

Answer to: Comments/Questions for Friends of Tannery Park 3/5/2021

- **How can the Habitat and Friends of the Tannery proposals MAXIMIZE housing?**

Can Friends of Tannery reduce “park” items as the Camden area already has plenty of outdoor park areas and hold space for more housing?

The Friends proposal offers a balanced community solution. While Camden does have many outdoor spaces, this Park’s purpose is unique for Camden. It provides a community gathering spot that offers the surrounding neighborhoods and the town as a whole, a place for community-based, social, and recreational activities that are not offered at any other public spaces in Camden. Our proposal directly reflects the consensus of the Tannery Work Group who after two years of deliberations and several town-wide workshops concluded that a multi-use community park was the best way to go. We propose to raise funds to make recreational improvements that will be low maintenance and enjoyable, and not increase town expenditure.

“The Friends” consulted with Midcoast Habitat for Humanity in the process of creating our Friends of Tannery Park proposal to offer more affordable housing. We agreed that our proposal would offer a collaborative partnership with Habitat’s proposal. In accordance with that collaboration, we are reserving the space for 2 to 3 Habitat homes as they requested in their proposal which they submitted to the Town. Habitat decided the number of homes that they are comfortable proposing for the site. They are very conscious of the need for their homes to fit well within an existing neighborhood as is outlined in their proposal.

The Friends proposal is also offered in partnership with The Camden Farmers’ Market. Following the needs of the Farmers’ Market, we have reserved appropriate space for approx 45 customer vehicles. Onsite parking has been an essential ingredient in the success of The Camden Farmers at the Tannery Park location and the importance of providing parking space should not be underestimated. Having a publicly owned permanent site for the Farmers’ Market will help local business and the local economy, both directly and through a ripple effect.

The Friends proposal benefits town residents directly. Unlike two of the other proposals, there is no third party seeking to make a profit off the development of the site.

Our proposal will continue and improve upon an established use of the space as a public park. The site has been enjoyed by town residents for years now, just as it is. It will be used that much more with even a little improvement.

The Select Boards' task is to put choices before the voters that they will enthusiastically vote for.

Based on the various committee work and public input over the years, and strong written support received by the Select Board, the Friends proposal is such a choice. Let the voters make the decision.

Submitted by Friends of Tannery Park