

TOWN OF FALMOUTH, MAINE



Falmouth Town Councilors
Falmouth, ME

Thursday, October 21, 2010

Dear Councilors,

I have been the Chairperson for the Recycling Committee for close to 2 years. Our committee has and continues to educate the residents of Falmouth and advise the council when requested on issues related to recycling and solid waste. This has ranged from manning a table at a recent election to answer questions of residents to visiting 1st graders at the Lunt School to talk about recycling. Falmouth continues to be one of the top communities based on recycling percentage of our total waste stream. This is the result of our curbside program and informed residents. This work needs to continue.

But we are also at a point where recycling rates are relatively high and the recycling committee has come to a consensus recently that we should take on more responsibility to meet the concerns of the times.

The recycling committee has been very successful at educating citizens. We'd like to continue our role to further educate and advise citizens and Council on energy issues. The town has already made great strides with the acquisitions of Prius's for town business, energy efficiency upgrades on town hall, and with the design of the new elementary school to name a few.

However, energy savings technologies, government initiatives, grants, etc. happen rapidly. It makes sense to have a committee, not just town staff, dedicated to reviewing and advising Falmouth residents, businesses and town government on how to reduce energy use, save money and ultimately, help our environment.

While the Recycling Committee has had some difficulty attracting new members, there is a clear interest in energy savings and efficiency as evidenced by the recent 20-plus member Green Ribbon Commission. By expanding the role of the Recycling Committee, the Council would more efficiently and effectively address the energy and waste issues facing the Falmouth community in 2010 and beyond. The Council would also provide a more stimulating charge for volunteers eager to educate their community.

We are all fortunate to live in what I would argue, one of the greatest communities in Maine. I appreciate your strong consideration in amending the Recycling Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Hendry

Stephen Hendry
Chairperson, Falmouth Recycling Committee