

Overview & Issues: Presentation by Nathan Poore

(This presentation would be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation.)

On March 2007 the Town acquired the former Brown property at 260 Falmouth Road for \$580,000. Following this acquisition, the Council decided that the existing residence on this site was unworthy of reuse and it was subsequently demolished.

Here are some maps and images of the site. The portion closest to Foreside Road consists of lawn, whereas the rear portion is wooded (primarily deciduous trees, such as maple, oak and beech) with some poorly drained areas and trail connections linking the nearby neighborhood to the north, through the neighboring Doughty parcel, with Underwood Park.

The primary purpose for this 3.34-acre acquisition was to provide for future municipal uses, such as open space, park addition, multi-purpose play fields, additional parking for people using the nearby Town Landing, and/or other uses, such as a private house lot.

A recent Town study¹ - *Falmouth Anchorage Evaluation – Phase II: Long-Term Management and Operations, Falmouth, Maine*, by Milone & MacBroom, Inc., dated August 2008 - identified the need to construct a parking area for 103 vehicles and 10 additional boat trailers for current demand and future managed growth within walking distance of the Town Landing. The former Brown site is located approximately 2,000 feet (or an approximately 7-minute walk) from the Town Landing.

While a preliminary on-site parking plan for up to 30 spaces was being prepared by the Town, residents suggested other use ideas for the site.

In response to those ideas, the Town Council determined that this community event should be organized to solicit community feedback on all use ideas for this site, and see if a community consensus could be forged to assist the Town Council in its decision making.

Tonight we are asking for your help with the following questions:

1. What use(s) should/could the former Brown property be put to?
2. How can the Town best manage the parking needs for the Town Landing?
3. What next step(s) should the Town Council undertake?

One of those uses to be considered is parking. The moorings at the Falmouth Anchorage number over 1,000 and have placed a considerable demand on parking within the area of Town Landing. On peak days in the Town Landing neighborhood vehicles are parked wherever, whether that is a legal or not so legal spot. This issue is not going to go away unless the Town finds an appropriate solution for it.

Town staff has analyzed on which streets in the neighborhood people tend to park on peak days. This map gives you an indication of that.

Town staff also looked at the widths of the right of ways in the neighborhood to see where more on-street parking could be created, if such was preferred. Here is a map of that. You can see that the potential options are quite limited.

¹ Falmouth Anchorage Evaluation – Phase II: Long-Term Management and Operations, Falmouth, Maine, Milone & MacBroom, Inc., August 2008

The options may be limited and we need to be as creative as we can.

The former Brown property may be able to accommodate several uses. To give you a few ideas to think about: If there was parking, it could be a seasonal use. Parking could be created in phases to see how actual demand is being met over time. The parking surface could be done with grass pavers. The parking area could be gated. All of this does not mean that the Council is not interested in hearing other ideas. We have heard about community gardens, creating and selling a house lot to recoup some of the acquisition costs, and so on. Some of these ideas may be quite feasible.

We would like you to have a conversation about all of this. We would like to divide you randomly into smaller groups of about 8 or so people. Town staff and Town councilors stand ready to act as facilitators for your group. We have allotted one hour to discuss these three questions. Then we'd like to hear from some of the groups to see what they have come up with.

No decisions will be made tonight. Tonight is a listening session. This matter will be brought back to the Town Council some time after this event. If you provide us with your e-mail contact information we will keep you posted of that and send a copy of the summary report from this meeting

We have provided each group with paper, maps, photos, and markers. Use whatever you or your group feels is helpful to you. If you want to mark up the site map, please do so. If you want to make a list of ideas, please go ahead. We are interested in your ideas however you want to express them. The facilitators will take notes during the meeting and will make sure each person gets to speak and that all three questions get addressed.

Are there any questions at this point?

Let's now mix you up a bit and divide you into smaller groups. If you are born in the month of January, please raise your hand. Please take your chair and go to table ____.

If you are born in February, please raise your hand... Etc.

Again, thank you for coming and have a good time. There are drinks and snacks located on the side. Please feel free to help yourself.