

March 21, 2023 2nd Underwood Public Forum Email Comments

John Doughty
3/21/23

Good afternoon Maggie,

I am writing to you regarding the meeting tonight on the use of the Brown Property. I own the property (262 Foreside Road) next to the Brown Property. I believe it makes sense to improve the lot in terms of additional flowers, bushes, trees, paths, etc and to improve/replace the existing playground equipment. I understand that this would also include improving the existing parking area, which makes sense to me.

What I am not in favor of is the potential creation of additional parking that would encourage greater use of the waterfront. Given that over the past decade the temperature of the Gulf of Maine has warmed faster than 99% of the global ocean, we need to take climate change seriously. While perhaps unpopular, I would like to discourage the use of the local (non-working) waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts and as always am grateful for the thoughtful and caring leadership of the Town Council and Town Manger and staff.

Best regards,
John Doughty

Karl and Tracy Noone
3/23/23

Hello Maggie,

We are writing in regards to the Underwood Park Improvement Project. We were unable to attend last night's meeting, but have heard from neighbors, some of the potential options that were discussed. My family resides at 252 Foreside Rd, which directly abuts Underwood Park. We are very supportive of enhancements to the facilities at Underwood Park and are appreciative of the Town's desire to make improvements, while balancing community member concerns.

We understand there is consideration being discussed of expanding the existing parking area from its current 3 spaces to 20+ spaces. This raises a significant concern for our family given the proximity of our dwelling to the existing parking facility. The existing parking area is no more than 10 feet from the structure of our home. The current parking facility involves the limited number of cars parking on the opposite side of the drive circle from our home, facing the park itself and is not a disturbance to us. We are concerned about the potential expansion of the existing parking lot to accommodate 20+ cars, as that may involve cars potentially being parked facing our home (and approximately 10 ft away from it). The potential disturbance from noise, car headlights shining into our home and general privacy, is concerning to us given the very short distance between our home and the parking area.

We understand that there is a potential alternate location for the expanded parking on the northern side of the park, which would not have a dwelling in such close proximity to its proposed location. We would strongly encourage the Town to consider this location for any expanded parking that is needed, rather than the location which is in such close proximity to our residence.

Again, we are very supportive of the efforts that the Town is making to improve the park facilities, but wanted to share our particular concern with the parking area. We would be happy to discuss this with you further.

Best regards,
Karl and Tracy Noone
252 Foreside Road
Falmouth, ME

Rachel Sears
3/23/23

Hi Nathan,

I had a couple of ideas after yesterday's forum. I understand we are low on budget and have other priorities for parks in the town. In the near term, it makes sense to relocate the parking to the other side of the park and put in like 15 spaces. Longer term the town should look into purchasing the lot that abuts the TLM parking lot and expand that lot. Back to the near term, we could engage the foreside garden club and the falmouth garden club to do the butterfly gardens, and fire up the Friends of Underwood Park (does this exist?) and gather donations for benches - both swinging and fixed.

Hopefully the town could fund the field and playground improvements and the parking relocation.

Thanks,
Rachel

Monique Rafuse Pines
3/24/23

From an Underwood Rd household, we LOVE any/all of what you've presented! So organic, using natural elements for the playground, the parking area would look great as you have outlined, and the playing field is enhanced. Trails are better marked, and it's gorgeous!

Would have loved a hoop, but with your budget being fairly restrictive, what you are doing is just GREAT.

Thank you so much for working on the planning.

Monique Rafuse Pines

Liz Crafford
3/25/23

Hi Maggie,

I am really impressed with the design of Aceto Landscapes and all of the new play areas for children being proposed. It will be a great benefit to the community!

I did not see any details about the fitness stations or exercise opportunities for adults at the park, but would like to request such an amenity, which will make the park a destination for all ages, not just children and their parents. Such stations often come with a panel of instructions for the user to refer to for the exercises, which is very helpful to encourage the correct exercises.

Here are some examples.

<https://stayfitsystems.com/outdoor-fitness-equipment/fitness-trail/>

<https://outdoorworkoutsupply.com/collections/fitness-trail-equipment/products/playground-equipment-olympic-spirit-fitness-course>

This is the one I use several times a week and really like:

<https://playworld.com/products/complete-5-station-system>

I'm sure there are others, and that they could be placed either as stations along a trail or as a set in a single area.

Thanks!

Liz Crafford

Jennifer Mrowka
4/3/23

Hi Maggie-

We love the plan. We live in the foreside area and have kids aged 4, 10 and 12. The proposal seems to have a little something for everyone- an enhanced playground, a playing field, trails, meeting spaces, and swings! I just hope we can get started on the buildout soon!

Thanks!

Jen

John Kirkham
4/3/23

We just watched the video of the forum. The plan looks amazing! Thank you for working on this. I wouldn't change a thing.

Please keep me in the loop and let me know how I can support the effort.

Thanks

John Kirkham