



TOWN OF FALMOUTH RESOLUTION

Town Council Commitment to Continue to Work on Pesticide and Fertilizer Regulation Ordinance

- WHEREAS,** The Town of Falmouth Vision and Values Project identified continuing to pursue environmental protection and sustainable practices as a top community priority; and
- WHEREAS,** the active ingredients in certain pesticides and fertilizers can have negative impacts on human, animal, and environmental health; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2016, the Falmouth Conservation Commission has engaged in extensive community outreach and education, pesticide and fertilizer monitoring, and water quality testing to explore the role of regulation in this area; and
- WHEREAS,** the Town Council adopted the current Pesticide and Fertilizer Regulation Ordinance on March 9, 2020 which requires licensed commercial pesticide and fertilizers applicators to annually register with the Town and to provide summary reports of applications made in Falmouth during the prior year and prohibits the application of fertilizer between December 1 and March 31; and
- WHEREAS,** on March 9, 2020, the Town Council approved a “Resolution on the Town Council’s Commitment to Monitor the Use of Fertilizers and Pesticides from Licensed Applicators through Ordinance and Delegate the Conservation Commission to Lead an Outreach Campaign to Educate Falmouth Residents on the Importance of Proper, Environmentally Sound Lawn Care Practices”; and
- WHEREAS,** the Conservation Commission proposed amending the 2020 ordinance to further regulate the use of pesticides and fertilizers at the April 11, 2022 Town Council meeting and the Council forwarded the proposal to the Ordinance Committee; and
- WHEREAS,** a proposed ordinance was introduced at the April 8, 2024 Council meeting and an amended version was reintroduced at the April 24, 2024 Council meeting; and
- WHEREAS,** during these meetings, the Council heard from numerous residents, applicators, retailers, and experts. In addition, nearly 600 people completed an online survey indicating their support or opposition to the proposed ordinance and many others contacted the Council directly; and
- WHEREAS,** after careful consideration and a desire to address technical issues raised through the public feedback, Council consideration of the proposed ordinance was postponed; and
- WHEREAS,** Council discussion indicates that a majority of councilors desire to move forward with regulation in this policy area; and

Resolution No 132-2024

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH ASSEMBLED THIS 29TH DAY OF MAY 2024, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL:

desires to advance the development of a final proposed Pesticide and Fertilizer Regulation Ordinance in the new Council year with all reasonable speed and diligence and according to the following process:

1. The Council or a subcommittee will review and synthesize received public feedback to produce a final draft proposed ordinance that addresses all known technical issues and responds to other concerns and opportunities as appropriate.
2. The Town Council or a subcommittee will organize and participate in one or more community workshops to present the revised proposed ordinance and to provide the community with relevant information needed for the evaluation, understanding, and implementation of the proposed ordinance, which may include:
 - a. Information from subject matter experts;
 - b. Information from other municipalities where such ordinances have been enacted to identify and incorporate best practices; and
 - c. Information regarding the scope and breadth of the Falmouth ordinance to clearly articulate what is to be prohibited and what is to be exempted.

Each workshop shall also provide an opportunity for community members and industry participants to provide input on matters discussed.

3. The Council will seek to introduce a final proposed ordinance no later than the Fall of 2024.
4. The Council will attempt to retain the currently intended effective date of April 1, 2025.

Attest: _____
Ellen Planer, Town Clerk

Date: _____