



Falmouth Democratic Town Committee: Monthly Meeting Minutes, June 17, 2015

Our chair, **Megan English Braga**, welcomed the attendees from the Bourne Democratic Town Committee. The Treasurer, **Lloyd Beckett**, noted that the FDTC has \$3,081 in its account. **Ruth Beckett** from the Fundraising Committee mentioned that a Garden Party would probably be held by the FDTC the week of July 26th, with the exact time and place to be announced. **Megan** mentioned that a fall meeting would focus on organization of the Town Committee and on campaign strategy. The Caucus is to be held on June 20th with the issues oriented Convention on September 19th in Springfield. Then Megan introduced our two speakers, **Susan Loucks**, Director of *Neighborhood Falmouth*, and **Teri Cavanagh**, Board member from *WE CAN*.



Susan Loucks, Teri Cavanagh, Megan English Braga

Susan Loucks spoke first. Neighborhood Falmouth was started in 2009 and is based on a model provided by other such groups around the country. There are 150 such groups nationwide and 120 more being developed under the umbrella of the “Village to Village” network. The goal of these groups is to allow seniors to stay in their own

homes and age in place, rather than go to senior living centers. Services are provided by volunteers who help members live independently, safely, and comfortably in their own homes for as long as possible. If volunteers cannot resolve a problem, the organization keeps a pre-screened list of vendors for hire such as handymen, housecleaners, plumbers, electricians, tax preparers, rug cleaners, and others.

Here in Falmouth the organization has 103 members and 110 volunteers. There are 75 individuals (89% women), and 28 couples. The volunteers provide 2000 services a year. The main service is transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. and light household maintenance. A growing area is companionship. The organization schedules home visits and calls as well as social events such as lunches and other kinds of get-togethers. There is a fee of \$600 a year for an individual to join, but 11 of members receive scholarships. The organization operates on a budget of \$130,000 a year and

is making outreach through doctors' offices, hairdressers and other places where seniors gather. In 2010 Falmouth seniors over 60 comprised 1/3 of the town population, and by 2030, ½ of the town will be over that age. The need for such services to seniors will grow. The office is above the Chamber of Commerce in downtown Falmouth.

Teri Cavanagh, board member of WE CAN, spoke next. WE CAN stands for "Women Empowerment Cape Area Network" and was founded 14 years ago after a class on the topic of women in transition was taught at CCCC. The group serves women on the Cape from the "Bridges to Provincetown." They plan to strengthen the cape wide network by partnering with organizations already working in various towns. In Falmouth, the group is partnering with the Falmouth Service Center. They have started with giving 30 minute legal consults at the Service Center for low to moderate income participants so that these women can receive guidance on their legal issues involving Family Law. The group does not reduplicate services, but refers women to a broad range of other Cape Cod organizations. Peer Mentoring is an important part of the services offered. We Can provides 10 month mentorships through their PathMakers program, offering individual sessions and monthly workshops. Lawyers, Bankers, CPAs and others form advisory groups of mentors. Work Support Monthly assists women with writing resumes, dressing for work and tips on starting a small business. There are over 250 volunteers involved. We Can has 3 full time workers, 3 part time and a Board of 15. They are seeing an increased demand for their services and many women in need of immediate help. Funding comes 1/3 from grants, 1/3 from special events and businesses, and 1/3 from individual donors. **Teri** ended by stating that the organization looks forward to partnering with the Service Center in Falmouth as it presents more activities in coming years.



[Randy Azzato](#)

Megan ended the meeting by introducing **Randy Azzato** who is running for the position of Sheriff of Barnstable County in 2016. He is now with the Department of Corrections and gave a short introductory speech about his qualifications.

Submitted by **Kirstin Moritz**, Newsletter Editor with photos by **Martha Gillis**, photographer.

Calendar: July 15 is the next FDTC monthly meeting. The topic will be "Restorative Justice." Location to be announced. The annual picnic will be in August. Time and place to be announced.

FDTC Officers:

Chair: **Megan English Braga** at 508-540-3434 Ext. 4 and attymeb@gmail.com

Vice Chair: **Scott Simenas** at 508-540-3490 and scott_simenas@comcast.net

Treasurer: **Lloyd Beckett** at 508-563-6264 and papa@alum.mit.edu

Secretary: **Lou Turner** at 508-540-3263 and lnturn5557@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary and **Newsletter Editor:** Kirstin Moritz at 508-540-8528 and kmoritz@verizon.net

Affirmative Action/Outreach Advisor: Hugh Gregory at 508-548-4696 and moohu38@yahoo.com

Please note that membership dues should now be submitted. Thank you.

Annual Membership Fiscal Year: April 1 to March 31, 2016

Name: Precinct:

Address and Telephone:

Email Address:

Elected Committee Member (\$25 a year)_____

Associate Member (\$15 a year)_____

Newsletter by U.S. Mail is \$10 extra a year_____

Total Donation: \$_____ Send check to FDTC, P.O. Box 312, Falmouth, MA 02541