

Proposed Guidance on Naming and/or Memorializing Town owned Property and Facilities

August 13, 2012

Background

The Town Council directed Councilor Teresa Pierce and Town Manager Nathan Poore to develop a proposed policy or guidance for an ordinance amendment related to naming and/or memorializing Town owned property and facilities. Several other policies from other communities were reviewed prior to developing the proposed concept. If the Town Council accepts this proposal, staff will develop either a policy or ordinance amendment for future Town Council consideration.

Introduction

The Town of Falmouth Parks, Open Space and Public Facilities are a source of pride for our community. They are a tangible reflection of the commitment of the citizenry to promoting community and offer our residents with open and free access for all to enjoy.

While it is tempting to consider naming Parks, Open Space and facilities after citizens, this may be inherently a subjective process that could lead to an outcome that is not fair to all citizens who have given so much to our community. It is very important to understand the history of these places so that future generations may have a sense of the history and growth of Falmouth.

Proposed Policy or Ordinance Amendment (Concept)

- A. The Town Council may choose to name Town owned property and facilities or portions of such property and facilities only after careful consideration of the message being sent to the community by the name(s) selected.
- B. The naming of Town owned property and facilities or portions of such properties and facilities will be considered if there is or has been a substantial financial contribution toward the acquisition, construction or renovation of applicable Town owned property and/or facilities, or the person (s) for whom the property might be named has given an extraordinary gift of time, public service and/or talent and expertise to the Town.
- C. Certain types of plaques, benches or memorial structure may be appropriate at Town owned properties and facilities. They may include the names of individuals associated with the site, but would only do so in the case that the individuals have given time, talent or treasure to the Town regarding the applicable property and/or facility. There shall be no expectation on the Town to perpetually maintain or guaranty the existence of plaques, benches or other types of memorials.

D. The Town Council should receive a naming request in writing and will seek comments from the public at a public meeting prior to approving the naming of Town owned property and facilities or portions of such properties and facilities.