FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Falmouth Reads Together Selects 2017 Books

The Falmouth Reads Together Committee has selected *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande, MD, and *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* by New Yorker cartoonist Roz Chast as the townwide reading selections for 2017, and related events—including a live video simulcast with Gawande—are being planned. Both best-selling books are honest, humane explorations of how we approach the end of life for ourselves and our loved ones.

Gawande is a surgeon, writer, and public health researcher. He practices general and endocrine surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, and is a professor at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School. He also has been a staff writer for the *New Yorker* magazine since 1998 and has written four *New York Times* bestsellers.

Chast’s cartoons have been published in many magazines besides the *New Yorker*, including *Scientific American*, the *Harvard Business Review, Redbook*, and *Mother Jones*. She is the author of several best-selling books.

Companion books for younger readers include *Half a Chance* by Cynthia Lord, *I’ll Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch, *Hour of the Bees* by Lindsay Eagar, and *The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z* by Kate Messner.

“No matter where you turn these days, you’re bound to encounter a conversation about end-of-life issues,” said Jayne Iafrate, chair of the Falmouth Reads Together Committee. “Gawande rightfully argues that too many families don’t discuss complex end-of-life issues until a catastrophic health event occurs, and that’s too late. The committee is so pleased to partner with several Falmouth/Cape Cod organizations to promote this important conversation.”

Neighborhood Falmouth, HopeHealth, the Death Café, and Cape Cod Healthcare’s Quality of Life Management Task Force will partner with Falmouth Reads Together to produce a wide range of free programs in early 2017.

Scheduled events include:

- **February 13, 5 p.m.:** In a live video simulcast co-hosted by Neighborhood Falmouth, *Being Mortal* author Atul Gawande will speak about the value of communities and the opportunities they offer as we grow older. This will be the only opportunity to hear directly from Gawande this year. The presentation will be followed by a Neighborhood Falmouth open house. Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library. This event is free, but registration is required; please contact Susan Loucks at Neighborhood Falmouth at 508-564-7543.

- **Feb. 25, 2 p.m.** Hope Hospice will co-host a screening of the one-hour documentary “Being Mortal,” followed by a panel discussion and Q&A featuring
members of Cape Cod Healthcare’s Quality of Life Management Task Force: Ellen McCabe, RN, of Hope Hospice; Tina Soares, RN, from the Visiting Nurse Association; and Dr. Peter Hopewood. Hermann Room, Falmouth Public Library.

- **March 13, 6:30 p.m.:** A Death Café will offer the opportunity to meet Falmouth neighbors, eat cake, drink tea, and discuss all aspects of death in a relaxed and comfortable setting. Small group conversations will be group directed and lightly guided by trained Death Café facilitators. Its objective is to “increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.” Congregational Church in Falmouth Center.

Other events being planned include: a live performance of poets, musicians and storytellers on the theme of death and dying; a marathon reading of *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*, and book club discussions at several library branches.

Visit the Falmouth Public Library Web site or the Falmouth Reads Together page on Facebook for updates on programs.

Copies of all texts are available for circulation at every public library branch in Falmouth, courtesy of the Friends of the Falmouth Public Library, as well as at Eight Cousins Bookstore on Main Street.