



League of Women Voters® of Falmouth Bulletin

March 2019

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Contact Us

Our address:
*League of Women
Voters of Falmouth
P. O. Box 450
Falmouth, MA 02541*

Send us an email
league@lwvf.org or
bulletin@lwvf.org

Visit our web site
www.lwvf.org

Visit our Facebook page

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

Member Event Calendar

March 2019

20 7:00 pm **Legislative Program: New Civics Law**
Wednesday Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library

26 7:00 pm **Board Meeting**
Gus Canty Center, Falmouth

April 2019

18 7:00 pm **"Appointed Volunteers in Falmouth"**
Town Hall Civil Defense Room

23 7:00 pm **Board Meeting**
Gus Canty Center, Falmouth

May 2019

4 11:30 am **Annual Meeting**
Falmouth Museums on the Green

8 7:00 pm **Candidates Night**
Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library

21 **Town of Falmouth Election VOTE**

LWVF Board of Directors 2018-2019

STEERING COMMITTEE

First Vice-President		Sylvia Szulkin , Steering Committee Chair	
Second Vice-President		Alice Carey	
At Large		Doris Epstein	
At Large		Joanne Treistman	
Observer Corps		Denise Morreale	
Secretary	Mariam Cronin	Membership	Jacqueline Webster
Treasurer	Joanne Voorhis	Voter Service	Carol McKeon
Webmaster	Joan Boyer	Natural Resources	Richard Johnson
At Large	Kathy Mortenson	Legislative	Judith Ziss
	Olivia White	Publicity	Olivann Hobbie
Social Media	Penny Duby	Follow-Up Coordinator	Meghan Hanawalt

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. You do not have to be a resident of Falmouth to join.

MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Sylvia Szulkin, Steering Committee Chair

Preparations for two important League events are approaching completion with you in mind. **On March 20**, the Legislative Committee headed by Judy Ziss will present a discussion by Falmouth educators on the new Civics Education Law passed in December 2018. (Please read Judy's article inside.) Civics Education has been a League priority for many years but 2019 is the first year in which a State legislative mandate for civics education awaits implementation. Mandates are fine, but they need funding to be meaningful. This is where all Leaguers have an important role to play. By attending the program you will get the information you need to lobby our legislators to ensure that the new law is more than a statement of good intentions. You will have an opportunity to ask questions of the Falmouth educators who will be making presentations. These panelists will give us perspectives on what our schools are already accomplishing to encourage responsible citizenship and what additional steps the new law could enable.

On April 18, our Local Study Committee will present its findings on the Role of Appointed Volunteer Committees in Falmouth Town Government. (Please read Doris's article inside.) The meeting will be held starting at 7 p.m. in the Old Civil Defense Roo on the ground floor of Falmouth Town Hall. (There is an elevator on the main level.) Currently Falmouth has **fifty volunteer committees either appointed or elected advising the Selectmen on subjects ranging from Affirmative Action to Water Quality Management. How well is this system working?**

The Local Study Committee, co-chaired by Doris Epstein and Sylvia Szulkin, has analyzed the operations of 8 representative volunteer committees. If you have served on a volunteer committee or have considered seeking appointment, you will have insights to offer. Please help the Committee and your Town by joining us on April 18th.

Looking forward to seeing you.

In the event of seriously-inclement weather on a scheduled meeting date, the Steering Committee will send all League members an e-blast by 5 p.m. cancelling the meeting.

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM MARCH 20th

Judith Ziss, Chair

FALMOUTH SCHOOLS WELCOME NEW CIVICS EDUCATION LAW: Planning is well under way for the Legislative Committee's program scheduled for Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library. This will be a joint effort with the Falmouth Public Schools, focusing on implementation of the new state law designed to promote and enhance civic engagement.

Dr. Sonia Tellier, Assistant Superintendent, and Michael Feeney, Social Studies Department Head, will present plans for new opportunities, discuss how current opportunities will be enhanced in view of the new law, and note where the Falmouth Public Schools already have opportunities which align the new law's requirements. Their plans include an exciting new student-led civics project for eighth graders. In addition, Anna Dunphy, Project Manager of the Office of Teaching and Learning, will present the Falmouth Public Schools' Civics Learning Plan with emphasis on how it is impacted by the new law. A panel discussion will follow, where teachers and students will discuss civics learning in the Falmouth Public Schools.



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As League members, we all know how important it is for students to develop skills to access, analyze and evaluate digital and written media as it relates to civics. We want our young people to become enthusiastic citizens who are knowledgeable about their government, who understand how those with different points of view can work together, and who want to participate in making our democracy function. This new law is designed to further these aims. League Members, please come to our program on March 20 and bring grandparents, parents, and students with you to hear how our school administrators and faculty are working diligently and enthusiastically to carry out the aims of the new law.

Legislative Committee Membership: I am delighted to report that the Legislative Committee now has six members. Margaret Cooper, who retired as Chair, has graciously agreed to continue to serve as a Committee member. Other members are Penny Duby, Cynthia Rankin, Mary Tamucci, and Kerry Walton. As both a new Committee member and a new Chair, I am very much looking forward to working with these five colleagues. In the near term, we hope to make our March 20 program on Civics in the Falmouth schools a success. We also are discussing ways to further the State League's legislative agenda in other subject areas that are of interest to individual Committee members.

LWVF FRIENDS 2019

Barbara Douglass
Sally Fritz
Christina Jacobi
Winnie and Bill Mackey

Jane Sambade
Robert and Barbara Schneider
Freddy Valois
Helen Wilson

OBSERVER CORPS UNIT MEETING

Laura Brothers, Observer Corps Member

On February 21st at 7 pm in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library, a portion of the LWVF Observer Corps reported upon several town public bodies. In addition to these reports, which reflected the committees' activities of the past year and reported upon the committees' adherence to the Open Meeting Law, there was a special presentation by Observer Corps member, Richard Johnson, on the Open Meeting Law.

Observers' reports on the following committees were presented: EDIC (Carol Chittenden); Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Suzanne Thomas); Substance Abuse Commission (Laura Brothers) and Board of Library Trustees (Jenifer Alai, in absentia due to illness). During the question and answer period, many of the audience participants shared first-hand knowledge based on personal experience with boards and committees. This served to answer many questions about Town history and the backstory of the current government structure.

All of the reports, the Power Point presentation, a link to the youtube narrated version will be posted on our website <http://lwvf.org>.

The LWVF has a vibrant observer corps led by Denise Morreale. There are several opportunities to become observers on other town bodies. Please contact Denise if interested.

The next Observer program will be presented on Thursday, June 20, 2019. Details will be in our bulletin.



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OBSERVER CORPS REPORT ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMISSION

Laura Brothers, Observer

Please note that the content of this report is based only on the published agendas of the 9 meetings held by the Falmouth Substance Abuse Commission between Feb 14, 2018 and Feb 21, 2019, as well my attendance to three of those meetings. The most recent meeting observed was October 25, 2018.

Mission of the Substance Abuse Commission

To prevent substance abuse among Falmouth's citizens, provide information and education to the community and to promote the development and availability of a continuum of substance abuse services for all Falmouth residents.

The Substance Abuse Commission meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm at the Gus Cauty Community Center, 2nd floor meeting room. The members are Beverly Costa-Ciavola (Chair); Kath Schilling; Esther Ann Price. Also, attending each meeting is Suzie Hauptmann the Director of Falmouth Human Services. The Commission is currently short 2 members.



Since the last LWVF Observer report the Falmouth Substance Abuse Commission (FSAC) has made important strides. Previously the Commission had been operating with an unattainable quorum and was beginning the process of defining a Strategic Plan to better meet its mission. In April's Town Meeting the Commission's quorum was set to a more realistic 5 members and, for a time this year, the Commission was able to take votes and operate in an official capacity. Other Commission successes include continual engagement with community partners. Meetings hosted and cultivated discussions with the Falmouth Police Department, Sober Houses, WellStrong, Recovery Without Walls, Falmouth Board of Health and Barnstable County Regional Substance Use Council. In addition, the Commission partnered to sponsor several well-received events and programs including the April 8th presentation by Dr. Ruth Potee at Falmouth High School and the Hidden in Plain Sight Program with the Falmouth Police Department. Unfortunately, due to work schedule changes, the Commission is presently short two members. Recent meetings have once again had to revisit how to build membership to reach quorum.

Members of FSAC appear highly knowledgeable and extremely dedicated to the community. The [non-quorum and quorum] monthly meetings are held in an open manner with members of the public in attendance. Meetings are conducted respectfully and amicably. Questions from the public are addressed in a respectful and thorough manner. Agendas are posted online with appropriate timeliness.

OBSERVER CORPS REPORT LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jennifer E. Alai, Observer

The Falmouth Public Library Board of Trustees is an elected 7 member board of citizen volunteers. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:45 PM. There is a currently a vacancy. Kathleen H. Murray was elected for another 3-year term in May 2018, but she resigned and ultimately passed away in November. Her dedication and historical knowledge are missed. Marilyn G. Zacks and Jerome S. Fanger both retired

at the end of their 2018 term. Marilyn had served as Vice Chair and Jerome as Treasurer.

The current Board, their positions and term expiration years are:

Lysbeth A. Abrams, Chair	[2019]
Sylvia L. Szulkin	[2019]
Lindsay M. Hopewood, Corresponding Secretary	[2020]
Judith L. Fenwick, Recording Secretary	[2020]
Margaret Finnell, Treasurer	[2021]
Kathleen Mount	[2021]

Linda E. Collins (Library Director) and Jennifer Woodward (Assistant Library Director) also attend the meetings.

Overview:

I have not attended all of the meetings of the Falmouth Library Board of Trustees this year.

The meeting minutes through February, 2018 are posted on the Falmouth Public Library website. The meeting minutes through November, 2018 are posted on the Town of Falmouth website.

The Board follows the Open Meeting Law, and has responded quickly to concerns expressed by the public in order to ensure compliance. The Board continues to be very respectful of each other and of visitors.

Each meeting includes a report from: The Friends of the Falmouth Public Library, each of the Officers, the Committees (Policy, Resource, and Building and Grounds), the Assistant Library Director and the Library Director.

Current Topics:

East Falmouth Library Branch Many of the upgrades referenced in the last report have been completed. The *Summer Eats* program was hosted there over the summer. More than 50 young people were served during the first event in July. Additional improvements are required inside the branch, including replacing the carpet, a larger circulation desk and resolution of the issue with the glass door at the entrance. Linda Collins and Jennifer Woodward have been working to thin the book collection at the branch.

New Building for the North Falmouth Library Branch may be postponed until the next State funding cycle (2024), unless the Board decides to try to raise funds locally for a new building sooner. The proposed location has been re-sited further East on Chester Street. An assessment of the lifespan of the current building has been completed.

FPL Trustees' Bylaws were reviewed and revised over the course of several months. The final proposed amendments were submitted to Frank Duffy, Town Counsel. Receiving no comments, the Board voted unanimously to accept the revisions on May 8, 2018.

Treasurer Margaret Finnell deserves acknowledgment for stepping into the role of Treasurer shortly after joining the Board.

OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

Carol B. Chittendon, Observer

BASIS AND MISSION

The Falmouth Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (EDIC) is the Town of Falmouth's primary agency responsible for creating and developing increased economic opportunities for both the present and the future. According to the website, its mission (approved March, 2015) reads:

The mission of the FEDIC is to increase business and industrial investment; expand opportunities to own, manage, and operate commercial and industrial enterprises; provide funding assistance; and increase job opportunities in the Town of Falmouth.

In December, 2018, the mission was restated, To attract, advocate and support economic vitality and seek to constantly improve the business climate in Falmouth.

Inside this restatement is a subtle change of direction that has occurred over the past year, namely to focus more narrowly on projects and activities that produce revenue for the EDIC, and step aside from those that may appear interesting, but don't produce a direct payoff for EDIC. There have been past divisions over the importance of affordable housing as an economic asset, and it will be interesting to see how that emphasis rises or declines over the next five years.

It is important to remember that EDIC is, technically, a corporation and not a committee. In most respects it acts like a committee. However, in handling money, and probably in conforming to open meeting laws, there are some significant differences.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Initially created to manage the Technology Park, EDIC has sought to adapt to changing needs and conditions. In the past year it has been active in these areas:

The Technology Park Development Agreement (the DA) between the Cape Cod Commission and the EDIC was set to expire a year ago, but has received a 3-year extension. However, conditions have changed since the DA was created in 1974, so fundamental changes are in order, and will require research, negotiation, and thoughtful prediction of future needs. There is a movement to bring Tech Park tenants and owners to the table in this process. Relative to the complexity of the project, the extension is a short one.

Falmouth Station structural renovation was completed, and extended with revitalization as a community gathering place, supported with encouragement of The Station Café; scheduling of cultural events; development of a crossing path between the Station and the nearly adjacent bike path; and supporting formation of Friends of the Falmouth Station to

continue and expand these efforts. Though not yet fully realized, the Station costs and income are expected to balance one another over time.

Landfill Solar Development is bringing the town income from the first four megawatts of installed capacity. Another two megawatts of capacity await integration into the Eversource grid, pending 1) EDIC's place in the queue of applicants to supply power; and 2) negotiations between Eversource and the town to agree upon costs of upgrading the Eversource grid's capacity to accept more power than currently feasible. EDIC also receives a percentage of the Eversource payments, and that revenue stream is giving EDIC a different outlook on its mission and operation.

Real Estate Development has shrunk to the point that the Real Estate Committee was recently abolished. However, EDIC does own two parcels: one small plot in the Tech Park, and the wooded area immediately south of the Station parking area. Potential uses are under discussion for both, along with the potential lease revenues they might generate.

EDIC has actively supported OpenCape ultra highspeed internet, including financial vehicles to allow Main Street businesses to connect to the service, using \$200K of revolving state development money to use as interest free loans, and an \$80K grant, managed by EDIC, to further subsidize connection expenses.

Efforts are underway toward creating coworking space, most likely at Tech Park or the parcel next to the Station. A grant application was unsuccessful, but new avenues are being pursued, especially grant funding for a feasibility study. A probable choice lies ahead whether to focus such a space on remote work facilities, or maker space with equipment.

EDIC organized loan funding for 2 generators at two small public housing properties, to power warming spaces for senior citizens during power outages.

An upgraded website has been a major expenditure, but much of the text content remains outdated.

MEMBERSHIP

Accomplishing so much places heavy demands upon the seven volunteer members. Nowhere on the website is there any mention of Lynne Broderick, or the position she occupies. It is inferred from minutes that she is "Administrator." Broderick functions, in fact, very actively in carrying out the decisions and responsibilities of the EDIC, especially the Falmouth Station. There is no contact information for her on the website. For well over a year there has been periodic discussion of creating an "Executive Director", and the decision to do so occurred at a special meeting in early December, 2018. The job description, salary, benefits, and hiring process are now under consideration, but as yet there are no public records about them.

New members this year are Paul Burke, who succeeded Christopher Langlais as Treasurer; and Patti Haney, who very recently succeeded Jim Fox. Of the other members, former chairman Dave Galasso; clerk Chris

Simmler; and vice chair, Selectman Susan Moran are especially hard working and well informed. Chris Land joined the EDIC at the December 13, 2016 meeting. Of the 26 meetings held since then, he has missed 9. He became Chair as of January, 2018.

OPEN MEETING CONSIDERATIONS

Again, it is important to remember that EDIC is a corporation, and not a town committee.

The Committee Policy page of the EDIC website makes no mention of open meeting regulations. The EDIC actually functions with multiple committees and subcommittees, including an Executive Committee. The website makes no mention of such an Executive Committee, but November and December meetings report having attorney Laura Moynihan, who consults on many EDIC matters, edit the bylaws to reflect a 3-person Executive Committee comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer; to check open meeting laws to see if it is possible to maintain an Executive Committee; and to inquire into rules regarding making decisions by said committee in between the public board meetings. The EDIC website is a long way from providing current and accurate information about this and other matters.

Creating an Executive Director and putting many decisions into the hands of a 3-person Executive Committee will tighten EDIC's operations. Furthermore, steps have been taken to screen presentations from outside organizations; and to increase collaboration with other town regulatory bodies to simplify and clarify business development review processes "in a consistently objective, demarcated, public and transparent manner." Part of those changes could well increase adherence to open meeting regulations, because operations will be more formalized. On the other hand, the changes will create something of a fence between the executive actors, and the volunteer and citizen participation that Falmouth holds so dear. EDIC is moving in the direction of trading one kind of transparency for another.

OBSERVER CORPS REPORT THE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report Abridged by Suzanne Thomas

Suzanne Thomas, Observer Corps member, presented a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) this past year at the Observer Corps Meeting.

The Town of Falmouth adopted a mandatory recycling bylaw at the April 2018 Town Meeting that brings Falmouth up to date with Massachusetts recycling laws.

The monthly Enterprise column 'Talking Trash' was mentioned. Some of the 'Talking Trash' topics covered what should and shouldn't go in home recycling bins (no plastic bags!), how to correctly dispose of fluorescent

lights, and the new composting facility ('residential food waste collection site') at the town waste management facility.

Members of the Committee worked with the residential trash and recycling hauler, Republic Services, to do a small survey of how well residents are recycling. Are items placed in the recycling bins indeed recyclable, according to Republic's guidelines? Of the small survey of 30 household recycling bins, 33% contained acceptable recyclable items, while the other 67% contained some sort of 'contaminant', usually plastic bags.

Clearly, more public education about proper recycling needs to happen. SWAC is attempting to address this. In recognition of recycling education efforts, the Town of Falmouth received \$28,000 from the MA Recycling Dividends program. The town may also apply for an additional \$30,000 this year through the state's Recycling IQ Kit program. These combined funds could be used to further educate residents on proper recycling.

SWAC petitioned the Falmouth Selectmen to fund a Solid Waste Manager position. The Committee has been asking for a manager since 1989. The Selectmen passed the article as presented by the Committee, but did not fund the position. The SWAC Committee will continue to advocate for this funding.

WHITE RIBBON DAY CAMPAIGN EVENT TUESDAY, MARCH 19TH, 9-10AM

Hermann Foundation Room, Falmouth Public Library

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Falmouth has voted unanimously to endorse the White Ribbon Event to be held on March 19 in the Hermann Room at the main library. The League's social policy positions include the prevention of domestic violence through strong state-wide programs that are "integrated, interdisciplinary, and adequately funded, involving all segments of the criminal justice system, the medical community, the schools, social services and the private sector, with a primary focus on the safety of victims." The League also supports the prevention of child abuse and neglect and the protection and care of children experiencing abuse and neglect.



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The White Ribbon Campaign was created by a group of men in 1991 in reaction to one man's massacre of 14 female college students in Montreal specifically because they were women. This effort has mobilized boys and men around the world to take a stand against violence against women. The Massachusetts White Ribbon Day

Campaign is an annual day of recognition of the role men can play in stopping violence against women and all gender-based violence.

According to Jane Doe, Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, The Massachusetts White Ribbon Day Campaign mobilizes men and boys throughout the year to:

- Foster a positive image of masculinity and join in a celebration of personal peace and cooperation;*
- Change societal attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate and make excuses for violence against women;*
- Promote safety and respect in all situations and relationships.*

This year, Falmouth will host its first White Ribbon Day event, to which the public is invited.

The program will include a short educational video, a Town Proclamation from the Falmouth Board of Selectmen (pending approval), speeches by elected officials and local residents, and the taking of the White Ribbon Day Campaign Pledge. Men are particularly invited to attend and take the Pledge: "From this day forward, I promise to be part of the solution in ending violence against women and all gender-based violence."

For more information, please contact Sandra Faiman-Silva, sfaiman@aol.com , 508-274-1131.

ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS: Independence House, Inc., No Place for Hate-Falmouth, Upper Cape Cod Women's Coalition, SWIFT: Supporting Women in Financial Transition, Cape Cod Women for Change, Falmouth Gun Safety Coalition, League of Women Voters of Falmouth

APPOINTED VOLUNTEERS IN FALMOUTH: LOCAL STUDY

Doris Epstein, Co-Chair

On Thursday, April 18th at 7pm in the Civil Defense Room at Falmouth Town Hall the Local Study Committee will give an enticing glimpse of how several town volunteer committees function. Some committees advise Selectmen, while others follow legal mandates. Obviously, no volunteers are paid. Do we get more than our money's worth?

SAVE THE DATE: CANDIDATES NIGHT MAY 8TH

The Voter Service Committee is now planning the League's annual Spring Candidates Night. Town Elections are scheduled for May 21st, and all candidates for elected office will be invited to participate in Candidates Night. The event is once again being co-sponsored by FCTV and will be held in the Hermann Room of the Falmouth Public Library at 7:00pm. Please save the date and watch the Bulletin for further details.



League of Women Voters
 P. O. Box 450
 Falmouth, MA 02541

LEAGUE OF
 WOMEN VOTERS®

March 2019 Bulletin

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TOWN OF FALMOUTH 2019 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION SCHEDULE

Monday	February 25th	Nomination papers available
Friday	March 29th	Last day to obtain nomination papers (51)
Tuesday	April 2nd	Last day to return nomination papers (49)
Friday	April 5th	Drawing for ballot position
Thursday	April 18th	Last day to withdraw from Election (33)
Wednesday	May 1st	Last day to register to vote for Annual Town Election (20)
Tuesday	May 21st	ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

TOWN WIDE OFFICES

Selectman (elect two)	for three years
Town Clerk (elect one)	for three years
Trustee of the Public Library (elect two)	for three years
Trustee of the Public Library (elect one)	for two years
Planning Board (elect two)	for three years
School Committee (elect three)	for three years
Falmouth Housing Authority (elect one)	for five years

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

Elect nine in each Precinct	for three years
Elect one in Precinct Two	for one year
Elect one in Precinct Three	for one year
Elect one in Precinct Five	for one year
Elect one in Precinct Six	for one year
Elect one in Precinct Eight	for two years