

# Falmouth Conservation Commission

## 2020 Council Update

April 12, 2021

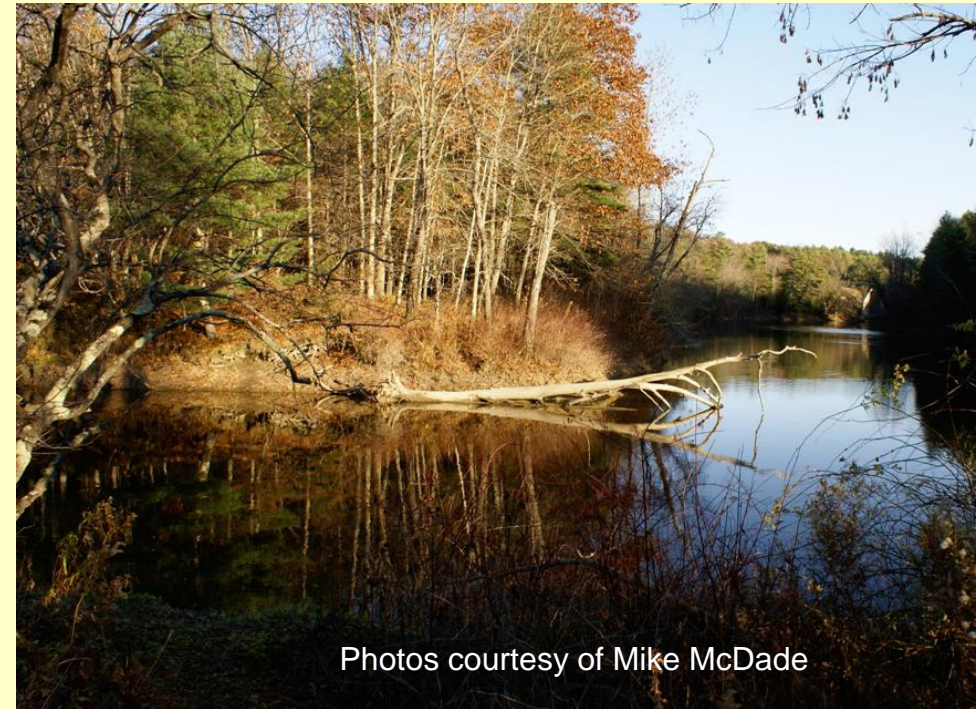


Photo courtesy of Mike

# Mission

The Falmouth Conservation Commission (FCC) shall strive to **protect the natural resources** of Falmouth and **improve the Town's ecological integrity and wildlife diversity**.

It shall **increase public awareness** of the intrinsic value of the Town's natural resources and shall work to **study** and **conserve** them.



# 2020 Accomplishments

## Pesticide and Fertilizer Restrictions

- Ordinance passed March 9, 2020:
  - Requires professional applicators to register with the Town and submit annual usage report
  - Prohibits the application of fertilizers from December 1 through March 31.
- Researched water-testing strategies
- Led a Zoom workshop for Cape Elizabeth about Falmouth's ordinance process



Photo courtesy of Mike McDade

# 2020 Accomplishments

## Launched Living Lawns Campaign

- Developed Living Lawns brand, hired a marketing consultant, created a logo and color scheme
- Surveyed residents on lawn and garden care practices and what information they would find valuable
- Developed Living Lawns informational handout
- Provided lawncare tips via Falmouth Focus and Town social media channels



Living Lawns is Falmouth's healthy lawn care education program. Yard care products, such as fertilizers and weed and bug killers, can harm us, our pets, and our water. Responsible landscaping practices build healthy soil to grow a beautiful lawn without weed and bug killers and with reduced use of fertilizer.

### WHY CHANGE?

Creating a low-maintenance lawn saves you money, time, and effort! A YardScaped yard is healthier and better for you, your family, and the environment. A healthy, natural lawn is more resistant to weeds, bugs, disease, and drought! Yard care products, such as fertilizers and pesticides, can enter our water and make it unsafe for us to drink, fish, and play in!

### DO YOU HIRE A LAWN CARE COMPANY?

#### CONSIDER THESE REQUESTS OF YOUR LAWCARE PROVIDER:

- Apply fertilizer in the early fall, based on soil test results, not on a fixed schedule. Applying fertilizer unnecessarily is a waste of time and money and pollutes our water.
- Use YardScaping practices to reduce pests instead of using weed and bug killers.
- Set your mower blades to 3" and leave the clippings. Cutting grass high allows roots to develop, and leaving the clippings provides your lawn with a free source of fertilizer.
- Topdress by spreading a thin layer of compost over the lawn. Compost will add organic matter and increase soil depth.
- Overseed with a mixture of fescues and ryegrasses. Help out compete weeds and rejuvenate your lawn by adding new seed.

# 2020 Accomplishments

## Invasive Terrestrial Plant Management

- Conducted ongoing resident educational outreach
  - Hosted on March 3 at the polls, a table with information about invasive plants, ticks, pesticides, and fertilizers
  - Included informational articles in the Falmouth Focus
  - Gave in-person demonstrations at several condominium associations
- Unable to fund the annual right-of-way roadside maintenance due to budget cuts during the pandemic.



INVASIVE-FREE  
FALMOUTH



Working for an **Invasive-Free** Falmouth

# 2020 Accomplishments

## Watershed Protection Project

- Partnered with DEP, GPCOG, and consultant Robyn Saunders from Attaining: Sustainable Solutions on a project involving Falmouth's numerous watersheds.

## Tree City USA

- Was unable to host an annual Arbor Day event because of the pandemic.



## 2021 Goals

1. Pesticide & Fertilizer Restriction Ordinance
  - Manage ordinance compliance
  - Work with Council on ordinance next steps
2. Living Lawns Educational Campaign
  - Continue ongoing outreach and education
3. Invasive Terrestrial Plant Management
  - Continue ongoing outreach and education
  - Continue right-of-way roadside maintenance
  - Oversee Invasive Management Plan
4. Watershed Protection Project
  - Oversee implementation of plan once approved

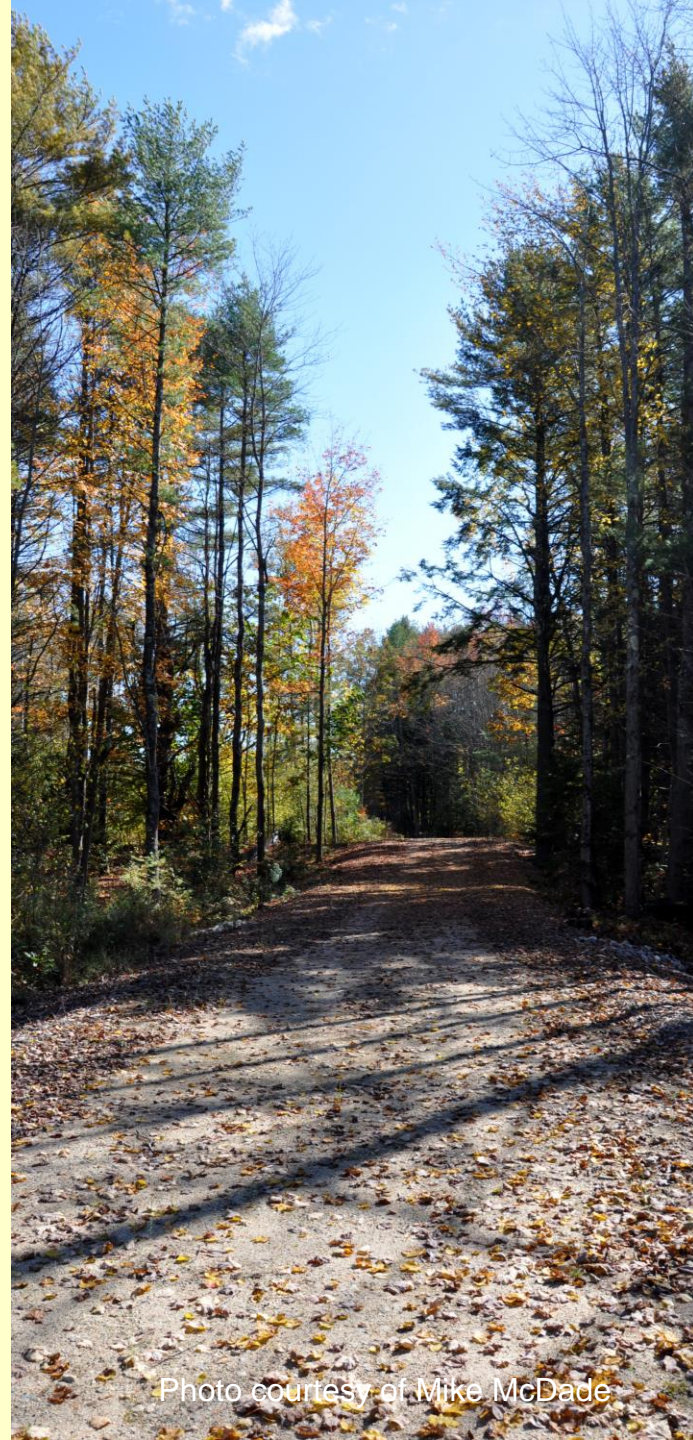


Photo courtesy of Mike McDade

# 2021 Goals

## 5. Tree City USA

- Host Arbor Day tree planting and community-wide tree scavenger hunt

## 6. Earth Day

- Organize community cleanups in recognition of “Restore Our Earth” theme

## 7. Liaison with Other Committees

- Continue to collaborate with REAC, LMAC, the Planning Board, and HLLT

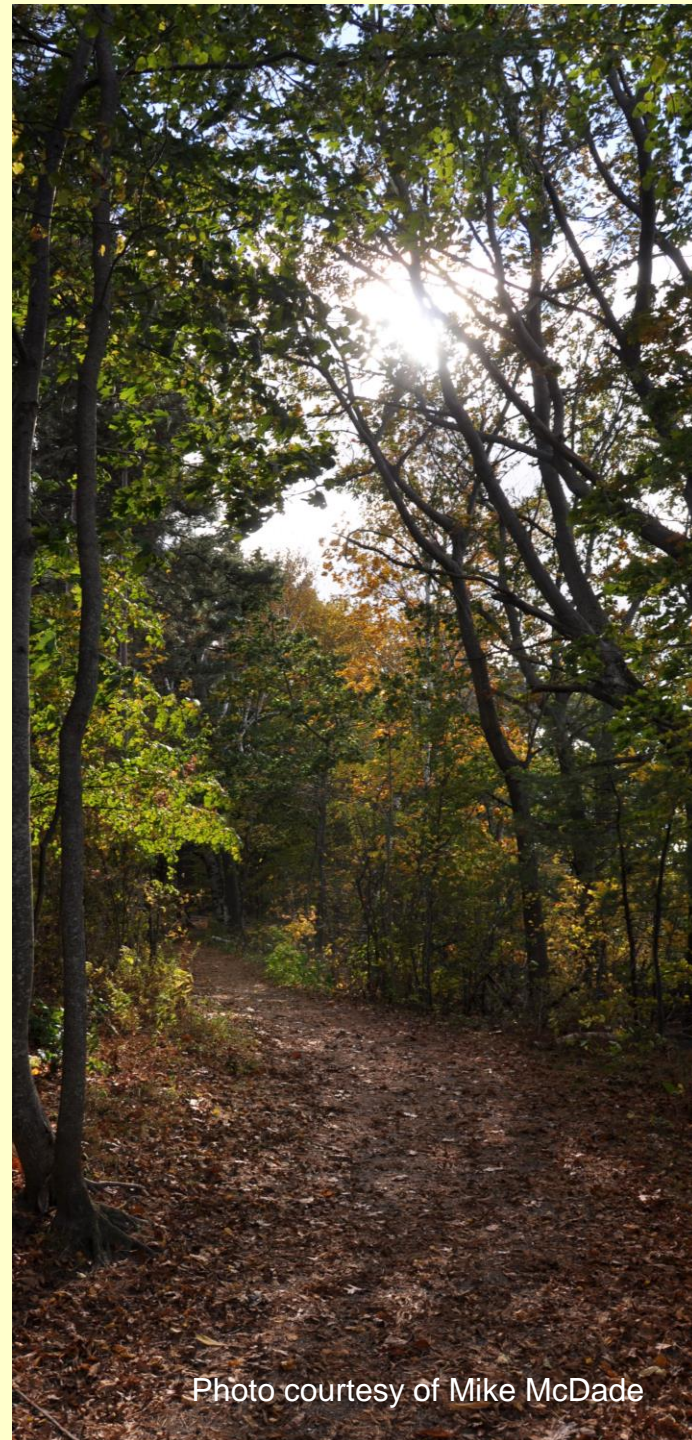


Photo courtesy of Mike McDade



# 2021 Goals

## Additional Initiatives being considered

- Microplastics education
- Maine State Climate Action Plan support
- Carbon offset markets, CO<sub>2</sub> fees, dividends, taxes, and/or credits
- Wildlife Corridors, Wetland Stream Crossings, and Vernal Pools:
  - Partner with LMAC to support these strategies with the Open Space Plan





**The Conservation Commission thanks the Town Council for  
this opportunity and for your ongoing support.**

**Committee Members:**

Nancy Lightbody, Chair  
Sarah Boudreau  
Jerry Goodall  
Jeanie Campbell

Karen Jacobsen  
Rich Bicknell  
Alex Urquhart

**Council Liaison:**

Tommy Johnson

**Staff Liaison:**

Ashley Krulik