



TOWN OF FALMOUTH

Office of the Town Manager & Selectmen

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June 25, 2020

Ms. Janice O'Connell, Clerk
Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates
P.O. Box 427
3105 Main Street – Route 6A
Barnstable, MA 02630

Subject: Failure to Certify Falmouth Appointee to Assembly of Delegates by Deadline

Dear Ms. O'Connell,

Thank you for your May 21 notification letter to Town Clerk Michael Palmer of the resignation of Susan Moran as the Falmouth representative to the Assembly of Delegates. We are also in receipt of your June 24 letter regarding the "failure to (timely) certify."

The Town of Falmouth has a protocol which the Select Board routinely follows with regard to potential appointments to any Town or area Board or Commission which includes placing a legal advertisement in the weekly newspaper to allow all interested residents the opportunity to review and respond. At the Board's virtual meeting on June 1, there was a Board discussion of filling the Falmouth vacancy on the Assembly during which Select Board member Doug Brown indicated an interest in serving in this capacity to succeed Su Moran. While the Board appeared to have a consensus on this, unfortunately, they failed to have a formal vote to so appoint Mr. Brown to fill the unexpired term. During this same time, considerable attention was being spent by the Board in dealing with multiple pressing matters related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the coming process for reopening restaurants to outdoor seating/licensing as per Governor Baker's emergency orders.

Also be advised that the Town was in the midst of dealing with the logistics of re-scheduling Falmouth's spring Town Meeting to address critical budget concerns – this process falling right at the same time as this Appointment Deadline as Town Meeting finally occurred on Monday, June 22. Furthermore, it is our belief that not having an individual recommended by the Select Board appointed to this Assembly would significantly impact Falmouth as this community would be disenfranchised from the important work that the Assembly conducts on behalf of all Barnstable County communities. We are convinced that Select Board member Doug Brown, with his long experience and passion in the areas of coastal resiliency, water quality, transportation, and community engagement would be an excellent advocate for Falmouth and indeed for the broader Cape at large.

I am writing to respectfully appeal to the Assembly that, under these circumstances, consideration be given for the appointment of Mr. Brown to this unexpired term in representation of the will of the Falmouth Select Board. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Megan English-Braga
Chair, Falmouth Select Board

Julian M. Suso
Falmouth Town Manager