

July 28 Town Council Speech

I want to thank the Councilors who met with us this week. We presented our reasons why the Pesticide and Fertilizer Ordinance should be repealed and offered alternatives.

It is our understanding that the Council has decided to proceed with a referendum election in November.

We accept the challenge and will proceed with winning the referendum votes at the ballot box.

While gathering petition signatures we felt the high level of frustration that homeowners have with the Town Council. It is the reason why we were able to gain enough signatures to suspend the Ordinance in 40 days. Having a referendum election will let homeowners release their frustration at the ballot box.

Homeowners want to protect their rights to maintain their property using products approved as safe by the federal government and State of Maine. The statement we heard most often is “I just want to keep doing what I am doing now.”

Before we began the petition efforts over 98% of Falmouth homeowners had not heard of the Ordinance. After our petition efforts educated homeowners, we now believe that 85% of homeowners are not aware of the Ordinance.

Homeowners feel that the Ordinance is pure hypocrisy. If something is bad for one, then it is bad for all.

The Ordinance punishes licensed professional applicators by reducing their ability to fertilize lawns 5 times per year plus a grub application to 2 fertilizer applications and a grub application. It reduces their business by more than 50% because they will lose customers who want their lawns maintained with appropriate weed control. They will strongly support election efforts because they are trying to save their businesses.

The Ordinance flaws are massive and will not improve the environmental quality of life in Falmouth. History in other towns demonstrates the opposite effect with homeowners replacing professional applicators and applying weed control products themselves.

Homeowners are frustrated with overregulation by the Town! They will vote against the Ordinance to protect their rights. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. This is a homeowner property rights issue.

We believe that choosing to hold a referendum vote is the wrong decision by the Town Council. We will expand our educational efforts on the poorly written Ordinance and homeowner dissatisfaction and distrust of the Town Council will only increase.

We tried to get the Council to repeal the Ordinance, and we failed. The 2019 Town Council designated Falmouth Tree City USA. The 2025 Town Council voted to stop treating trees.

Councilor Trickett's concern about the Council losing the trust of homeowners was correct. It will happen.

We are now proceeding with establishing an organization and the collection of donations to eliminate the Ordinance.

The Town has decided to continue the fight with homeowners and as Benjamin Franklin said, "It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority". We will repeal the Ordinance so we can save our lawns, treat our trees and end the hypocrisy!