

FALMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Proposed Slate of Officers – January 2026

Carolyn Tarr for President

Carolyn Tarr has lived in North Falmouth for most of her life. This is where she and her husband John raised their three daughters, now adults. Recently the oldest and their son-in-law have moved back to North Falmouth with five grandchildren. It is a joy but also an education in what challenges and advantages there are for young families in Falmouth today. When her own family was young Carolyn combined a variety of work-life experiences in the early years she was a floral designer while also helping her husband run his business as a self-employed contractor. She then worked as an Event Manager first at Highfield Hall and next at Museums on the Green for a total of over 12 years. While at the Museums, she also managed the office and coordinated volunteers. Currently employed as a Furniture Artist at Vintage Furniture Reclaimed in West Falmouth, she redesigns vintage pieces for modern homes, and also works at Nest and Feathers on Main Street. Art, with its endless possibilities, is her passion. Carolyn has developed deep roots in the community through personal and professional relationships from work, neighborhood boards and her children's schools. She has a strong appreciation for the town and its unique history.

John Bissonnette for Vice President

John Bissonnette's roots in Falmouth stretch back to the town's renowned Lawrence whaling family. A graduate of Falmouth High School in 1981, John's educational journey continued at Boston College for his bachelor's degree and later at the University of Kansas for his Masters. Following a career as a Social Studies teacher and coach for three decades in Missouri, John, along with his wife Lonna, opened an antiques store in Liberty, Missouri, and embraced civic engagement actively participating in various town committees. Upon retiring from the store, the couple returned to Falmouth, where they purchased a historic 1920's home. John is a wonderful asset to the Falmouth Historical Society with his whaling connections, and he has been contributing to the community by volunteering in the gift shop and leading engaging walking tours since the summer of 2023. His passion for Falmouth's heritage shines through in every facet of his involvement.

Robert G. Ripley, Jr. for Continuing as Treasurer

Bob retired from a career as a senior bank and wealth management executive with extensive banking, finance, audit, investment and strategic planning experience. He started his career in banking at Shawmut Bank and in 1991 founded Trust Tax Services of America, acquired by SunGard in 2003. Among his past positions are President, Merchants Trust Company; Vice President, State Street Bank; and Executive Vice President, Martha's Vineyard Savings Bank. His love of local and American history has drawn him to work with a number of historic institutions. His most recent position was with the Concord Museum as Director of Finance and Operations. As a volunteer, he serves on the Massachusetts Historical Society Board as Trustee and Chair of its Collections and of the Audit Committees. He has been a resident of Falmouth since 2008. In that time, he has been chair of the Town of Falmouth's Finance Committee and of the Falmouth Public Library Support Fund. Currently serving on the Town's 250th Committee as Chair. He also was previously on the FHS Board. He served on the Search Committee for our Executive Director in 2022. He has degrees from Bentley (BS, accounting) (also now chair of its Legacy Society), Bryant University (MST), and Nichols College (MBA). His desire to serve his community and support our Executive Director has led him to volunteer again for the FHS Board.

Robin Ketchum for Secretary

Robin has a deep love of Falmouth history having grown up in town and gone through the public schools. She has worked in a diversity of fields including marketing and design, administration for an estate attorney, and an administrative secretary for the Charter Review Committee. After her professional career, Robin dedicated her time to many civic causes in town, including her time as Past President of the Falmouth Garden Club. An avid crafter, she is interested in helping out with children's programming here at the museum. She has been instrumental in the success of our annual Halloween Wicked at Wicks Children's program.