

The Falmouth Historical Society
Annual Meeting
November 15, 2016
Falmouth Town Hall, Council Chambers

The Annual Meeting of the Falmouth Historical Society was called to order by President, Jeanne Madden at 6:30 PM. There were 21 present including 6 new people. Board members present were: President, Jeanne Madden; Secretary, Betsy Jo Whitcomb; and Board members: Ann Gagnon, Bev Knudsen, Sue and David Farnham, and Rich Meserve.

Jeanne welcomed everyone and then turned the meeting over to our speaker, Erin Bishop Cadigan who introduced herself and talked about the upcoming Tercentennial in 2018. This will be a year-long celebration of the incorporation of the town of Falmouth and the theme will be: Honoring our past, celebrating our present, and investing in our future. The town is focusing on three areas:

1. History: there will be books written, a traveling exhibit, tour of Falmouth, digitalization of oral histories, and lecture series.
2. Fun: a kick-off in January, 2018, Old Home Days some weekend in the summer, and Corporation Day 11/11/2018. There will be celebrations by other organizations in town throughout the year; a race; and music events.
3. Falmouth 300 Challenges: this is to build community. There will be challenges to do 300 things such as: Move 300-move 300 miles over the year; Donate 300-donate \$300, 300 books to the library, 300 cans of food to the Food Pantry, 300 hours to an organization, etc.; and Explore 300-find 300 items in Falmouth.

At 7 PM Jeanne gave a power point presentation of the history of the Society and talked about the challenges we have met this year. She talked about the move to the Woods Road location, how the Board has been functioning with the minimum number of members due to resignations and family crises being experienced by remaining Board members and how we need to increase our membership and participation by members to enable the Society to survive and thrive. It was mentioned that we need help in the following areas: publicity, manning the museum, technology. Betsy Jo read the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 10/13/2015.

Following this, there was a discussion of how to get the Society back on more solid foundation. Some of the suggestions brought out at the meeting were:

- Do a quarterly newsletter
- Do announcement of Society events at Town Council Meetings
- Ask Town Council to add us to the Town Budget
- Form a Booster club of older members of the Society
- Focus on one or two events/year
- Ask people individually to help
- Use the Tercentennial to “save our society”
- Refocus our mission to genealogy and research
- Marge Devine offered to do a program for the Society

These suggestions will be discussed at our next Board meeting in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Jo Whitcomb
Secretary