



League of Women Voters[®] of Falmouth Bulletin

April 2021

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Contact Us

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of Falmouth*

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Visit our web site

lwvf.org

Visit our Facebook page

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/)

[LWVofFalmouthMA/](https://www.facebook.com/LWVofFalmouthMA/)

[instagram.com/lwvfalmouth](https://www.instagram.com/lwvfalmouth)

Member Event Calendar

April	21	7:00 pm	Candidates Night FCTV
	27	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Zoom
May	18	Tuesday	Annual Town Election
	20	7:00 pm	LWVF Annual Meeting Part 1 Zoom
June	17	7:00 pm	Observer Corps Reports Zoom
	22	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Zoom

LWVF Board of Directors 2020-2021

Steering Committee

First Vice-President		Joan Boyer , Steering Committee Chair	
Second Vice-President		Maggie Sweasy	
Local Study		Kathy Mortenson	
At Large		Joanne Treistman	
At Large		Misty Niemeyer	
Secretary	Marcia Easterling	Membership	Jackie Webster
Treasurer	Meghan Hanawalt	Voter Service	Jenny Putnam
Observer Corps	Denise Morreale	Natural Resources	Richard Johnson
Board Moderator	Joanne Voorhis	Legislative	Judith Ziss
Annual Meeting	Alice Carey	Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
		Spokesperson	Sylvia Szulkin

Bulletin Editors: **Denise Morreale, Brenda Nolan**

If you wish to join the League, membership dues are \$50 for an individual membership and \$25 for an additional household member.

Send your check made out to LWV of Falmouth, P. O. Box 450, Falmouth, MA 02541. Include your name, mailing address, email address and phone number.

Go to our website www.lwvf.org, "join or renew" to renew and pay online, You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join.

MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Misty Niemeyer

Spring is here, the weather is warming, and hope is on the horizon, with an increase in the availability of vaccines and the possibility of returning to some semblance of normalcy. However, the world is forever changed; our country, our community, and even our local League. Over a year into a worldwide pandemic, many of us have been more isolated than ever before; while sometimes that can be tough, the moments of quiet can give you time to reflect on your life, the state of the world, and the community around you. This past year had many hurdles, and just when we thought we were past the worst of it, the world piled on more. The momentous events of this past year make you reflect and appreciate the good around you and imagine how we want the world and our community to look on the other side of this. Members of the Board and the Steering Committee have recently discussed how different our League is now. Much like the world, the League is changing. However, while change can be scary, I take comfort in knowing we get to play a role in shaping what our lives, our League, and our community will look like in the future. To me, that is exciting. I find that same excitement in our upcoming town election, it's an opportunity for our League and each of us to have a voice and say in our town's future. Our league's leading the Candidate's night and getting out the vote campaign make a difference by helping voters get to the polls armed with the power of information. You, as a voter, can make a difference; every vote counts, particularly in local elections where a handful of votes can determine the outcome. These elections matter, as decisions made by our Town meeting members, School Board, Library Board, Planning Board, Housing, and the Select Board directly impact our everyday lives. Use your voice, spread the word, post on social media, talk to your neighbors (from 6 ft away, of course), or zoom your local friends and family, and encourage them all to continue to have hope in the future and help shape that future with your votes!

LWVF FRIENDS 2020

Sally Fritz
Christina Jacobi
Maria Moniz

Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2021-2022

Stephanie Miele, Nominating Committee Chair, 2020-2021

Marcia Easterling, Karen Epstein, Denise Morreale, Kathy Mortenson, Olivia White

Board of Directors

1st VP - Joan Boyer

2nd – VP Maggie Sweasy

At Large – Maro Virginia Titus

At Large – Lynne Rozsa

At Large – Eileen Mattingly

Secretary – Marcia Easterling

Treasurer – Meghan Hanawalt

Communications – Mary Fran Buckley

Natural Resources – Richard Johnson

Legislative – Judith Ziss

Membership – Misty Neimeyer

Observer Corps – Denise Morreale

Voter Service – Jenny Putnam

Board Moderator – Joanne Voorhis

Spokesperson – Sylvia Szulkin

Off Board Specialists

Bulletin Editor – Brenda Nolan

Facebook – Penelope Duby

Instagram – Sarah Pring

Webmaster - Joan Boyer

Historian – Jacqueline Webster

Nominating Committee – S. Miele, Chair

Denise Morreale, Marcia Easterling, Misty Neimeyer, Board Representatives

Olivia White, Karen Epstein, Off – Board Representatives

PROPOSED BUDGET 2021-2022

Meghan Hanawalt, Treasurer

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FALMOUTH			
Budget			
	through 3/8/2021		
	FY2020-21		FY2021-22
INCOME	Budget	Actual	Budget
Ads	\$100	\$100	\$250
Annual Meeting	\$-	\$-	\$500
Contributions - Friends	\$100	\$175	\$175
Contributions - Members	\$800	\$2,921	\$1,500
Dues	\$6,000	\$6,775	\$7,711
Development / Fund Raisers	\$250	\$-	\$250
Grants	\$-	\$300	\$-
Transfer from savings	\$3,615	\$-	\$-
INCOME TOTAL	<u>\$10,865</u>	<u>\$10,271</u>	<u>\$10,386</u>
	FY2020-21		FY2021-22
EXPENSES	Budget	Actual	Budget
Action/Program	\$1,300	\$175	\$150
Administration	\$200		\$100
Web Site Fee	\$440	\$440	\$440
Annual Meeting & Report	\$500		\$500
Bank Fees	\$50	\$130	\$150
Bulletin Postage	\$100	\$44	\$125
Bulletin Printing	\$350	\$112	\$250
Convention - National	\$-		\$-
Convention -State	\$600	\$-	\$-
Membership & Directory	\$500	\$634	\$800
Participation	\$75		\$-
Per Member Pay Mass. (PMP)	\$2,760	\$2,789	\$3,508
Per Member Pay US (PMP)	\$3,840	\$4,080	\$5,160
Voter Service	\$150	\$1,676	\$2,000
Special Projects			
EXPENSE TOTAL	<u>\$10,865</u>	<u>\$10,080</u>	<u>\$13,183</u>
	07/01/20	03/08/21	<u>-\$2,796</u>
checking acct	\$6,007	\$6,198	\$3,402
LWV Educ Fund	\$553	\$553	\$553
TOTAL CASH	<u>\$6,560</u>	<u>\$6,751</u>	<u>\$3,955</u>

The March 18th LWVF program, "[Looking Under the Hood: Covid-19 Election and Lessons Learned](#)" is now available to watch on YouTube.

ANNUAL MEETING DATES

Maggie Sweasy, Chair

With optimism in our hearts, the Board of Directors has chosen 2 dates for the Annual Meeting. Part 1 will be **May 20, 2021 7pm Via Zoom**. This portion will be mostly the business function of electing the slate of officers and Board of Director positions for the coming year. Within this issue of the Bulletin, the slate of nominees, the proposed updates of our current positions, and the Treasurer's budget report are posted for the membership to inspect. Many of the changes are in **RED**. Any questions should be directed to one of the Steering committee members. Log on instructions will be sent out in time for the May meeting.



Natural Brush Clearing and Poison Ivy Control

Meghan Hanawalt, Goatherd info@getmygoatscapecod.com
774-521-8745 www.GetMyGoatsCapeCod.com

Part 2 of the Annual Meeting will be the social event and will be held in early **September**. We are anticipating a wonderful event "IN PERSON". Stay tuned for the details. Maggie would dearly welcome volunteers to help with the planning.

LOCAL STUDY 2020-2021

Kathy Mortenson, Local Study Chair

The local study this year has been an assessment and updating of LWVF local positions which are listed in the purple LWVF 2020-2021 Membership Directory. The Land Use position was updated recently and was the only position not reviewed. **The updates are included for review and will be voted on by members at the Annual meeting, May 20 via Zoom.**

Thank you to the League members who provided expert advice, reviewed, and updated the LWVF positions: Joan Boyer, Peter Boyer, Alice Carey, Rosemary Carey, Marcia Easterling, Judy Fenwick, Richard Johnson, Kirstin Moritz, Denise Morreale, Pam Polloni, Sylvia Szulkin, Suzanne Thomas, Maro Virginia Titus, Kerry Walton.

TRANSPORTATION (Consensus (1996, **revised 2021**))

LWV Falmouth supports:

- Promotion of a local transportation network and **acting** on issues related to the Steamship Authority as they affect **the Upper Cape region**.
- **Expansion of links between intermodal public transportation**

- Focus on regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all forms of transportation, including on water, on roads and in the air in accordance with efforts identified in the Cape Cod Climate Action Plan. Promote Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) initiatives to increase ridership and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
- Replacing Cape Cod Canal bridges with goals of reducing congestion, minimizing negative impact to local businesses, and increasing safety.
- Use of commuter rail service to Buzzards Bay including a Buzzards Bay passenger ferry port to the islands and Woods Hole.

LWV Falmouth Opposes:

- Parking away from limited access highways and in areas of contribution to water recharge zones
- Development of a third operational slip in Woods Hole

WATER QUALITY (Consensus 1980, 1995, updated 2021)

LWV Falmouth supports:

- Watershed protection through both outright purchase and easements in the Water Resource and Coastal Pond Overlay Districts.
- Minimum lot size of ~~two acres~~ 80,000 sf in watershed areas. Water Resource Overlay Districts.
- Ban on toxic septic system cleaners.
- Public education on fertilizers/pesticides/septic system cleaners related to groundwater pollution.
- All efforts to speedily and completely contain and clean up the contamination plumes emanating from the Mass. Military Reservation and from other sources.
- All efforts to protect groundwater quality and quantity, including maintenance of the natural environment and open space as a means of protecting the groundwater supply.
- Efforts to upgrade and maintain Falmouth's water supply system.
- Equitable water rates, long-range planning and public education on water issues.

LWV Falmouth opposes:

- The proposed Machine Gun Range at the Mass. Military Reservation based on its potential damage to the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.

Rationale for edits:

Watershed is a generic term and it seems more useful to refer to the two Overlay Districts which are defined in the Zoning Code. There is an 80,000 sf minimum lot size in the Water Resource Overlay District in the Zoning Code, which may be reduced by special permit from the ZBA.

The proposed Gun Range would be sited on the 15,000-acre Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve, an area designated by the state to serve 3 purposes: protection of the watershed, protection of wildlife habitat, and military activities compatible with those purposes. The Gun Range would destroy 170 acres of forested land that provide critical water protection and wildlife habitat services--activities that are not compatible with machine gun training activities. The Proposed Machine Gun Range involves the use of copper ammunition (potentially toxic) in the Water Supply Reserve. There is an intent to collect and recycle the copper ammunition but no public information on how that collection will be done or how effective it might be.

TOWN CHARTER (Consensus 1987; update 1989, 1990, 1991, 1998, 2007, 2013, 2018)

LWV Falmouth supports:

- The Town charter form of government as adopted on January 1, 1991 and final amendments to be voted on May 2022.

EDUCATION (Consensus 1975; updated 1983; revised 2021)

LWV Falmouth supports:

- Increased awareness of the town budget process through widespread publicity of the role of the Finance Committee and the Town Administration as well as dissemination of information about allocation of funds.
- Implementation of Educational Reform Act of 1993 and updated 2018 version of the same.
- Implementation and state funding of the "Act to Promote and Enhance Civics Education in Schools, codified as Section 2631 of the Acts of 2018.
- Increased emphasis on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in principle and in practice.
- Alignment with LWVUS and LWVMA Education Positions, e.g. Title IX, Charter Schools, School Funding, Special Education needs, etc.

FALMOUTH TOWN BUDGET (Consensus 1983, **2021)**

LWV Falmouth supports:

- Budget which considers future needs and goals
- Town Meeting Warrants which are clear, timely and complete.

LWV Falmouth opposes:

- Bonding used for local operating expenses.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING (Consensus 1986, updated 1987, revised **2021)**

LWV Falmouth supports:

- Local/county government involvement in development of affordable housing.
- Continued local government advocacy and financial support for affordable housing for all Falmouth residents with a gross income at or below the Barnstable County median income, regardless of their employment status.
- Government collaboration with the private sector, both for-profit and non-profit, in the development of affordable housing.
- Development of local/county policies and strategies that encourage young families to live in Falmouth.
- Development of local/county policies that enable Falmouth residents over age 65 to remain in their homes when the cost of doing so outpaces their financial capacity to age in place.
- Periodic updates of studies of Falmouth's housing needs commissioned by local/county government.
- Ongoing joint meetings of local government agencies, boards and committees engaged in work related to affordable housing in Falmouth.

ENVIRONMENT (Consensus 1999, updated 2000, **2021)**

LWV Falmouth Supports:

- Taking action on environment issues as they affect Falmouth and the Upper Cape.
- Taking action on issues surrounding the clean-up of contaminants at the Mass. Military Reservation, groundwater protection, water conservation and air pollution, as well as changes which might increase pollution (groundwater, clear cutting and noise) at the Reservation and the Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve.
- Ongoing monitoring of environmental issues.

- Public education on the Climate Emergency.
- Efforts to increase energy efficiency, increase utilization of renewable energy sources and reduce the use of fossil fuels in the Town and Commonwealth.
- Efforts to reduce solid waste by recycling and composting.

Rationale for edits:

LWVF and LWFMA adopted the term Climate Emergency in recent years, as a more urgent term than climate change. The next to last bullet point implies our support for the Stretch Energy Code, Green Community designation, Net Zero Carbon goals, the 2016 Paris Agreement and the Next Generation Roadmap Bill.

The proposed Machine Gun Range at the Mass. Military Reservation would be sited on the 15,000-acre Upper Cape Water Supply Reserve, an area designated by the state to serve 3 purposes: protection of the watershed, protection of wildlife habitat, and military activities compatible with those purposes. The Gun Range would destroy 170 acres of forested land that provide critical water protection and wildlife habitat services--activities that are not compatible with machine gun training activities. The Proposed Machine Gun Range involves the use of copper ammunition (potentially toxic) in the Water Supply Reserve. There is an intent to collect and recycle the copper ammunition but no public information on how that collection will be done or how effective it might be. The last bullet implies support for composting food waste and bans on single use plastic



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Judith Ziss, Chair

On March 25, the Falmouth League sent a letter signed by Joan Boyer, as Steering Committee Chair, and Judy Ziss, as Legislative Committee Chair, asking the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) of the MA League to support Common Start (HD. 960/SD.1307), a program that is intended to "establish a universal system of affordable, high-quality early education and child care for all Massachusetts families over a 5-year timeline." Later the same day, Judy was delighted to receive the following message from LAC Chair Kathy Leonardson:

You will be pleased to hear that today the LWVMA Legislative Action Committee unanimously voted to support HD.1960/SD.1307. Karen Mazza brought this bill forward for our consideration. I am gratified that the Falmouth legislative committee and Steering Committee also placed great value on this.

MACHINE GUN RANGE NEWS

Association to Preserve Cape Cod

Friends,

APCC was informed yesterday afternoon that the National Guard Bureau plans to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact for their proposed Machine Gun Range at Joint Base Cape Cod. This finding is being issued despite the [concerns raised by APCC](#) as well as overwhelming public opposition to the project revealed by APCC [public records request](#), which forced release of the public concerns.

While the finding has not yet been released, it represented a full steam ahead approach by the Guard to force this project on Cape Cod with no regard for the requirement to protect the water supply of the Upper Cape or to the impact of the largest forest clear cut on Cape Cod in recent memory and the resultant impact on climate from the loss of mature forest cover. This project remains substantively flawed and poorly sited. While not the last step in the process, this action is a clear and unmistakable statement of intent by the Guard Bureau to proceed no matter the extent of public opposition or environmental damage that may result.

The focus will now shift to stopping this project at the state Environmental Management Commission. APCC will be providing guidance to you, our members, on how to engage with the EMC to ensure that the legitimate concerns of the public and the protection of the water supply, as required by law, are given the weight required by law.

Association to Preserve Cape Cod

EARLY VOTING

Annual Town Election May 18th

Deadline to submit application for mail-in ballot is
Wednesday May 12th at 5PM

[Early Voting by Mail Application](#)

[View Sample Ballots here](#)

Ballots will not be available until approximately three weeks prior to Election

Fill out Vote by Mail application, sign and send:

Mail to: Town Clerk's Office
59 Town Hall Square
Falmouth, MA 02540

Email to TownClerk@falmouthma.gov

Fax to 508-457-2511

Deliver in person: Town Hall Drop Box
(Grey mail box on the left of walk way
To the front middle entrance to Town Hall.)

COMPLETED BALLOTS may be returned by mail using postage pre-paid (white) envelope received with ballot or delivered to the "Town Hall Drop Box" grey mail box on the left of walk way to the front middle entrance to Town Hall. Ballot must be received back by 8 pm on Election Day.

We thank the IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) for donating the use of their Zoom account for our Board Meetings and communication

<https://www.ifaw.org>

International Fund for Animal Welfare
290 Summer Street, Yarmouth Port, MA 02675 | USA
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JOIN

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Democracy in Action

