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Opinion

LETTER: Open space acquisition 'a win-win for Madison'

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The article "Madison vote will settle long fight over Griswold Airport site" reported on a deal negotiated between LeylandAlliance and The Trust for Public Land on behalf of the town to buy the former Griswold Airport.

Tom Banish, chairman of the Republican Town Committee, says the "people who want this to be left just the way it is and worked very hard to have that happen, I would assume would fight any development, including ball fields."

Margaret Welch of the state Department of Environmental Protection stated in a 2001 letter that use of the site should be limited to open space or at most to low-impact activity. Athletic fields would meet Welch's concern for low-impact activity.

Therefore, Stop Griswold Over-Development does support athletic fields on the portion of the land near Route 1 and expects the town will maintain the fields using environmentally appropriate techniques.

The numerous environmental organizations that support SGOD and the preservation of the airport land as open space have stated that athletic fields are a form of open space.

The purchase is a win-win for Madison. It will allow for the preservation of the pristine and fragile tidal marshes and other coastal resources as well as provide athletic fields, which are in great shortage in Madison. As director of the Madison Little League program, Tom Banish knows well the difficulty of not having enough playing fields.

Peter Sakalowsky

Madison

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