine Co-op Extension - Installation of a shed, greenhouse, and walk-in cooler at Tidewater Farm.
 - iii. Cumberland County Credit Union - 1,480 sf building addition.
 - iv. Falmouth Dentistry – 1,720 sf, two story building addition.
 - 2 Site Plan Amendments:
 - i. Falmouth Schools – Three modular classroom buildings.
 - ii. Portland Country Club – Wetland fill & parking area modifications.
 - 2 Private Way Amendments
 - 5 Shoreland Zone Permits
 - 9 Sign Permits

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- N/A

Goals and Suggested 2023-2034 Work Plan Assignments:

- N/A

Recycling and Energy Advisory Committee

Members: Dave Low (Chair), Caleb Hemphill, Dick Klain, Rich Bicknell, Sydney Patten, Stev Parker, Dos Diaz

Council Liaison: Peter LaFond

Staff Liaison: Theresa Galvin, Sustainability Coordinator

Mission:

REAC advises residents, businesses, and municipal operations on sustainability initiatives that help cultivate a resilient community.

2022 Accomplishments:

- Several members of REAC served on the Climate Action Plan Committee and the plan is highly anticipated as it will have a variety of action items which REAC hopes will direct the committee as it moves forward.
- Below are the various activities REAC worked on during the past 11 months:
 - Solar-the Committee has not done any work on the project other than monitoring its progress and looking forward to its completion.
 - Bicycle Repair Stations-this initiative started as a REAC project and has now been completed. While there has not been follow up to determine if they are being used, this data should be collected over the coming year.
 - No Idling
 - “No Idling” signs were printed. The committee decided to print 20 metal signs, sized 24 x 16. Also printed and laminated were smaller signs, 8.5 x 11. Both the metal and laminated signs are currently being distributed to businesses in town that are interested in supporting this initiative. Committee member Sydney Patten coordinated this effort with the assistance of a high school group. The signs suggest drivers turn off their engines while waiting outside businesses. While not an ordinance, the signs include a Town of Falmouth logo to indicate a Town driven effort.
 - Municipal Green Building Standards
 - The committee spent significant time working on developing ordinance language which will encompass all the necessary components to address new building projects, renovations and general operations. The committee chair and staff met with Nathan to review the committee’s final recommendations. The recommended ordinance will include a variety of carbon reduction strategies and also include a LEED certification recommendation for all new municipal projects.
 - Green Building Standards – Non-Municipal
 - Once a municipal ordinance is enacted, REAC will recommend a building ordinance for commercial buildings. Draft language has already been assembled and is based closely on the municipal ordinance so a draft recommendation can be sent to Council quickly. REAC’s work on the municipal policy has informed discussions about how a standard could be enacted which will take into account the realities of the market while also addressing issues raised in the Climate Action Plan. Included will be a

recommendation on whether the town should enact the energy stretch code.

- Procurement policy
 - The committee had been working on developing a policy to present to staff. However, a local graduate student volunteered to assemble a policy and this offer was accepted. With some input from REAC, she developed a policy which has now been accepted as a procurement policy for all municipal operations. REAC has discussed working with staff to help implement the policy and hopes to work on this project to ensure procurement can be adjusted to help town operations meet the Climate Action Plan goals.

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- Education and Yard Equipment- no work completed
- Green Procurement Policy- completed
- Green Municipal Building Standards- in progress
- Green Building Standards/Building Standards Increase – no work completed that focused on the commercial and residential
- No Idling Education Program- completed and rolled out
- Plastic Straw Ordinance- no work completed
- Health Nail Salon Voluntary Certification- no work completed

Goals and Suggested 2023-2034 Work Plan Assignments:

- As mentioned, the Climate Action Plan will have a variety of important measures which will guide REAC as the committee moves forward.
- Solar
 - Research another solar array for town operations
 - Research community solar projects for residents
 - Publish information on community solar marketing to help residents make informed decisions about current solar options
- Finalize municipal green building ordinance
- Develop commercial green building ordinance
- Climate action plan implementation
- Green procurement policy implementation
- Research into leaf blower restrictions
- Continue discussions on how to eliminate fossil fuel heating in town

Shellfish Conservation Committee

Current Members: Richie Garrett (Chair), Dave Skillin, Wally Geyer, Dave Irish

Council Liaison: Jay Trickett

Staff Liaison: John Kilbride

Mission:

- Establishing annually, in conjunction with the Department of Marine Resources, the number of shellfish recreational digging licenses to be issued;
- Surveying the clam flats to maintain current information on shellfish resources;
- Submitting to the town council proposals for the expenditures of funds for the purpose of shellfish conservation;
- Keeping this article under review and making recommendation for its amendments;
- Securing and maintaining records of shellfish harvest from the town's managed shellfish areas and closed areas that are conditionally opened by the Department of Marine Resources;
- Recommending conservation closures and openings to the town council in conjunction with the Department of Marine Resources;
- Submitting an annual report to the municipality and the Department of Marine Resources covering the above topics and all other commission activities.

2022 Accomplishments:

- June 2022 – New Harbormaster Dave Young was hired and agreed to take on the responsibility of shellfish warden. Training will be completed March of 2023.
- December 2022- 20 licenses utilized for 2022: 16 Resident-4 Non-Resident.
- December 2022 – Shellfish Committee had in person meeting.
- December 2022 – Members were appointed/reappointed to the Shellfish Conservation Committee
- December 2022 – During this meeting members:
 - Determined shellfish license application fees for residents (\$10) and non-residents (\$20)
 - Set Recreational (55) and Commercial (0) license allocations for the Department of Marine Resources to review
 - Elected Richie Garrett as Chair
 - Recommended expansion of harvesting season between November 15th-June 15th
 - Recommend 12 years of age or younger can obtain shellfish license with no fee.

Progress on 2022-2023 Work Plan Assignments:

- Clamming Educational Event- Staff are working with the Committee to plan an August meeting at Town Landing beach that will include an educational component.

Goals and Suggested 2023-2034 Work Plan Assignments:

- Continue in-person Shellfish Committee meetings, with one additional meeting in the summer on-site at Town Landing.
- Submit required Annual Review Report to the Department of Marine Resources.
- Survey Town Landing clam flats for 2023-2024 license allocation and, at the same time, offer an educational opportunity for community members to join and learn more about harvesting shellfish.
- Monitor flats to suggest changes to the Department of Marine Resources' openings/closures.