UNDERWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING #1—DOCUMENTATION OF ALL COMMENTS AND NOTES
Meeting Date: 1/10/23 6-8pm

RECORDED NOTES FROM GROUP PRESENTATIONS

GROUP 1:
- Enhance natural beauty
- Responsible forest management
- Be respectful of neighbors
- Consider adding: pond, gazebo, picnic area, and/or integrated fitness group
- Enhance play area and turf field

GROUP 2
POSITIVE SITE ASSETS
- Trails and open space
- Walkability and accessibility within community
- Park is open all day, available for young families to use during the day (unlike school playground, which is admittedly superior in terms of play structure)

AREAS TO IMPROVE
- Trails could use some work
- Enhance entrance to park with more vegetation
- Improve current parking lot
- Mention historical aspects with signage?
- Size down lighting along RT 88
- Remove debris and invasives from the back of the Brown parcel

ADD
- swings, a playground for older children
- a pavilion like Underwood Springs casino
- Sporting facilities (skating and pickleball?)
- Bottle filling station or water fountain
- Trashcans
- ADA accessible trails
- Sidewalks that lead from the park down to town landing
- Crosswalk across RT 88 to the park
- Add 4-6 parallel parking spaces on RT 88
- Community gardens

DON'T WANT
• Non porous parking spaces
• Buildings
• Pesticides used to control invasives or improve field
• Discarded debris left at the back of the Brown parcel

GROUP 3
• Table of parents
• Would like a gathering space (pavilion?)
• More parking spaces
• Keep apple trees (children love them)
• Splash pad like the one at Payson park
• Accessible seating (pregnant mothers)
• Add more swings and climbing structures
• Add different playground areas for different ages of kids, want the park to be useable for kids and adults at all stages of life
• Family bbq area?
• Preserve native plants on site
• Add a story path to the trails? Consider making them ADA accessible
• Maybe the additional play structures can be nature play structures
• Like that the playground is accessible for everyone, not just residents
• Like Mackworth island and Payson park as a precedent

GROUP 4
• Like natural environment and green field
• Like the opportunity to add amenities
• Would like to enhance the playground by making it more natural, less plastic
• Add seating and picnic tables
• Would like to add a recreational court, maybe tennis or basketball
• Like to add a splash pad like Payson park—could be an ice skating rink in winter?
• Add a gathering space
• Add community garden, creates opportunity for intergenerational interaction
• Mixed feelings about public outdoor pool
• Understand the benefits of improving parking—maybe pilot a few new spaces and see how that goes, with the opportunity to add more spaces if needed
• Add bike racks to encourage more biking and walking to the park

GROUP 5
• Desire to keep the park green/natural
• Expand parking to facilitate need but also enhance the appearance of parking area with more vegetation
• Expand recreational area—add pickle ball or basketball court away from the road so the ball doesn’t go into the street
• Add small, easily maintained community gardens
• Consider adding a small fenced in dog park?

GROUP 6
BEST ASSETS
• Trails and open field
• Play structure
• Natural border/seclusion of the site and depth—away from road
• Space for events and sport (although the field needs improvement)

IMPROVEMENTS
• Expand playground
• Improve existing parking (most people reacted badly to adding another parking lot)

ADDITIONS
• Lookout or lighthouse structure (like Underwood springs casino)
• Gazebo or other gathering space
• Stage?
• Restrooms
• Basketball court—flooded in winter and made into ice skating rink
• ADA accessible walking paths
• Dog park?
• Art installation
• Fence or gate along the road to be a barrier

DON’T WANT
• More parking
• Basketball or pickleball
• To remove trees
• Don’t touch the trails

GROUP 7
• Like that the park is used quite a bit
• Most people seem to be walking to the park
• Would like to improve the playground
• Enhance the field experience (it’s pretty pitted now)
• Highlight the existence of the trails in the woods—add signage
• Maximize the minimal parking on site. Maybe partner with the church next door?
• It would be great if Underwood could connect formally to Forest Preserve, then bridge across Mill Stream to access the back of the shopping center.

GROUP 8
• Love that this is a place for all ages, everyone should feel welcome here
• Great asset that this is a central location
• Don’t want additional parking when existing parking can be optimized
• Don’t want to “over asphalt” the park
• Would be cool if there were bike lanes or a shuttle from the landing or foreside to make the park more accessible without adding parking
• Could add commemorative or historical plaques to acknowledge the history of the site
• Add swings and playgrounds in a nature play style (like fort Williams park)
• Add benches/areas for conversation
• Add more natural materials
• Add bathroom facilities (drop toilet?) including drinking fountain
• Add a bug/butterfly garden and bird houses
• Maybe a court or multi-use court/s
• Enhance curb appeal, make the park more inviting from the street
• Add a pavilion on the footprint of the old school?
• Fitness circuit or more deliberate walking trails

COLLECTED NOTES FROM MEETING ATTENDEES

BLUE STICKY NOTES

Best Assets
• Trails
• Big open field
• Play structure
• Natural border/seclusion
• Depth (away from road)
• Easily accessible to neighbors
• Open to everyone
• Easy access from every direction
• Enough space for sport events

What we should improve
• Expand playground
• Existing parking

New Stuff
• Crooked house
• Accessibility
• Lookout or lighthouse or gazebo
• Outdoor theater or stage?
• Picnic tables/seating/outdoor grills
• Restrooms/porta potties
• Basketball court
• Pickleball
• Walking paths
• Dog park
• Art related or butterfly garden
• Fence/gate stonewall to act as barrier to street
Don’t want
- No more parking
- No basketball court
- No pickleball court
- Preserve the trees
- Don’t mess with trails

NOTES ON AGENDA SHEET
- The site’s best assets are open field, trails, play structure, proximity to lots of residents.
  Opportunity at the brown property to add amenities
- Mixed views on adding parking, maybe pilot a small number?

Dream
- Public outdoor pool—consider private fundraising
- Add an all kid’s swing—dedicate a footprint if not built
- Community garden—intergenerational ages
- Courts (tennis and pickleball) many ages
- Bike racks, parking—efficiencies of existing parking. Caution about more parking, can we limit to residents?
- Splash pad/ice skating amenity
- Performance area with seating—natural pavilion or gathering space
- Enhance playground
  - Organize it
  - Equipment for all ages
  - Integrate natural elements
  - Not so much plastic
  - Similar to deering oaks playground
  - More equipment for all ages
  - Natural seating or picnic tables
  - Better seating along southern perimeter
- Outdoor grills

UNDERWOOD PARK/BROWN PROPERTY FORUM NOTES
- Park uses- compared to Huston park
  - Bball and soccer goals, ice skating—encourage outdoor activities for all ages
- Trails- love the trails
- Brown property is a mess
- Clean up and update playground- no need for major changes – more expensive park – not parking
- Focus on OS portion of underwood
- Bryce Hach- trails- active recreation in front
- Blend two properties- passive in the back and active rec in the front, add actual trail network in the back to preserve forest
• Ben—former Yarmouth resident—used pedestrian bike access, disappointed in Falmouth’s— not comfortable riding bikes on Rt 88
• Rework existing parking to increase parking for town landing
• Town landing parking concern
  o Grass pavers as an option, brown property originally purchased for parking—don’t overlook parking
• Town landing—climate change—revamped with less parking, more picnic
• Belfast ME, greatest playground, natural playground
• Accessible trails incorporated
• Concerns about more parking—more pedestrians and more congestion
  o Maximize existing parking and minimize additional parking
  o Is there another property suitable for parking?
• Town landing—more recreational, not parking on site
• Explore leasing church parking lot

BIG PAGE 1
• Playground improvement (gets used)
  o Field opportunities
• Maximize minimal parking (church?)
• Connect trails to downtown
  o Welcome to our trails signage
  o Connect trails to water
• Recreational and expand nature backdrop

BIG PAGE 2 (GROUP TWO)
• Access to waterfront needed BUT parking isn’t a priority because there is parking allowed on public roads in area, we could bus people from Shaw’s area
• SITE ASSETS
  o Open space
  o Trails to nature preserve (connectivity to other trails)
  o Walkability and accessibility for a lot of people (most dense part of town)
  o Open all time of the day (young families can use playground)
• IMPROVEMENTS
  o Improve trails
  o Shrubs and perennials
  o Scaled down lighting along 88 and park
  o Remove debris along back of brown parcel
  o Resurface current parking lot and signage
  o Historical markers
  o Management of invasives and vegetation
• ADDITIONAL AMENITIES
  o Swings
  o Older children needs
  o Benches, picnic tables, seating
Historical markers
- Gazebo, pavilion, pagoda, ie underwood springs
- Sports: bball hoop, pickleball, skating, ballfield
- Water fountain
- Dog waste receptacle
- Sidewalks beyond existing
- Crosswalk to park
- 4-6 additional parallel parking spots on rt 88
- Community gardens on brown property (donations for food pantry?)
- Permanent connection easement to the Falmouth nature preserve

- NOT WANTED
  - Non porous parking lot
  - Enclosed buildings, ie offices or residential
  - Pesticides
  - Discarded debris with invasives

BIG PAGE TWO
- Basketball hoop
- Markedly upgrade the play equipment including the swings
- Natural pond/garden/walking trails
- Community gardens
- Protect wooded part
- Protect the trails that connect to preserve
- Responsible forest management (hire a biologist)
- Lights that are dark sky approved
- No lights
- Pretty, more parky
- Low impact
- Gazebo
- Picnic area
- Integrated fitness equipment

BIG PAGE THREE
- A commemorative plaque for the history of the school/site
- Swings, playground, something that is natural in appearance (ref. children's garden @ cape)
- Benches, area to foster conversation
- Natural seating (granite, wood)
- Water fountain, drinking fountain (either/or)
- Toilets? Huge maintenance issues
- Basketball court or hoops / pickleball / futsal (soccer?)
- Flower garden with bird houses
- Parking enhanced
- Pagoda (gathering space with shade)
- Multi-use athletic field
- Fitness circuit in woods
- Bike lanes/racks to address concerns
- BEST ASSETS: green space, central location to town landing
- IMPROVEMENTS: something for all ages - small kids, teens, and adults
- AMENITIES: same as improvements
- DON’T WANT: too much parking/asphalt (bball exception), don’t sacrifice this park for cars from all over

BIG PAGE FOUR
- Great resource for the town, increase in town usage
- Expand and enhance existing features
  - Playground (increase size and add seating/picnic tables)
  - Entrance to hiking paths
- Parking
  - Expand to facilitate public needs
  - Enhance the appearance of parking
- Expanded recreation
  - Pickleball
  - Basketball
- Community gardens
- Dog park
- Keep as green as possible

NOTES ON MAP (GROUP THREE)
- Dawn to dusk uses
- One small parking lot for the park
- Get rid of existing parking lot
- Native plants
- Children’s garden
- Permaculture
- Pollinator garden
- Pavilion
  - Bbq
  - Family gatherings
- Picnic tables
- Structured field
- Farmer’s market
- Water fountains
- Story walk with art features
- Playing fields
- Kid’s water feature
- Live music/early evening
• Playground
  o Swings
  o Climbing structure
  o Monkey bars