



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

October 2021

SURPRISE Public League Program with State Legislators on Wednesday, October 27

Our three local state legislators, Senator Susan Moran, Representative David Vieira, and Representative Dylan Fernandes, will be the guests at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 27, at a public program arranged by your Legislative Committee. It will be broadcast live on FCTV's Channel 13 and streamed live on FCTV's website.



Sen. Susan Moran



Rep. David Vieira

During the planned program, our legislators will each have the opportunity to speak briefly about issues they choose. In addition, they will be asked about pending legislation important to the League and your Legislative Committee. We also will

pass along questions posed by you, our League members, and by other members of the public. **As you read this notice, think about what you would like to ask our legislators. Then send us an email at this address: msc0512@comcast.net. If you think of questions during the broadcast, it will not be too late to send them. We will use as many as we can.**

We plan to have a flexible format. However, as noted above, we hope to seek our legislators' views on at least some of the bills we have been promoting in the Legislative Committee. Voting is a very high

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priority. Massachusetts now has the chance to continue the new electoral systems adopted due to Covid and even to expand them further through same-day voter registration. Immigration bills, such as the Safe Communities Act and Work and Family Mobility, remain important. Common Start offers a fresh look at childcare and early childhood education. Dealing with safety close to home, the League supports a bill to require continuous monitoring of the dry casks that are storing spent nuclear



Rep. Dylan Fernandes

fuel across the bridges in Plymouth. And almost everyone is curious about how redistricting – and reprecincting – are being carried out. We hope to get to as many of these issues as time allows, keeping in mind both the need to give the legislators an opportunity to briefly address issues of importance

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LWVF STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The LWVF Board Steering Committee met on Friday, September 24 via zoom. Richard Johnson proposed that League members be fully informed about the Mixed Residential and Commercial Overlay District to be voted on at the November Town meeting. There will be considerable coverage of this in the media between now and November Town Meeting.

There will be no October Voters Service program on redistricting as pertinent census data for Massachusetts will not yet be available and may not be until the end of the year. Instead, Judy Ziss and her Legislative committee will have a public meeting with our state legislators in October so that Voters Service can present its program in March.

Misty Niemeyer announced that an electronic LWVF Membership Directory that can be downloaded and printed at home will soon be available. However, those members who are not able to access the directory online may request a printed copy from the League. She also announced that the League has welcomed another new member.

The report to members about Annual Meeting II held at the Cape Verdean Club on September 11 will appear in the Bulletin once three readers approve the draft for publication.

Finally, Marcia Easterling gave a brief report about the organizational meeting of a local Neighborhood Support Team held at Waquoit Congregational Church on September 21 to begin preparations to welcome up to three Afghan evacuee families. The meeting was covered by a reporter from *The Enterprise* and will provide details about the program.

—**Marcia Easterling**

Editor's Note: Information about the housing proposal is in this Bulletin on page 7. The public meeting with state legislators is on page 1. The report on the Annual meeting is on page 4.



Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control

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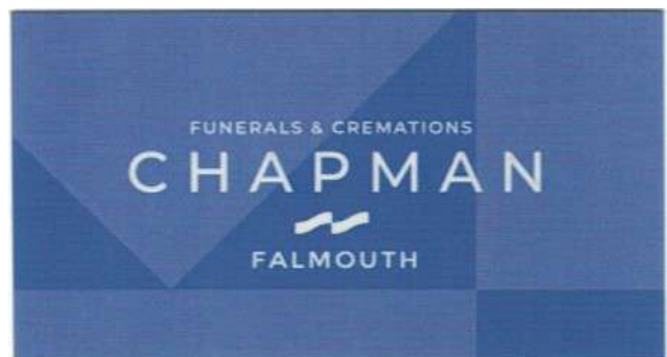


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Natural Resources: Special Presentation

Please join the Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, November 18, 7 p.m., at Falmouth Academy (Morse Hall) for a presentation on "Ecological Restoration in Falmouth: The Coonamessett River and Peterson Farm Vernal Pool Restoration Projects." The presenters will be Betsy Gladfelter, Falmouth Conservation Commission, and Mark Kasprzyk, Falmouth Conservation MES Tech.

Betsy will discuss the process of restoring the cranberry production fields along the river to a diverse and rich habitat of native flora and fauna. The first section of the Coonamessett Heritage Trail has been completed; significant portions upstream are in process, with plans to connect all the way to Coonamessett Pond.

This restoration also significantly increases the storm water storage capacity of the river basin. Mark will discuss methods employed to control invasive species at the river as well as at Peterson Farm's vernal pool, the site of our LWVF Centennial Grove of Tupelo trees.



Both sites are open to the public and well worth visiting. There is an easy trail around the first section of the river, connecting two boardwalks across the river, accessible from two points along John Parker Road. The Gateway overlook off John Parker Road is nearing completion.

—Richard Johnson

Directions to the presentation:

Falmouth Academy is at 7 Highfield Dr, Falmouth.

Morse Hall is on the second floor of Falmouth Academy. Park in Visitor Parking, come in the front door, and proceed up the main stairs. There are several ADA parking spaces and a ramp near the front door. You can also park in the Faculty lot and enter the side door. We will put up signs directing you to the elevator if you prefer not to use the stairs.

Please wear a mask indoors as a courtesy to other attendees and our hosts at Falmouth Academy.



Report from the 2021 Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of Falmouth

Annual Meeting II

Falmouth Cape Verdean Club

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Under the direction of Corrie Greene, the Cape Verdean Club members welcomed the Falmouth League to the Club. Maggie Sweasy welcomed all and State Representative Dylan Fernandes expressed his appreciation and thanks for this joint venture of the League and the Cape Verdean Club. Before the League business meeting, Corrie presented a program on the history of the Cape Verdean Club, first organized in 1941, which included an informative video. Following the League business meeting attendees enjoyed a lovely luncheon prepared and graciously served by members of the Cape Verdean Club. The League and the Club had collaborated on the Get Out the Vote program before the November 2020 election.

LWVF Business Meeting

Maggie called the meeting to order and asked for a minute of silence to remember those who perished and all who risked their lives to save others on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. Maggie then welcomed the Co-President of the Massachusetts League, a guest for this very special annual meeting. Sylvia Szulkin then presented the LWVF Awards for outstanding service to the League. Recipients were Jacqueline Webster and Jenny Putnam (in absentia). Sylvia also acknowledged the outstanding contributions to the League by Carol McKeon for her efforts for Voter Services, Denise Morreale for her work with the Observer Corps, Richard Johnson for his effort in getting the Centennial Trees and plaque in place, and Judy Ziss for her diligence in keeping us informed about important legislation pending in Boston. She also commended Brenda Nolan for her work as co-editor of the LWVF Bulletin and presented a Civic Leadership award to Mindy Todd of WCAI for her work in making sure local news is covered and for being a frequent moderator for League-sponsored Candidates Nights before elections.

Meghan Hanawalt directed members to her Treasurer's Report and the proposed budget for 2021-2022 printed in the 2020-2021 Annual Report presented to League members before the meeting began. Kathy Mortenson then directed members to study the proposed local position changes on pp. 6-10 of the Annual Report. Denise Morreale will chair the new LWVF Local Study on Transportation, a re-study through a diversity, equity and inclusion lens.

Joan Boyer announced the Steering Committee for 2021-2022: Joan Boyer, Maggie Sweasy, Richard Johnson, Misty Niemeyer, and Marcia Easterling and introduced new Board members Eileen Mattingly, Mary Fran Buckley, Lynne Rozsa and Maro Titus. Joan thanked the following members leaving the Board for their service to the League: Jackie Webster, Alice Carey, Joanne Treistman, and Kathy Mortenson. In 2020-2021 LWVF welcomed thirty new members. Finally, Joan called for members to offer directions to the Board. Joanne Voorhis asked that the League have a President rather than the Steering Committee and Margaret Cooper urged more League studies.

Before adjournment, Richard Johnson announced that the Natural Resources program would take place on Thursday, November 18, at 7 p.m. at Falmouth Academy.

Adjournment: 3:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

—Marcia Easterling

More from the Annual Meeting

What a terrific meeting/party we had on September 11, 2021! Thirty-four members and guests were entertained in style with a Cape Verdean Tea presented by the Falmouth Cape Verdean Club. Such a happy event to resume in-person meetings. Our Annual Meeting 1 was held in May by Zoom and dealt with the required year-end business issues only.

For the program part of the meeting, the CVC introduced us to rich history of the club, its many community activities, and its ongoing charitable efforts in the community.

For the lovely tea, the members of the CVC decorated the tables with tablecloths, flowers and delightful vintage teacups and teapots. They provided an enormous array for wonderful food, sandwiches, savory treats, fruit and of course elegant desserts.

The meeting portion of the event dealt with the approval of the budget, a review of the results of last year's local study involving revising the league opinions on the issues. In addition, the new local study was also presented. All the details of the local studies are available on the LWVF website.



Several deserving members of the league and community leaders were recognized for their service. (See next page.)

New and outgoing members of the board were formally introduced.

Finally, a huge thank you to the committee who organized the event and a heartfelt thank you from that committee to all the members and guests who made the day such a success.

—Maggie Sweasy



Photos by
Olivia White



2021 Leadership Awards

Over the past decade, awards have been given at Annual Meeting from time to time to community leaders and/or local League members whose contributions have merited special recognition. There were two categories of awards this year, Civic Leader and League Leader.

Due to the pandemic we had no Annual Meeting in 2020. When the Annual Meeting Committee met this past Spring we noted the unusually large number of people who had made it possible for Falmouth and the Falmouth League to thrive under uniquely difficult conditions.

—*Sylvia Szulkin*

Civic Leadership Award: MINDY TODD

In recognition and appreciation for your important contributions to the League of Women Voters of Falmouth, to the Town of Falmouth and to Barnstable County. The League of Women Voters of Falmouth celebrates your contributions to civil public discourse as an award-winning public radio broadcaster and as a moderator of community forums that promote the productive exchange of ideas. As a Moderator of the Falmouth League's Candidates Nights you have not only kept order but elevated the level of discussion among the candidates. We are informed and inspired by your example.

League Leadership Awards:

RICHARD JOHNSON

In recognition and appreciation of your contributions to the League of Women Voters of Falmouth. Your knowledge of environmental issues and your ability to explain their implications have enlightened both our League and our Town. Your creative input enriched our Centennial celebration and resulted in the establishment of a Centennial Garden for the Town. You have literally put the Falmouth League on the map.

CAROL MCKEON

In recognition of your leadership and important contributions to the League of Women Voters of Falmouth. As Chairperson of our League's Voter Services Committee both pre- and post -pandemic, you have demonstrated that tact, combined with strength of purpose and imagination, can overcome seemingly insuperable challenges.

DENISE MORREALE

In recognition of your many contributions to the League of Women Voter of Falmouth and the Town of

Falmouth. Your energetic leadership of the Observer Corps has not only kept our membership informed of the activities of Town agencies but has encouraged members of the Observer Corps to join Town boards. As co-editor of the Falmouth League's Bulletin you have grown the publication in both size and substance.

BRENDA NOLAN

In recognition and appreciation of your high standards and professional performance as co-editor of the Falmouth League's Bulletin. Your openness to new content and format innovations has enhanced the scope and vitality of our lead publication.

JENNY PUTNAM

In recognition and appreciation of your leadership of the Voter Services Committee, which encouraged the creation of new ways of promoting the League's mission and strengthened ties between the League and other community organizations.

JACQUELINE WEBSTER

In recognition and appreciation of your important contributions to the League of Women Voters of Falmouth. As Membership Chairperson you have inspired and overseen the growth of our League in size and influence for the civic good. We celebrate your organizational skills, innovative spirit and commitment to the League's Mission.

JUDTH ZISS

In recognition and appreciation of your important contributions to the League of Women Voters of Falmouth. As Chairperson of the Legislative Committee you have demonstrated formidable leadership, research, analytic and networking talents. These talents have powered programs that exemplify the League's mission to increase public understanding of policy issues.

Mixed Residential and Commercial Overlay District Update

Attention Falmouth Town Meeting Members:

At the September 23, 2021, ZBA Open Meeting, Town Planner Thomas Bott presented the proposed Mixed Residential and Commercial Overlay District that will go before Town Meeting in November.

- This proposed overlay district will allow mixed re-tail/office/residential development and multi-family residential development in B1, B2 and BR zoning districts along Route 28 and in a few other small areas. The purpose is to allow for high density residential construction in areas well served by public transit and other services (such as Davis Straits, Palmer Ave, Main Street, Rt 28 at the Acapesket, Davisville, and Central Avenue intersections and a few locations in North Falmouth), for the express purpose of increasing the affordable housing stock in Falmouth.

If apartments, 25% of units must be affordable, and lease for no less than 12 months. If condominiums, 50% must be affordable. Approval will be by Site Plan Review by the Planning Board, with notification to abutters within 300'. Density of up to 20 units per acre is allowed on parcels greater than 10,000 sf, and no fewer than four units are permitted on any parcel.

The setbacks are rather unique, intended to move the building closer to the road (maximum front yard setback of 20') and push parking to the side and rear (10' minimum, 20' minimum if abutting residentially zoned land), with parking of one space per unit.

Affordable rental housing poses a challenge as tenants must qualify and enter the housing lottery to get the first lease, and requalify each year in order to renew their lease; it is not quite clear who will monitor this process, as it is not under 40B regulations. With owner occupied housing, prospective buyers must qualify and enter the housing lottery only the first year.

Full details of the proposed zoning overlay district and detailed maps of the areas are available at: <https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10440/Zoning-and-Maps-for-Proposed-Mixed-Residential-and-Commercial-Overlay-District>

The Site Plan Review process is detailed at: <https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1493/Site-Plan-Review-Regulations-PDF>

I believe the Planning Board held four public hearings for this proposed change, and you should be able to watch these through links on the Planning Board web page. Mr. Bott's presentation on the 23rd was filmed by FCTV and may be available for view through their website.

—Richard Johnson

LWVF Observer for the
Zoning Board of Appeals

Meeting with State Legislators, cont.

to them and also **the need to address issues important to you.**

If you look back at the title of this article, you'll see this program is described as a "surprise." Our Falmouth League calendar listed a Voter Services

Committee program to be presented at about this time. Well, Voter Services prefers to have a program later in the year, when redistricting becomes more settled. Thus, your Legislative Committee decided to explore whether a legislative program could be put together quickly to substitute for one at the previously scheduled time in March. Our three legislators and FCTV all agreed to take part on very short notice. Things somehow have fallen into place. Now, if you tune in and find the program informative, our rush to put it together will definitely have been worthwhile.

—Judy Ziss

Treasurer's Report**—Meghan Hanawalt**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH			
Treasurer's Report# 2 2021-22 8/24/2021-9/27/2021			
	Budget	Total this	This Reporting
INCOME	FY2021-22	Budget year	Period
Ads	\$250		
Annual Meeting	\$500	\$757	\$757
Contributions - Friends	\$175	\$25	
Contributions - Members	\$1,500	\$1,027	\$157
Dues	\$7,711	\$3,785	\$1,635
Funds Raisers	\$250		
Grants	\$0		
Transfer from savings	\$0		
INCOME TOTAL	\$10,386	\$5,594	\$2,549
		Total this	
EXPENSES	Budget	Budget year	This Reporting
	FY2021-22		Period
Action/Program	\$150		
Administration	\$350		
Web Site Fee	\$440	\$400	
Annual Meeting & Report	\$500	\$620	\$620
Bank Fees	\$150	\$100	\$51
Bulletin Postage	\$125	\$22	
Bulletin Printing	\$250	\$46	\$23
Convention - National	\$0		
Convention -State	\$0		
Membership & Directory	\$800		
Participation / Donation	\$75	\$100	\$100
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	\$3,508		
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	\$5,160		
Voter Service	\$1,500		
Special Projects	\$0		
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$13,008	\$1,288	\$795
	07/01/20		01/25/21
checking acct	\$6,519	\$4,306	\$10,825
LWV Educ Fund	\$1,113	\$300	\$1,413
	\$7,632		\$12,238

A Message from Membership

1. Welcome to our newest member, Linda Lynch!
2. Have you renewed yet? There are a few members that have yet to renew. It is easy to do: please just go to the local league site and sign-up to renew and you can pay online or send a check. Easy as pie!
3. Expanding Membership - The National, State, and our local League are working to appeal and be more inclusive to a broader membership. The local league is spearheading two initiatives. The first, supported at the National and State level, is that the league is offering FREE membership to all students over the age of 16. Students are asked to donate five hours of service each year; they will be paired with a current member for mentorship. Please encourage students in your life interested in the mission of the league to join, have them go to the local league page, choose Join, and select the student membership option! The second initiative is \$25/year membership option. The Falmouth league is

committing funds this first year for a pilot project, to cover the remaining membership fee due to the National and State leagues, in hopes to minimize barriers to joining our membership, by offering a lower annual fee. Please spread the word to friends and family who may be interested in joining.

To renew or join go to: <https://my.lwv.org/massachusetts/falmouth/join-or-renew>

4. 2021-2022 Membership Book - Following the trends of going greener and digital, we are changing our upcoming Membership Book into a digital format. The Membership Book will contain all of the same information and will be printable. If you are unable to print and would prefer a printed copy, there will be an option to request a printed version and it will be mailed to you. Keep a look out for the membership book this fall!

—Misty Niemeyer

Domestic Violence Awareness Panel Discussions

The MetroWest Commission on the Status of Women invites you to join us for our virtual panel discussion on Thursday, October 14 at 7pm: ***Shattered: The Impact of Interpersonal Violence on Loved Ones -Families Share Their Stories.***

As we continue our focus for Domestic Violence Awareness month, The MW Commission invites you to join us for a discussion on how interpersonal violence impacts the families of victims. Panelists will include Malcolm Astley and Mary Dunne, parents of Lauren Astley (1993-2011) and MW Commissioner and **Co-President of the Framingham League of Women Voters** Stephanie Deeley, sister of Kim Boleza Parker (1967-2013).

Domestic violence has far reaching consequences, and impacts people other than the victims. Families and friends who have lost a loved one to this issue have seen the process of victimization first hand, and will share their insights on the importance of

educating people to recognize the signs, and the impact of dealing with this debilitating loss. We all experience loss in our lifetimes, but the loss of someone to violence at the hands of someone you know has its own unique issues.

Join us to hear these stories to open a dialog about an issue that is not often discussed, but needs to be.

Each Thursday in October we will be focusing on a different aspect of this issue. For information on all events and to register for all, or individual events, visit the Commissions Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MetrowestCommissionStatusWomen>.

These events are open to people of all ages and are free, however registration is required. Registration will end at noon on the day of the event. You will receive a Zoom link to the event the afternoon of each event you register for.

LWVF Board of Directors 2021-2022

Steering Committee

First Vice-President, Steering Committee Chair	Joan Boyer
Second Vice-President	Maggie Sweasy
Secretary	Marcia Easterling
Natural Resources	Richard Johnson
Membership	Misty Niemeyer
Treasurer	Meghan Hanawalt
Bulletin Editors	Mary Fran Buckley, Eileen Mattingly
Legislative	Judith Ziss
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale
Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
Voter Service	Sylvia Szulkin, Acting
At Large	Lynne Rozsa
At Large	Maro Titus
Board Moderator	Joanne Voorhis

Off-Board Specialists

Social Media	Penelope Duby
Webmaster	Joan Boyer
Historian	Jacqueline Webster

LWVF Friends 2021

Christina Jacobi
Maria Moniz
Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois

Contact us:

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Email: FalmouthLWV@gmail.com

Website: www.lwvf.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/>

Member Event Calendar

October 27 General meeting: Public Meeting with State Legislators, 7 p.m. (Live on FCTV Channel 13 and streaming on the FCTV website.)

October 26 Board meeting, 7 p.m. Gus Canty Community Center.

November 18 General meeting: Natural Resources. 7 p.m. at Falmouth Academy.

November 23 Board meeting, 7 p.m. Gus Canty Community Center



Image by Kit Irwin

Join the League of Women Voters: Democracy in Action!

You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join. Membership dues are \$50 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member.

If you wish to join the League, send your check made out to the address at left. Include your name, mailing address, and phone number.

If you prefer, go to our website at www.lwvf.org. Click on "Join" to join or renew and pay online.

