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Opinion

LETTER: Acquiring Griswold Airport a 'triple win'

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Madison has an opportunity to get a triple win by voting for purchase of the old Griswold Airport.

First, the town will be able to preserve coastal marsh that adds to the beauty of our town and the health of our beaches.

Second, the town will gain several playing fields and boat-launch access to the Sound, which can be enjoyed for generations, much like the Surf Club.

Third, Madison will avoid the mistake of another uninspired development that damages shoreline ecology and takes away access to it.

The price for a 42-acre waterfront park next to Hammonasset Beach State Park is \$9.7 million, several million covered by private donations.

In 1988, the property was offered to Madison for \$4 million. If you take into account a mere 5 percent inflation, that price now would be \$8.2 million.

But, waterfront real estate has risen far more than 5 percent annually since 1988. The deal on the table is better than it was in 1988, and it is lower than the appraised value of the land.

For all the numbers and the hand-wringing, the bottom line is that Madison has the chance to make a smart move by adding to the reasons this is a special place to live and conserving resources for which we are stewards.

Keith R. Ainsworth

Madison

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