

Former Brown Property, 260 Foreside Road

Report on Community Event held on September 21, 2009

Draft: October 6, 2009

On September 21, 2009, the Town held a community event to discuss (a) possible uses for the former Brown Property, (b) ways for the Town to manage parking for the nearby Town Landing, and (c) next steps for the Council to take. This report summarizes the findings of this event.



Invitations

The event was open to whoever had the interest and time to attend. Several Town e-mail lists were used to broadcast the event. Over 600 notices were mailed to property owners in the neighborhood. Flyers were posted in the neighborhood. An advertisement was placed in The Forecaster. The event was also announced on community cable TV and the Town's website. (See event announcement in appendix 1).

Attendance

Some 90 people attended the event, including six Town councilors and Town staff. Seventy-five (75) members of the general public registered on the sign-in sheets. Below are the statistics of these attendees:

Residence:

➤ Town Landing Neighborhood	42	56%
➤ Foreside, but other than Town Landing Neighborhood	29	39%
➤ Falmouth, but other than Foreside	4	5%
➤ Outside Falmouth	0	0%

Have boat at Falmouth Anchorage:

➤ At Town Landing	21	28%
➤ At Portland Yacht Club	7	9%
➤ At Handy Boat	3	4%
➤ At Other Private Location	1	1%
➤ Have no boat at Falmouth Anchorage	27	36%
➤ Am on Mooring Waiting List for Town Landing	3	4%

Note: About 22% of attendees did not answer this question.

Event Program

Councilor Breen gave a welcome, and Town Manager Nathan Poore provided an introduction to the site, the issues, and the small group questions. Councilor Breen closed the program. Theo Holtwijk led a brief site walk before the meeting. (See Town Manager presentation in appendix 2.)

Small Group Discussions

Attendees were randomly divided into nine (9) small groups with about eight (8) people each. Each was group was asked to discuss three 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?
Councilors and several Town staff acted as small group facilitators and note takers during the discussion which lasted about one (1) hour. (See small group discussion notes in appendix 3.)

Public Comment

Written comment was received at and prior to the meeting (from Richard Getz and Dick Sweeney). It is included here for sake of completeness. Communications with staff leading up to the event are not included. (See written comment in appendix 4.)

Former Brown Property Purchase History

Some people wondered how the former Brown property was purchased. The property was purchased in March 2007 and the Town used available fund balance from the November 2001 land acquisition referendum, which authorized spending \$1,500,000 for open space and/or land for any other municipal use. (Note: This is separate from the November 2007 referendum question authorized spending \$5,000,000 for open space (limited to only open space).



Major Findings

1. *What use(s) should/could the former Brown property be put to?*

- Residents wanted to see the Brown and Underwood parcels combined and treated as one parcel.
- Residents wanted to see the Brown property preserved as neighborhood open space.
- Active recreational uses suggested include play fields and community gardens.
- Residents were divided on the idea of splitting off a house lot.

2. *How can the Town best manage the parking needs for the Town Landing?*

- Residents questioned the stated need for more parking for Town Landing.
- Residents felt that peak parking needs were limited in duration and that the solution should be commensurate.
- Residents want to limit use by non-residents of the Town Landing, by limiting availability of moorings for non-residents and/or setting higher non-resident fees including for parking.
- Some residents felt that off site parking could be provided at existing paved lots in the area and a Town shuttle or Metro bus service provided.
- If any parking were to be provided at the Brown parcel (which most were not in favor of), residents wanted no asphalt, but stone dust or grass pavers.
- Some residents felt that the Falmouth Anchorage was too large and should be managed better.

3. *What next step(s) should the Town Council undertake?*

- Some residents suggested more study of the actual parking needs and/or parking suggestions.
- Others recommended immediate action on the ideas suggested above.

APPENDICES

1. Event Announcement
2. Presentation by the Town Manager
3. Small Group Discussion Notes
4. Public Comments Received