

## **July 14 Town Council Speech**

Falmouth homeowners have suspended the Pesticide and Fertilizer Ordinance as promised! They believe they have the right to maintain their lawns and trees using products approved as safe by the US government and the State of Maine.

I want to thank Dr. Andrews for his tireless leadership of our efforts. Our 35 volunteers who gathered signatures have a wide range of experience. I learned an enormous amount about the science of safe lawn and tree care from our group of professional applicators, doctors, contractors, realtors, entrepreneurs, and lawyers. Their single goal is to protect their property rights, values and trees.

The hypocrisy of an Ordinance that exempts the Town, sports playing fields, golf courses, horticulture and agriculture was overwhelming to them. The Ordinance only punishes homeowners.

The suspended Ordinance has serious flaws. Falmouth is the only town in Maine that prevents the treatment of hemlocks and ash trees by professionals. Some of these trees are over 200 years old. No fertilizer meets the Ordinance requirements. Applying fertilizers in accordance with manufacturer's instructions means applying at least 4 times per year. The State of Maine recommends 7 to 10 applications for sports fields. No manufacturer recommends 2 applications per year.

Town Charter Sec. 901.2 states "the Council shall call a public hearing to be held within 30 days from the date of filing of such petition with the Town Clerk and shall within 30 days after said public hearing call a special election for the purpose of submitting to a referendum vote the question of adopting such ordinance."

It is our understanding that the Town's attorney has advised that the Council can choose to repeal the ordinance instead of spending \$10 to 20,000 on a special election.

This newly formed Town Council must decide which path to take.

Do you want to work on the important issues facing the Town or do you want to continue to fight with homeowners on this ordinance?

Will you call for a special election or will you repeal the ordinance?

It is your first major decision.

We recommend that you repeal the flawed Ordinance to regain Falmouth homeowners' trust in the Town Council. An expensive special election in September with extensive advertising will only increase Town frustration with the Council.

During our canvassing homeowners and businesses offered to give us money to help with the campaign. We told them that we did not need money for signature gathering, but if the town decided to have an election, we would take them up on their offers for advertising and voter outreach.

We look forward to your decision.