



Falmouth Democratic Town Committee Meeting: July 20, 2016

Scoba Rhodes asked for a moment of silence in honor of **Thelma Goldstein**. Her memorial service, to be planned by the family for a future date, will include our membership. We all agree that **Thelma** would be very gratified by the Convention nomination of the first woman candidate for a major party Presidential slot.

Megan English Braga, Chair of the FDTC, introduced the vote to approve the revised FDTC by-laws. **Judy Ziss**, **Tom Lebach** and **Scott Simenas** have done the revision work. **Judy** introduced the new by-laws, stating that the goal was to make them consistent with what we really do as well as consistent with state by-laws. The committee has clarified the membership categories and clarified our ongoing purposes as an entity. The by-laws are now streamlined. **Tom Lebach** made a motion to repeal the by-laws and constitution as adopted in 1984 and amended in 2004. Passed and the new by-laws were approved.



Judy Ziss



Hugh Gregory

Hugh Gregory introduced our speakers from the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. **James Rassman**, Stewardship Coordinator, spoke first. He explained that the 1200 acres of land managed by the Reserve is part of a national chain of Reserves. Ours is managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Conservation and Recreation. It is part of the Massachusetts State Parks system and is one of the 28 sites nationwide that comprise the National Estuarine

Research Reserve System (NERRS). The Reserve has four major programs: research, education, training and stewardship. Their goal is to share research with the public. They focus on water quality, climate change and habitat change. As we all know, the Cape has major water issues and the Reserve continues to study the problems of our water shed. They have long term monitoring on land and sea, looking at water temperature changes, salinity, PH factors as climate change indicators. Sea rise affects marsh systems and that is a large concern. Since there is an accelerated rate of coastal change, the Reserve studies how, at every level, we can handle that change. They look at what is happening with coastal erosion, and do species monitoring, fish restoration, etc.,



James Rassman

and then give feedback to land managers. They study how natural systems come up against man made ones.

The report is that the state of the Bay is bad. All areas are affected by nitrogen and phosphorus flow from septic tanks. The good news is that there is some improvement. Why? Nitrogen from the air is less because we are taking out old coal plants as the Mid- West goes to alternative energy and gas use.

The second speaker was **Tonna-Marie Surgeon Rogers**, the Coastal Training Program Coordinator. She



Tonna-Marie Rogers

spoke about enhancing community resilience in the face of change. There is a need to make communities strong and ready to respond to increasing incidents of severe weather situations such as hurricanes, floods, sea rise, etc. She noted that natural hazards bring risk when communities are vulnerable, that is, unprepared. She hopes that Falmouth can prepare for disasters by building resilience before problems occur. That is because disasters overwhelm the capacity of communities to respond if they are not prepared beforehand. There are indications that because of climate change, the Cape's climate will start to change to be more like that in the southern states by 2039. She noted that emergency

management has a cycle: mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover.

The entire community must be involved to address problems in a comprehensive way. The Reserve's goal is to educate decision makers and serve the community. In response to a question from **Olivia White**, hope for how to handle emergencies must be given to communities to assist in building resilience.

Finally, **Matt Patrick** and **Michael Blanton**, candidates for State Representative, made announcements about events to attend as part of their campaigns.

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

Calendar:

August 17th: FDTC annual picnic at Dillingham Place, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please call Elaine Hickey to rsvp and to indicate what you will bring. Her phone number is: 508-457-7601.

August 28th: Fundraiser for the FDTC at Charlie McCaffrey's house. Details to follow.

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: **David Barrat** at 508-392-9914 and dbarrat5@gmail.com

Secretary: **Judy Ziss** at 508-540-1339 and Judith_ziss@comcast.net

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

Annual membership Fiscal Year: April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

Name: Address:

Precinct:

Email Address:

Phone:

Elected Committee Member: \$25 a year

Associate Member: \$15 a year

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

Total Donation: Please mail to FDTC, PO Box 312, Falmouth, MA 02541