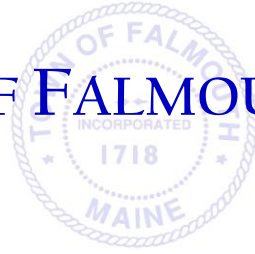


TOWN OF FALMOUTH, MAINE



Memorandum

To: Town Council

From: Nathan Poore, Town Manager

Re: Town of Falmouth - 2012 Local Fuel Assistance Program

I recently met with Council Chair Teresa Pierce, Ellen Planer and Randy Davis to discuss the framework for a local fuel assistance program in 2012. As you may know, the Town has offered a fuel assistance program since 2008. The Town has contributed approximately \$21,000 in the past four years. Contributions from other sources including individual and organizational donations totaled nearly \$32,000. Over the past four years, 155 households have benefited from this program.

Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds from the federal government have been dramatically cut for this heating season. LIHEAP funds are distributed through the local CAP, Opportunity Awareness (formerly known as PROP). There are other sources for heating assistance including Keep ME Warm program (distributed through Opportunity Alliance), Falmouth Food Pantry and local churches.

Several residents have expressed concern for the need to maintain or expand the program this year. We have already received one substantial donation in the amount of \$1,000. Another resident has expressed interest in helping with a campaign to raise private money for the program.

I am recommending that the Town Council support an initiative that will include the following:

- A. Seek interest from interested citizens, including members of the Town Council appointed Human Services Committee, to assist in a campaign to raise private funds to support the heating assistance program.
- B. Utilize the Town web site, Cable Ch 2, news media and other methods of communication to promote the fundraising campaign.
- C. Coordinate distribution efforts to maximize most efficient use of funds, such coordination to include the Food Pantry and Opportunity Alliance LIHEAP program.
- D. Town Council action to approve an order that will authorize a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$10,000.
- E. Establish a goal to raise \$10,000 in private funding, combined with the Town contribution for a total of \$20,000.