



## Falmouth Parks & Community Programs Advisory Committee

### PACPAC

4/9/2014

#### Falmouth Parks & Community Programs Advisory Committee

Karen Jones, Chair

Janet Lane-Dye, Vice  
Chair

Melanie Collins

Andrea Mittleder

Marylou Murphy

Daniel Smith

Dominic Sette-Ducati

#### Council Liaison

Chris Orestis

#### Staff

Lucky D'Ascanio

Town Council:

On March 10, 2014, the Town Council voted in favor of a supplemental appropriation for services associated with final design and bidding of a construction project related to renovations and upgrades of the Mason Motz Facility with the caveat that the Parks and Community Programs Advisory Committee (PACPAC) seek additional public input on the project. Two dates for Public Open Houses were advertised via The Forecaster and The Notes, local cable access channel, email blasts, social media, and signage at the facility.

PACPAC has participated in many discussions about the development of a community programs facility including through the Community Facilities Planning Committee (2007-2011). PACPAC has reviewed a range of facility concepts including the design of a new facility at Village Park and the re-use and renovation of the abandoned Plummer-Motz schools. Community outreach has also included a key-pad polling event and citizen surveys during the Community Facilities Planning Committee process. Most recently, at their September monthly meeting, PACPAC met at the Mason-Motz facility, toured the entire facility and then discussed in detail ideas for layout and design. This conversation included future programming possibilities and reservation opportunities through re-using and refurbishing the Mason-Motz facility.

On Thursday evening March 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday morning March 29<sup>th</sup>, members of PACPAC, Karen Jones, Marylou Murphy and Janet Lane-Dye along with Falmouth Parks & Community Programs staff, Lucky D'Ascanio, Director and Kate Harris, Recreation Coordinator welcomed nearly 50 community members to two Open House events at the site. Guests were given a brief history of the project to date, a 1/2-page handout outlining the three proposals presented to the Town Council, posters outlining current programming at the site and potential future programming were posted in the entry way and tours were moderated by both Kate and Lucky alternately. The facility was busy with a wide variety of programs which revealed a vibrant community gathering location.

Overall, the remarks were extremely positive and a vast majority of attendees were pleasantly surprised with how much programming and use the facility is currently hosting. The most often asked question was "Who owns what?". Once the boundaries between the Town owned property and the Ocean View property were explained, each and every visitor was eager to hear more

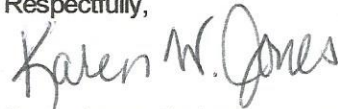
about future plans. With the exception of one individual, who claimed she came only to voice her opinion that we (the Town) should have a pool, all visitors showed real interest in the proposed re-use of the facility.

Ted Vail, the very first Recreation Director for the Town of Falmouth, stated that he is not in favor of building a new community center but that he "fully supports the re-use of the former Motz School and Mason Gym" into dedicated programming space. He and many others were very happy to hear that the building envelope would remain mostly in tact and completely understood the need to separate all utilities and upgrade the existing HVAC system. The notion that the Town was correspondingly moving forward with an Energy Assessment of the building also met with high regard.

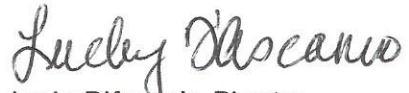
Interesting, most visitors were not our current program participants and thus we feel we have reached out to potential new customers and supports which is very exciting and encouraging.

It is again, the recommendation of Falmouth Parks and Community Programs and PACPAC (Parks and Community Programs Advisory Committee) to continue our work with Oak Point Associates to develop this valuable daytime programming space and additional meeting space to meet our current demands and prepare for the future.

Respectfully,



Karen Jones, PACPAC Chair



Lucky D'Ascanio, Director