

0 West Falmouth Hwy: A Piece of the Puzzle Timeline of the Preservation of the Long Pond Watershed

Executive Summary:

0 West Falmouth Hwy was purchased in 1931 as part of the Weld Estate (L.C. Plan 50) by vote of Town Meeting to protect the Long Pond Watershed and Forestation following extensive survey work by the Committee on the Protection of Long Pond Water shed and Forest Committee – predecessors to today's conservation groups. This land was presented as *a tax title taking to Town Meeting* in 2024 which many members interpreted to mean it was taken for non-payment of taxes and with no reference to the original purchase with intent for preservation. This misunderstanding has resulted in the threat of development which would reverse 95 years of precedent in the town of Falmouth. Currently large portions of this original land purchased around Long Pond appear to not be formally protected by modern statute and as such are threatened with other suggested developments. This would pose impingement on these lands purchased for watershed protection and forestation.

Development would mean the loss of a piece of land which yields ecosystem services in the form of ground water filtration, water retention, birding and recreation, as well as damaging one of the most historic parts of Falmouth across the street from the 1678 Saconeset homestead and abutting Runner Stone Farm and across from Peach Tree Circle Farm. It would also make a dangerous intersection even more dangerous while preventing possible redesign of the interchange.

Shifting care of this land to the Conservation Commission would follow a clear precedent of the Conservation Commission holdings of other similar parcels along West Falmouth Hwy and on Brick Kiln Road purchased for water protection and forestation. A transfer of 0 W Falmouth Highway to the Conservation Commission would protect a key resource of the town benefiting all residents and halt further intrusions on these original parcels of forest around our drinking water supply.

Background:

Long Pond was purchased by the Town of Falmouth from the previous private water company circa 1898. In 1906 an extensive series of regulations were created to protect the water, e.g. no livestock, tanning of leather, release of excrement, etc. within 250 feet of the pond.

In 1929 the Town had three water commissioners. Around this time, with increasing development pressure, the Town realized that more proactive actions were needed to be taken to protect the drinking water. There were also concerns about forest fires and throughout Massachusetts there was a great interest in the forestation of public lands. Tree planting continued to be a priority; forestation was a major activity of the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) both here in Falmouth (e.g. 300 Committee website) and around the US.

The Town Meeting approved the creation of a Committee on the Protection of Long Pond Water Shed in 1929, which included the three water commissioners and two other town forestry officials. In 1930, Their number was expanded to six; three water commissioners and three others by a Town Meeting warrant. Their names each year were published in the list of town officials in the annual Town Record.
[for 1930 example see Appendix A]

Within the last 11 years, there was some awareness of the Watershed Committee, as seen in the April 9, 2014 Town Meeting discussion regarding the Long Pond/Municipal Water Filtration Plant [Appendix B], but it appears no one did the research to understand the role of that Town Committee and the concerted and successful efforts to purchase the watershed area from the 1920's to 40's,

After a series of warrant articles approving surveying the region, it was decided by Town Meeting Vote that the land around Long Pond should be purchased for the protection of the watershed and forestation. In the following years, Town Meeting publications show warrant articles for the purchase of numerous properties around the Pond, as can be seen in Town documents and also printed in the Falmouth Enterprise of the period [see Appendix C for example] notably including the land of the Weld Estate (L.C. Plan 50) which includes the land now known as 0 W Falmouth Hwy.

There were some holdouts; several landowners on the southern end of the pond chose not to sell, but gave the Town control of the land. Some land owners who refused to sell to the town developed parcels e.g. Braeside. Another, owner, Lawrence, wished to continue gravel mining, but discussed trading some land adjacent to the pond for a similar strip in Good Will Park. Ultimately that gravel production ceased when they reached the level of ground water- see April 14, 2014 Town Meeting "there's a reason why it's no longer a gravel pit, and that is because they hit groundwater. So it's groundwater level as the level of Long Pond. Long Pond is really a visual representation of the ground water aquifer and that sand, it right now is that same visual representation."

There was strong public sentiment for the preservation of the land around Long Pond as evidenced by the repeated approval of warrant articles for purchases and in the popular press, e.g. The Falmouth Enterprise May 14, 1939

The Falmouth Enterprise

Falmouth, Mass., Friday, May 19, 1939.

GEORGE A. HOUGH, JR.
Editor and Publisher

CLARA SHARPE HOUGH
Associate Editor

Established in 1894. Successor to Barnstable County's first newspaper, The Nautical Intelligencer, which was established in Falmouth, November 21, 1822.

Subscription rates: By the year, \$2.50; for six months, \$1.50; for three months, 75c; single copies by mail, seven cents; at newsstands and by carrier boys, five cents.

Entered at Falmouth Post Office as Second Class Matter. Published weekly on Friday except during July and August; published semi-weekly on Tuesday and Friday during July and August.

Falmouth Publishing Co., Inc.
Depot Avenue, Falmouth, Telephones 47 and 48.

PROTECTING LONG POND

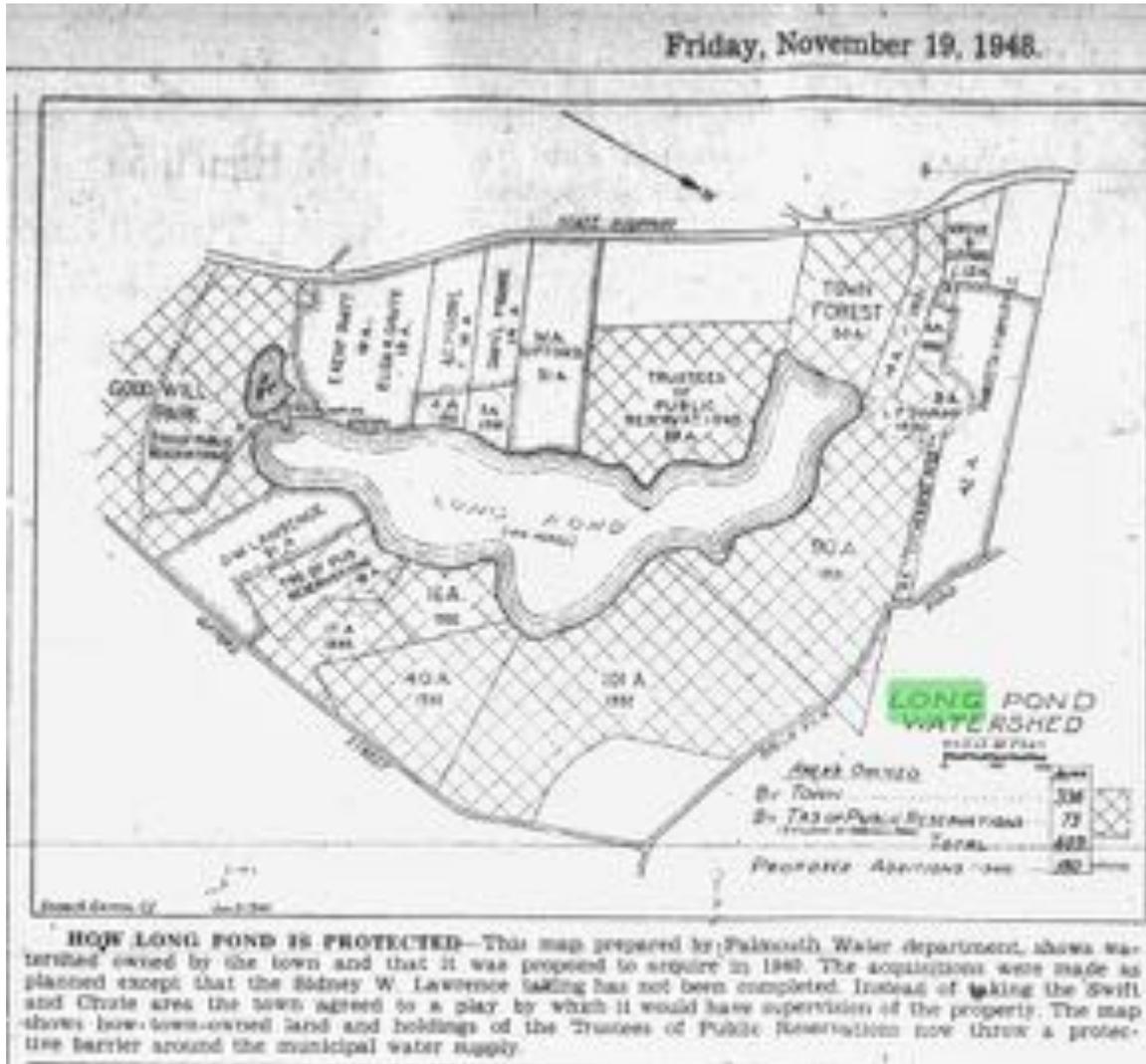
Acquisition of seventeen more acres on the Long Pond watershed is a good thing for the town. With unusual foresight and perseverance the water commissioners have through the years obtained control of most of the land which drains into the municipal water supply. The new purchase removes a rather striking gash in this protective ring. That it was being actively farmed, that animals were being maintained on an area which drained into the pond, was theoretically of concern. Any possible danger has now been eliminated and the lines of the reservation have been straightened.

There remain only a few parcels—not of first importance—to be taken over by the town. We may hope that the public spirit of the owners will contribute to satisfactory negotiations for these alien pieces. The town ought to have complete control around Long Pond.

The reservation has become more than a protection to the water supply. It has been well forested. Many trees are being planted. While all about us the natural woods of the Cape are disappearing, here a beautiful forest reservation is being created which in years to come will be an asset to the town for under proper safeguards the region is open to visitors. If they may not bathe in the pond, they can enjoy woodland beauty. As the years pass it will be more and more worth going distances to see.

By 1940, the majority of the land around Long Pond had been purchased by the Town for watershed protection and forestation.

Map dated 1940, published in Falmouth Enterprise Nov. 19, 1948 with notations of Town land, land with public reservations, and proposed additions. (Note: map is rotated about 120 degrees with North at the lower right)



It is important to note that Conservation Commissions were not established until 1957. Conservation Restrictions were not established until 1969 when the State Legislature passed the Conservation Restriction Act (MGLc.184, s. 31-33). By this time the Long Pond Town lands had already been owned for some 40 years and many in the Town administration likely took for granted the preservation of this forest. We have not yet formally protected many of these parcels under Article 97 or Conservation Restrictions.

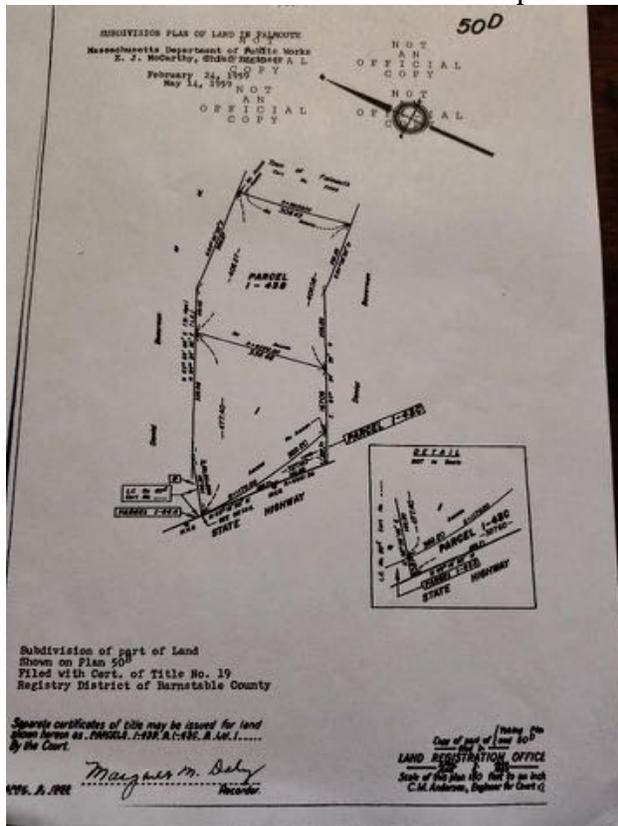
While some land was taken by eminent domain at request of a town meeting vote, which would be listed as a form of taking, it is not a tax title taking for non-payment of taxes and so far there

has been no evidence found that this land around Long Pond was taken for non-payment of taxes. This is why when certain landowners refused to sell their plots to the town, it resulted in development such as Braeside and Andys Ln, risking degradation of the water supply.

There have been other threats to impinge on the town-owned land around Long Pond which were prevented by public advocacy. In 1949 there was a proposal to build a new high school at the south end of this forest and considerable debate as evidenced in Falmouth Enterprise articles as to whether the Water Commission had the power to reject this location [Appendix D]. The Enterprise Editorial spoke strongly against this development in regard to possible water contamination [Appendix E]. Ultimately the Siders Pond location was chosen for the High School (now Lawrence Junior High).

The State Highway Administration building of State Route 28 in the late 50's, opening in 1961, did result in a loss of a strip of Town Long Pond protection lands and cut off one section of the former Weld land, now identified as "0 West Falmouth Hwy". It also cut off two other parcels, one held by the Conservation Commission, between Palmer Ave and 28 also identified as 0 West Falmouth Hwy. This subdivision for the highway appears in Plan 50D Subdivision of Land in Falmouth. Parcel 1-43B is congruent with the location of the current Highway 28. Nonetheless, this land was purchased under Town Meeting authorization in 1931. It was not a "Tax-Title-Taking" for non-payment of taxes as has been implied in the Assessors Records and Town GIS and recent town communications.

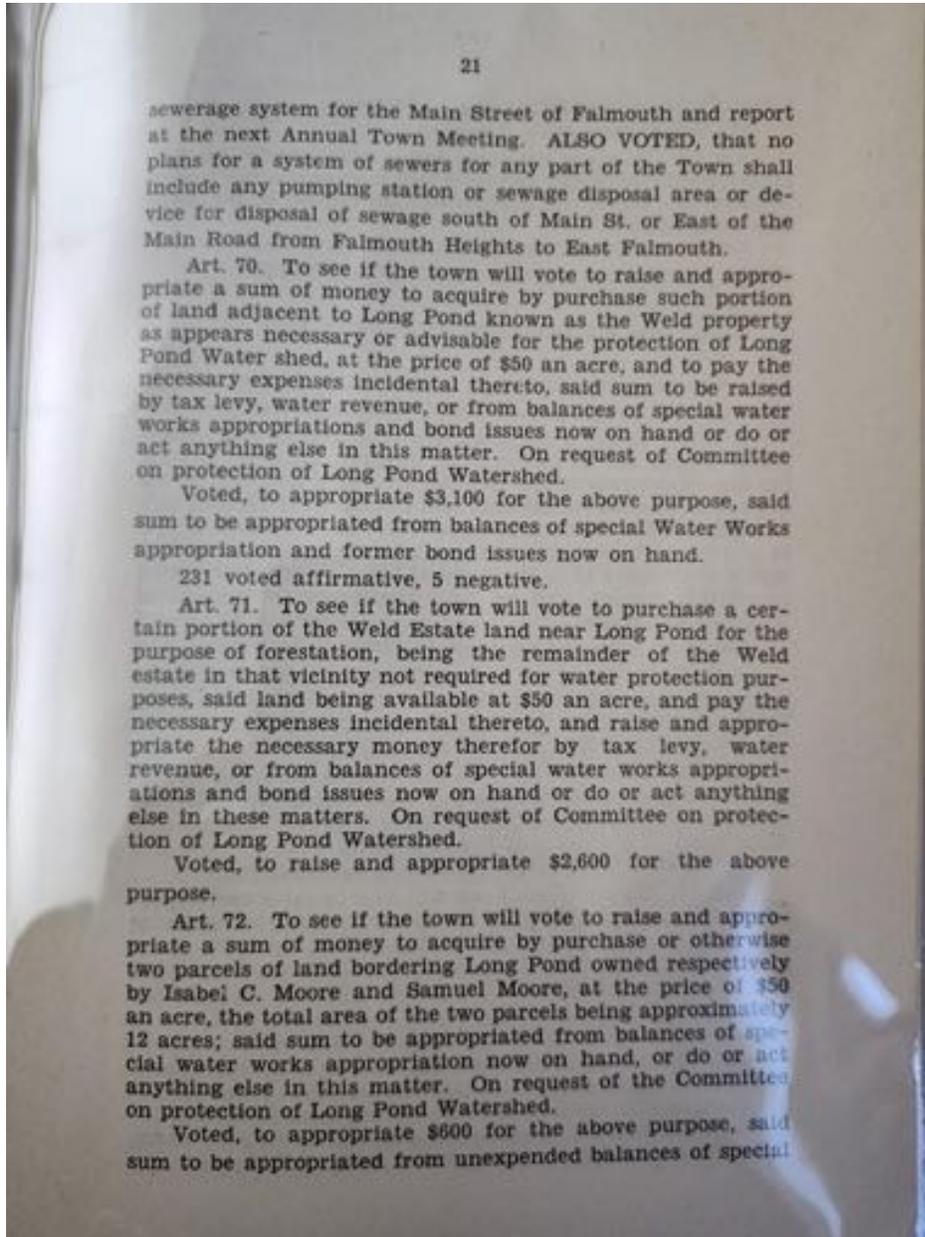
Plan 50D May 14, 1959, shows the land is also identified as Town of Falmouth Cert No 2668. As Rt. 28A was modified for the offramp of newly constructed Rt. 28.



Specifics of the Weld Land Purchase

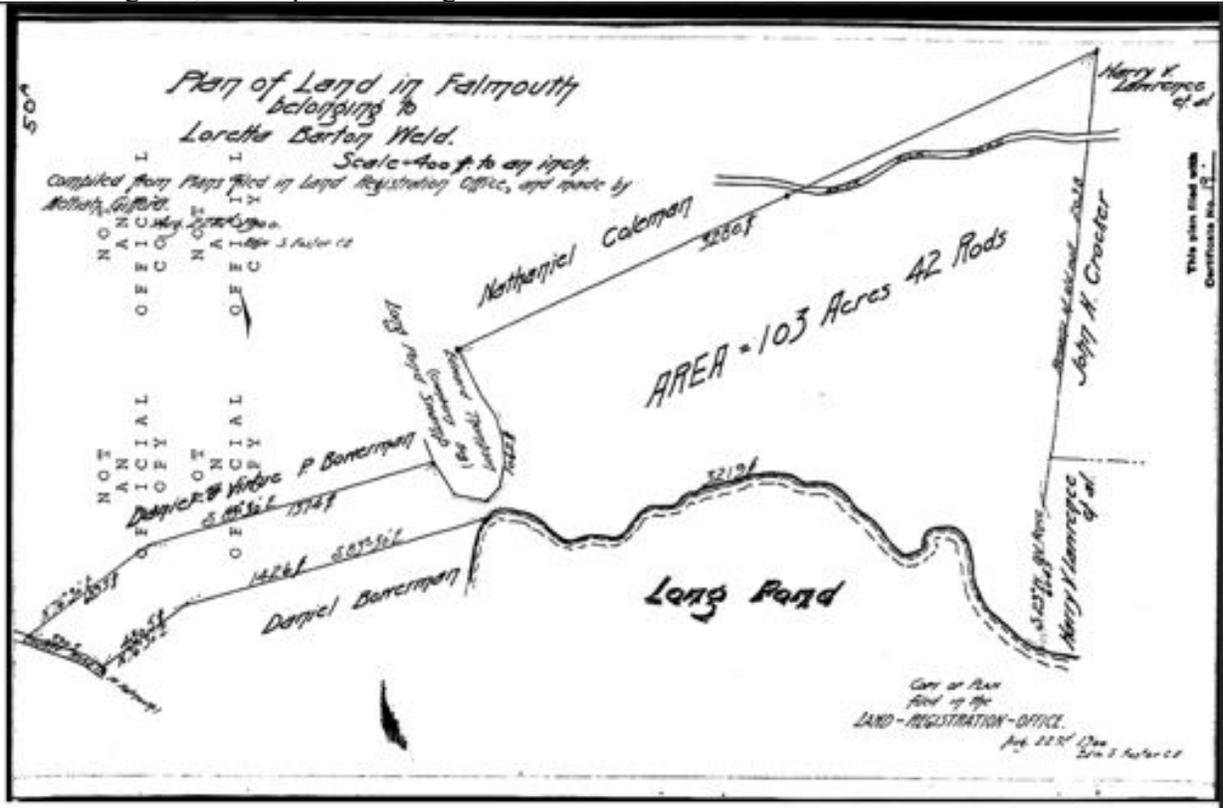
Town Meeting Warrant Articles 70 & 71 in Feb. 1931 include the request for funds to purchase the land of the Weld Estate, which was approved 231 affirmative to 5 negative; (70) \$3,100 for the purchase of adjacent land for watershed protection and (71) \$2,600 nearby land for forestation.

Note also Art. 72: \$600 for the purchase of land from Isabel C. and Samuel Moore for two parcels bordering the pond, demonstrating the ongoing plans to buy watershed land.



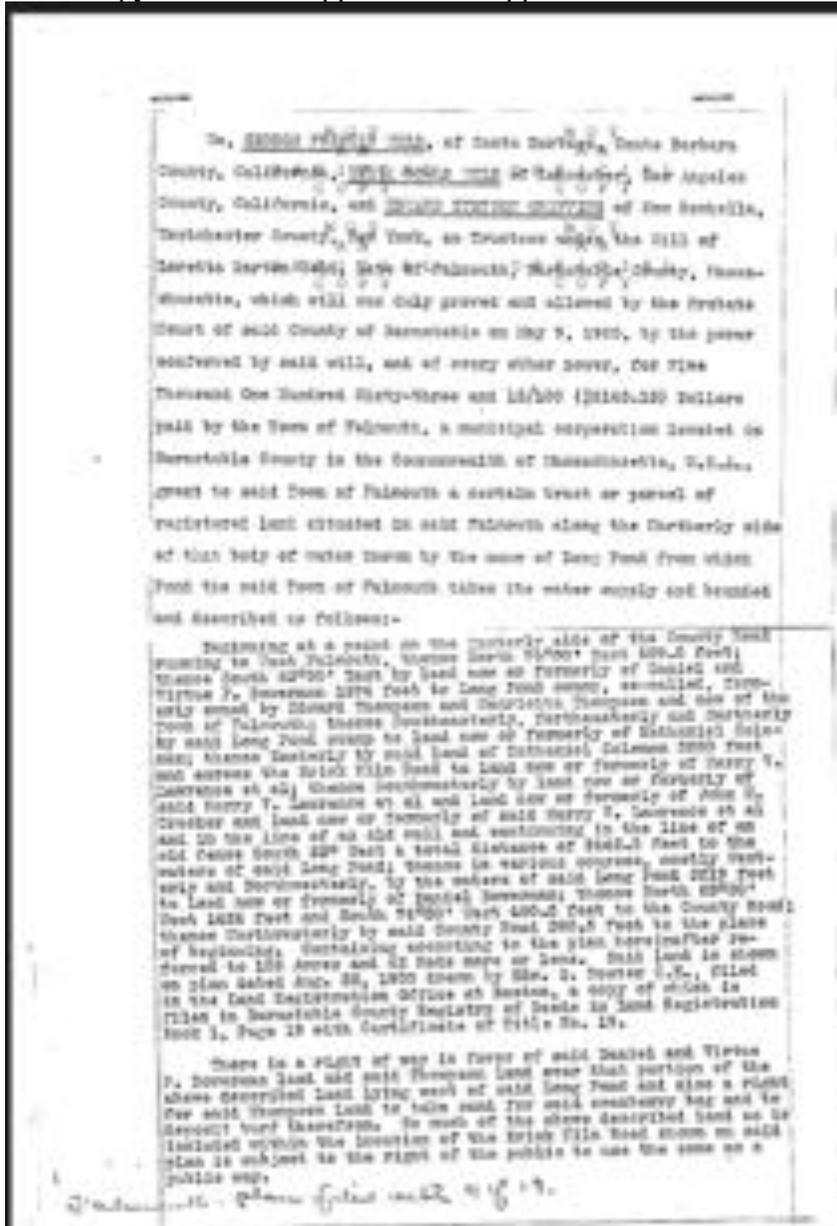
The Weld land is illustrated in the 1900 Survey plan of the land of Loretta Barton Weld (L.C. Plan 50A)

Note that on the West, the land runs to the County Road (now Rt. 28A) and is bracketed north with the land of Daniel & Virtue Bowerman and Daniel Bowerman to the south. A portion of the Daniel and Virtue Bowerman land was subdivided and a portion purchased by the town and a portion kept by her and her son, Arnold Gifford, who built Virtue Circle and sold the surrounding lots, also a potential degradation of the water source.



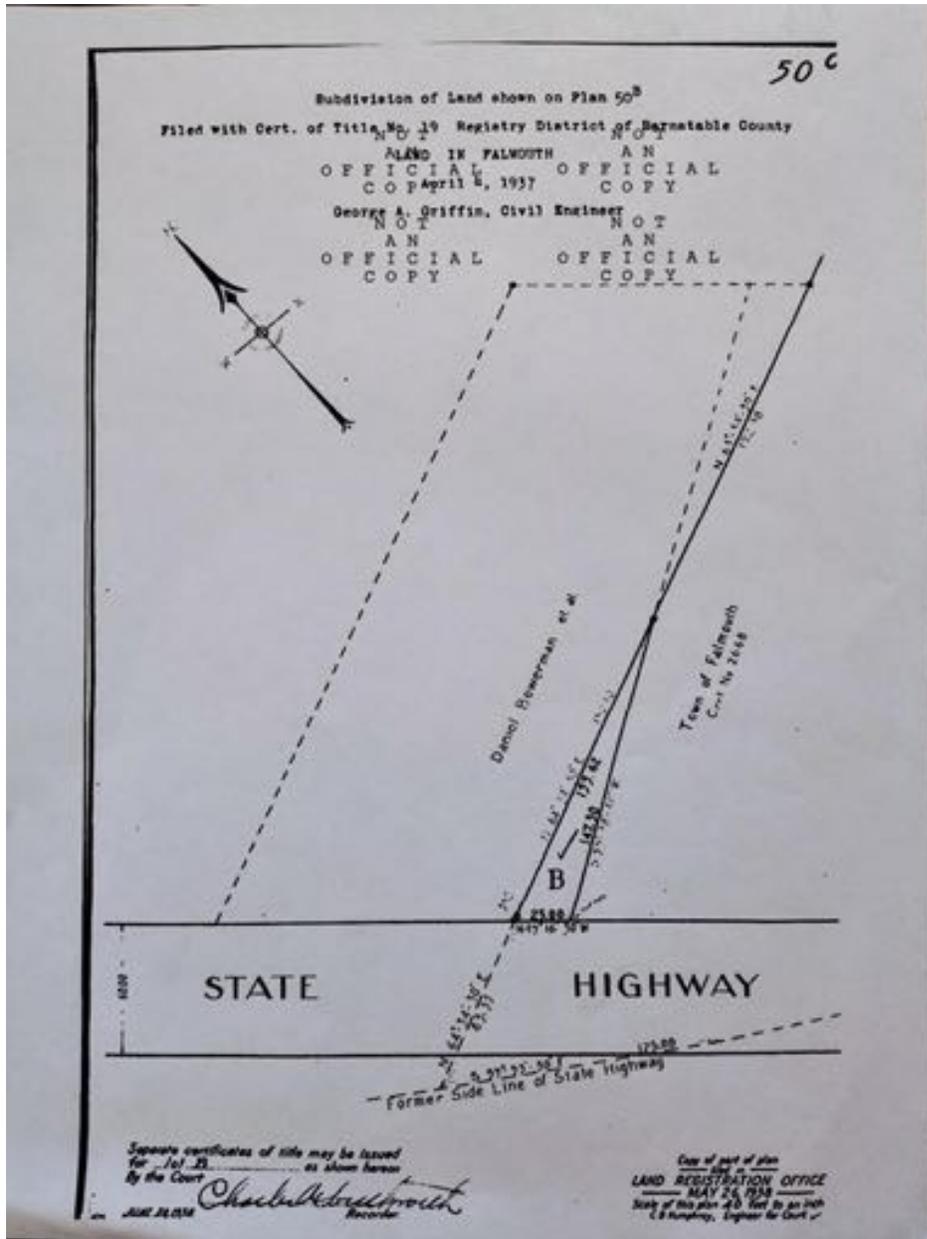
The deed registered Jul 30, 1931, demonstrates the land was sold by Loretta Barton Weld's family to the Town of Falmouth for a total of \$5,163.13. The deed clearly defines the easterly side of the lot as being bound by the County Road and the Bowerman lands. It also defines easements for travel and taking sand for a cranberry bog on the land, congruent with present day conservation restrictions. The cranberry bog was ultimately purchased by the town and closed (Long Pond Swamp)

A full copy of the deed appears in the appendices.

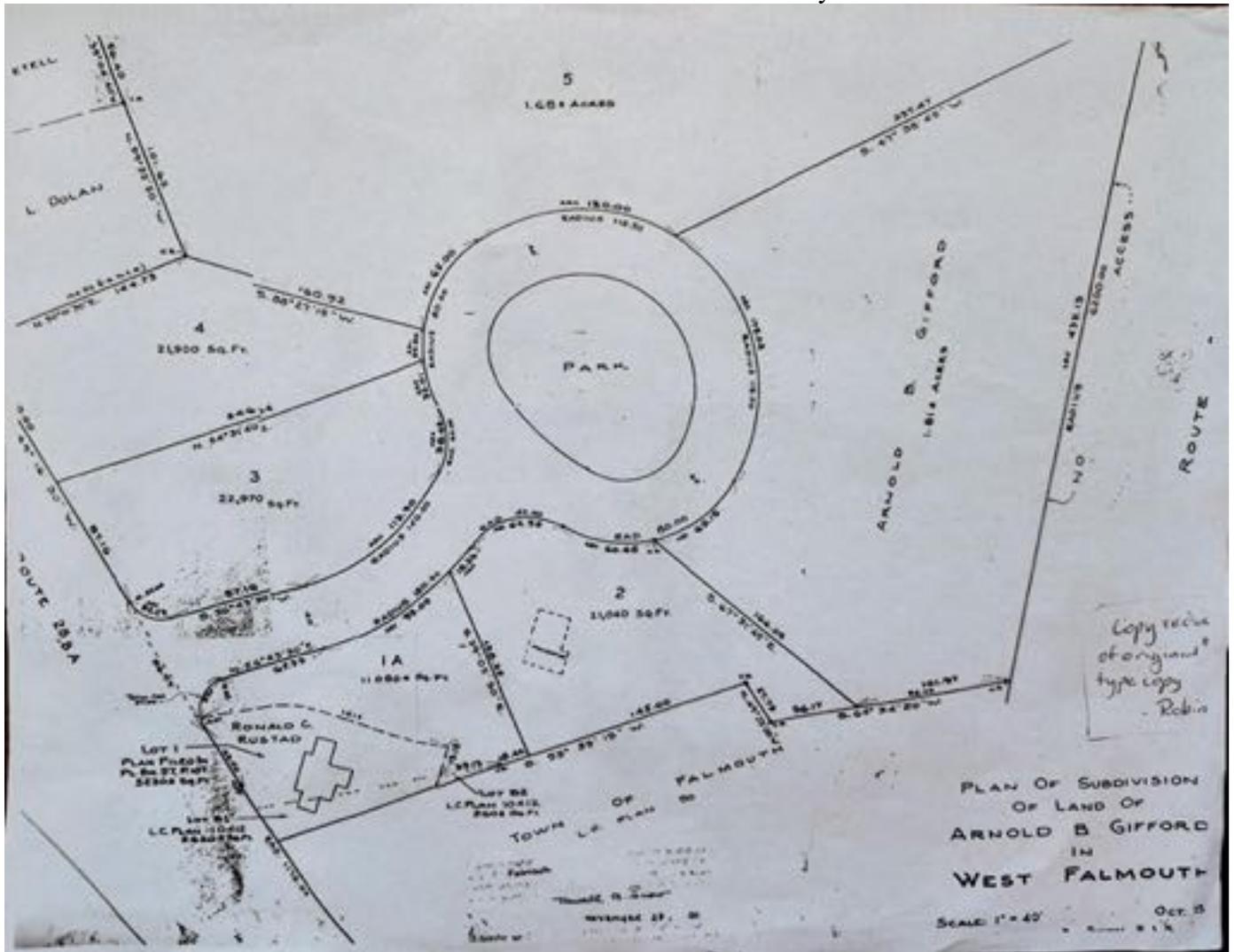


There are a series of land plans appearing under L.C. Plan 50 in the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds which show this land consistently as belonging to the Town of Falmouth. In addition, there are two plans from 1966 and 1971, related to the purchase of land in the Virtue Circle subdivision, which also reference and corroborate this as Town of Falmouth Land (L.C. Plan 50)

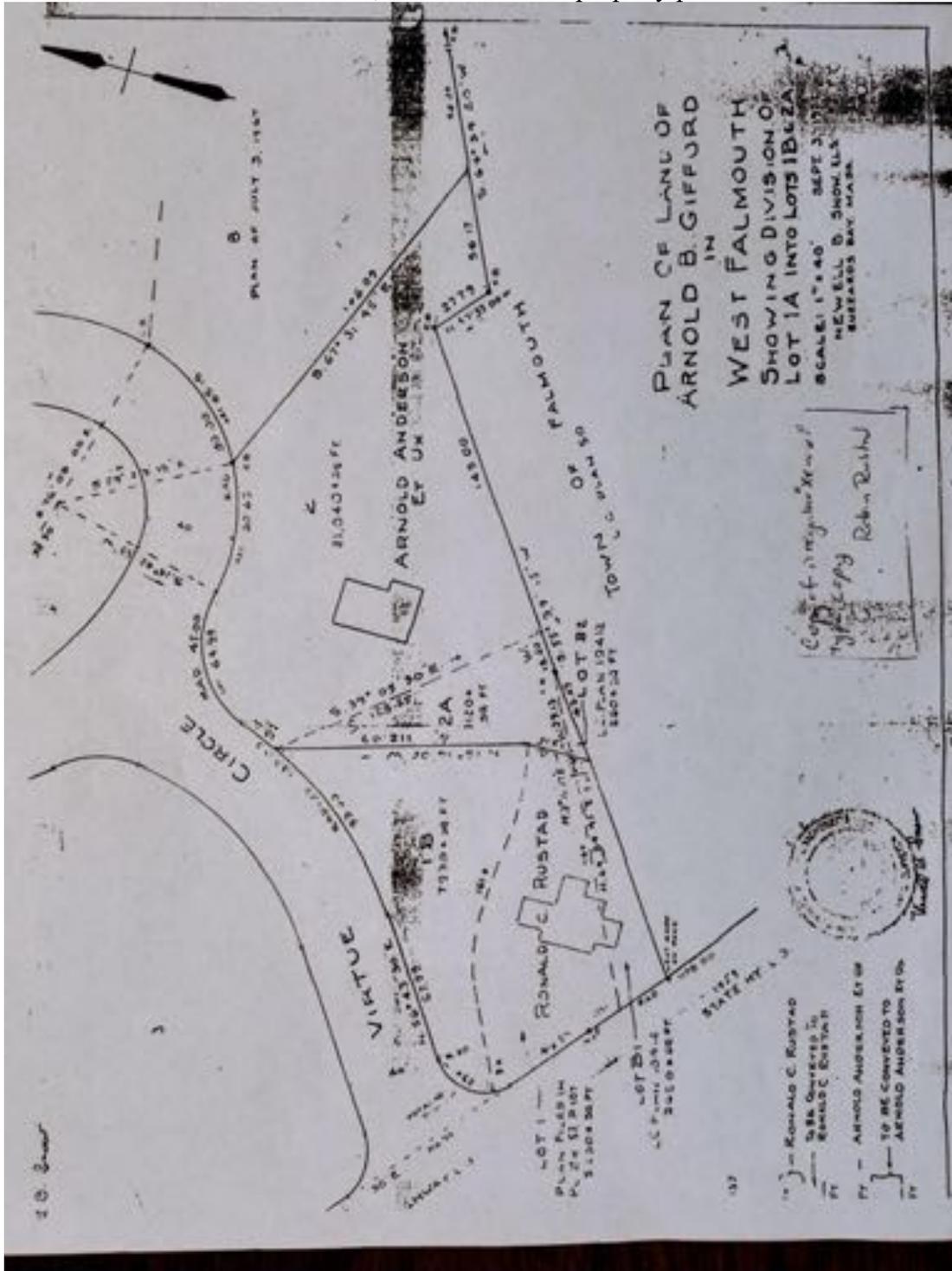
50C – 1937 – Showing adjustments at boundary of L.C. Plan 50 (0 West Falmouth Hwy)



1966 Plan of Subdivision of Land of Arnold B. Gifford in West Falmouth – Again referencing L.C. Plan 50 Town of Falmouth at 0 W. Fal. Hwy.



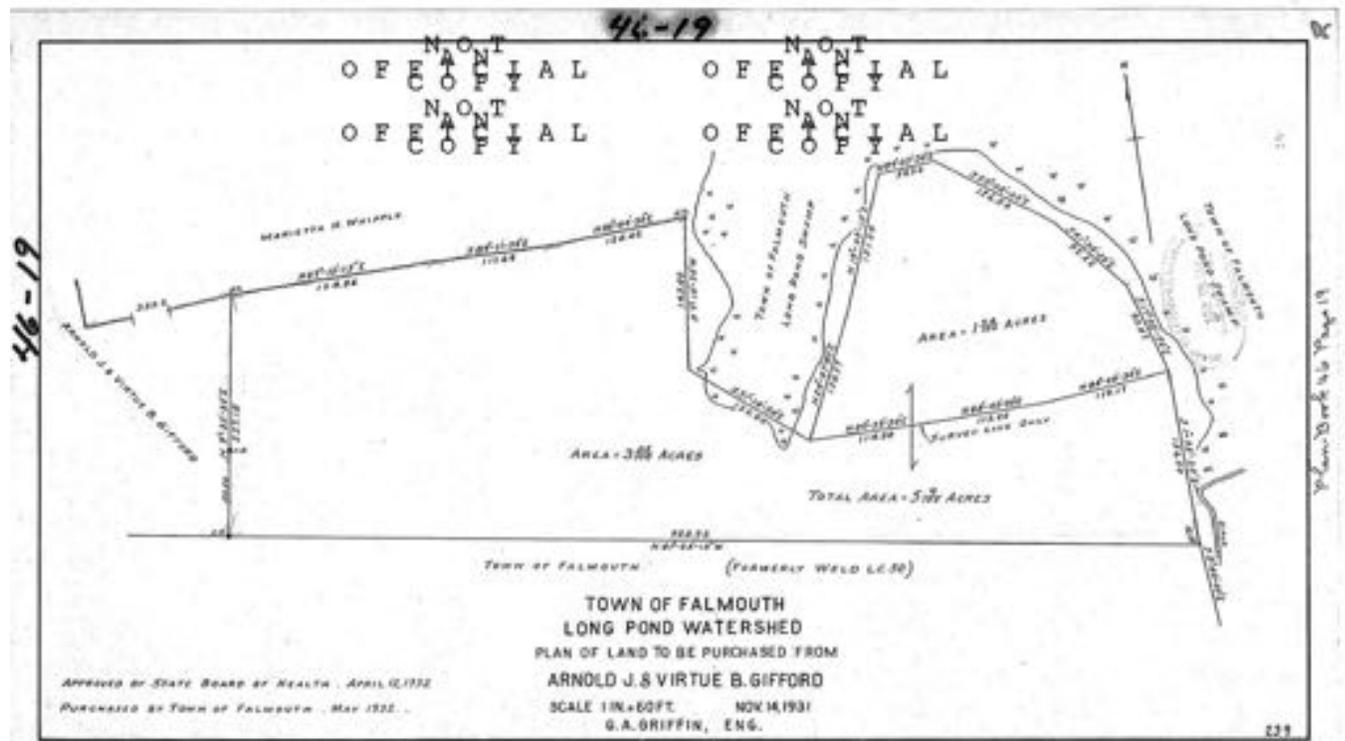
1971 Plan of Subdivision of Land of Arnold B. Gifford in West Falmouth – Again referencing Town of Falmouth L.C. 50, the former Weld property purchased in 1931.



The Arnold and Virtue (nee Bowerman) Gifford Nov 14, 1931 Plan of Land to be Purchased by Town of Falmouth, Long Pond Watershed. Note that this land is not immediately adjacent to the Pond, demonstrating that the Town was buying areas around the Pond region for protection and forestation. This was not just land along the shoreline.

Note that the Giffords did not sell the western section of their land, which was to be developed as Virtue Circle, but did sell the eastern section to the town. This plan clearly shows the land to the south as "Town of Falmouth (Formerly Weld Land)"

It also shows the "Swamp" to the north is now Town land as well (Formerly Thompson land cranberry bog, the purchase of which had been approved in an earlier Town Meeting)



Appendices:

Appendix A

1930 Town officers: Committee for Long Pond Watershed in lower right

Town Officers for 1930.		
Moderator		
GEORGE E. DEAN	Term Expires 1931	
Selectmen, Board of Health, Dept. of Public Welfare		
ARTHUR UNDERWOOD	Term Expires 1931	
EUGENE F. HATCH	- " - 1932	
FREDERICK T. LAWRENCE	- " - 1933	
Town Accountant		
RAWSON C. JENKINS		
Treasurer		
WILLIAM H. HEWINS	Term Expires 1931	
Collector of Taxes		
GEORGE W. HASTAY	Term Expires 1931	
Assessors		
ARTHUR UNDERWOOD	Term Expires 1931	
EUGENE F. HATCH	- " - 1932	
FREDERICK T. LAWRENCE	- " - 1933	
Finance Committee		
R. W. COLE	Term Expires 1931	
E. W. LAWRENCE	- " - 1932	
E. C. BAKER	- " - 1931	
H. L. BAKER	- " - 1931	
T. M. DAVIS	- " - 1931	
H. B. WHITE	- " - 1932	
MADRUCE R. JONES	- " - 1932	
C. M. WILLIAMS	- " - 1932	
F. M. McWADONT	- " - 1932	
JOSEPH DANIELLO	- " - 1932	
GEORGE N. HOLDEN	- " - 1933	
SAMUEL C. CALFOON	- " - 1933	
F. K. LEATHERSSEE	- " - 1933	
J. EDWARD NICKERSON	- " - 1933	
CHARLES R. STOWERS	- " - 1933	
Town Clerk		
WILLIAM H. HEWINS	Term Expires 1931	
Supervisor of Health		
T. LAWRENCE SWIFT		
Highway Surveyor		
RATHAN S. ELLIS, SR.	Term Expires 1931	29.
Harbor Master		
JOHN J. VEEDER		
School Committee		
THOMAS DOUTREARY	Term Expires 1931	30.
FRANCIS RICKERSON	- " - 1931	31.
JAMES SCOLL, Chairman	- " - 1932	32.
LEROY S. DAVIS	- " - 1932	33.
VIRGIE B. GIFFORD	- " - 1933	34.
ARA L. PAYTEE	- " - 1933	35.
Dept. of Schools		
PAUL DILLINGOLAM		
Library Trustees		
MELFORD R. LAWRENCE	Term Expires 1931	
BENNY H. SMYTHE (Deceased)	- " - 1932	
WARREN F. DAVIS	- " - 1933	
Park Commissioners		
JOHN H. SEAD	Term Expires 1931	
MATHIAS S. ELLIS, JR., Secretary	- " - 1932	
ELLIS M. LEWIS	- " - 1933	
Water Commissioners		
EUGENE E. C. SWIFT, Chairman	Term Expires 1931	
CHARLES E. L. GIFFORD, Secretary	- " - 1932	
CHARLES W. HADLEY	- " - 1933	
Agree for Town Counties		
EDWIN F. ROBINSON		
Ambulance Committee		
DR. A. L. FATTEE	DR. T. A. WISWALL	
JOHN J. BARRY	IRVING METZNER	
RAY D. WELLS		
Avision Committee		
JOSEPH S. MISKELL	F. K. LEATHERSSEE	
WILLIAM G. CALDWELL	H. V. LAWRENCE	
MILTON C. FISH		
Committee on Long Pond Watershed		
TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE (H. V. Lawrence, J. Nicol, W. Wheeler)		
E. E. C. SWIFT	C. E. L. GIFFORD,	CHARLES HADLEY

Appendix B

Enterprise Feb 16, 1932 - Spring Warrant articles for more Long Pond Parcel purchases

SUPPLEMENT TO THE ENTERPRISE, FALMOUTH, MASS.

WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING AND ELECTION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1932, at 9:00 O'CLOCK A. M.
For Discussing Articles of the Warrant
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1932, at 9:00 O'CLOCK A. M.
For the Election of Officers

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BARNSTABLE, SS. To either of the Constables of the Town of Falmouth.

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are directed to notify and summons the inhabitants of the Town of Falmouth qualified to vote in elections to meet at the Elizabeth Theatre on Tuesday, the 16th day of February, next, at 9 o'clock A. M. for the purpose of acting on the articles contained in the following warrant.

Also

To meet at the several Polling Places on February 18th at 9 o'clock A. M. (the polls being open at this time and shall be closed at 7:30 o'clock P. M.) to bring in their votes all on one ballot under the Australian ballot system, as adopted by the Town, viz:—

Article 1st.

- One Moderator for one year.
- One Town Clerk for one year.
- One Town Treasurer for one year.
- One Selectman for three years.
- One Assessor for three years.
- Two members of the School Committee for three years.
- One Trustee for Public Library for three years.
- One Park Commissioner for three years.
- One Water Commissioner for three years.
- One Highway Surveyor for one year.
- One Tree Warden for one year.
- One Collector of Taxes for one year.
- Four members of the Planning Board for three years.
- Two Constables for one year.

And any other officer that may be on the official ballot.

Art. 2. To choose all other necessary town officers for the year ensuing.

Art. 3. To see if the town will elect a Town Director for the Cape Cod Extension Service as provided in Chapter 128 of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

Art. 4. To hear the reports of committees and act thereon.

Art. 5. To see if the town will vote to authorize its Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money in anticipation of the revenue of the current financial year.

Art. 6. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to contract with the Cape and Vineyard Electric Company to light the streets for the coming year or take any

Art. 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of laying a two-inch water main over a private way in West Falmouth to supply houses belonging to Albert S. Bowerman and Paul L. Cumings at an estimated cost not to exceed One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars, the income to be received from existing houses being in excess of 9% or do or act anything else in this matter. On petition of Arnold J. Gifford.

Art. 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of extending the 8 inch water main on Oyster Pond Road for a distance of approximately 500 feet at an estimated cost of \$1,000, said sum of money to be raised by water revenue, or to be appropriated from unexpended balances of special appropriations or water surplus. - On petition of A. C. Swain Jr.

Art. 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of installing a 6 inch water main and hydrant in the private way known as Haddon Ave., for a distance of about 250 feet at an estimated cost of \$550. On petition of Joseph L. Nickerson.

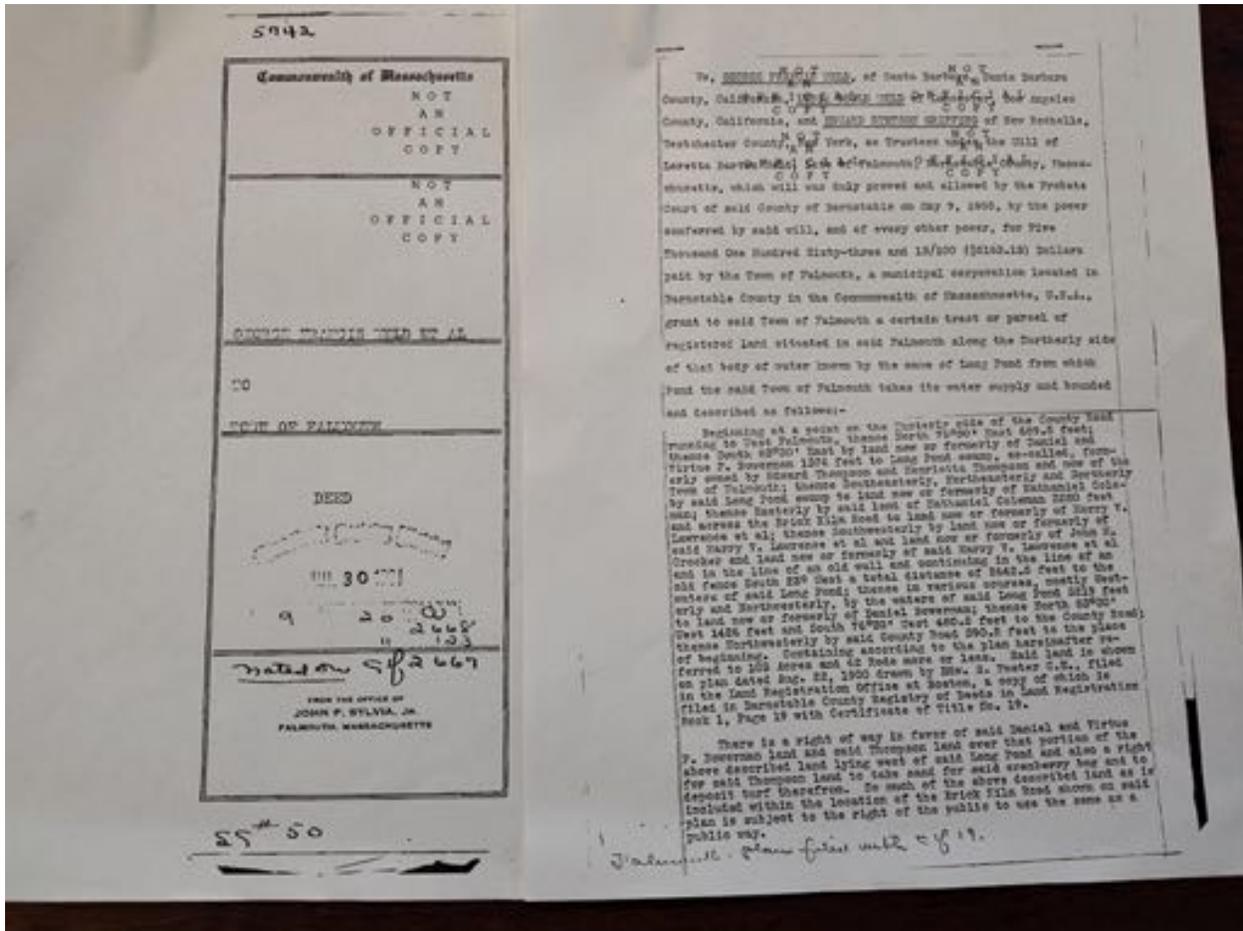
Art. 22. To see if the town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to acquire by purchase or otherwise, three parcels of land bordering Long Pond, owned by the Forbes Real Estate Trust, for the protection of the water supply, at a price of \$50 an acre, and to pay all necessary legal and surveying expenses incidental thereto, the estimated cost being \$6350; said sum to be appropriated from balances of special water works appropriations and water revenue now on hand or do or act anything else in this matter. On request of the Committee on Protection of Long Pond Watershed.

Art. 23. To see if the town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to acquire by purchase or otherwise, a parcel of land within the watershed of Long Pond, owned by Virtue B. Gifford, for the protection of the water supply, at the price of \$50 an acre and to pay all necessary legal and surveying expenses incidental thereto, the estimated cost being \$350; said sum to be appropriated from balances of special water works appropriations and water revenue now on hand or do or act anything else in this matter. On request of the Committee on Protection of Long Pond Watershed.

Art. 24. To see if the town will vote to appropriate a sum of money to acquire by purchase or otherwise, a parcel of land bordering Long Pond, owned by Est. of Thos. H. Lawrence, Et. Al., for the protection of the water supply, at a price of \$50 an acre, and to pay all necessary legal and surveying expenses incidental thereto, the estimated cost being \$2300; said sum to be appropriated from balances of special water works appropriations and water revenue now on hand or do or act anything else in this matter. On request of the Committee on Protection of Long Pond Watershed.

Art. 25. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars to lay out driveways, grade and plant grounds around the new Teaticket School building.

Appendix C
 1931 Deed for Weld land sold to Town of Falmouth pp 1-2



Appendix E

Falmouth Editorial against Good Will Park High School site stressing safety of the Water supply.

Page Four-A

The Editorial Page . .

First Consideration Is Our Drinking Water

All of us who want to see walls of the new high school rising speedily must regret the obstacle which the building committee has now placed in the path of progress. It is an obstacle which we can fear will not easily be pushed aside.

The committee has felt compelled to recommend a site which is only 450 feet from the town's water reservoir. It is a desirable location from point of view of the school planners. It is unfortunately on a ridge which falls away on one side toward Long Pond and on its part of the watershed.

The school planners have attempted to meet this objection by proposing to put cesspools of the new school on the side of the divide which drains away from the pond. They have agreed to put play areas and parking space on the slope away from the pond. Even so, they recognise their choice of site requires approval of state Public Health Department and Falmouth water commissioners.

The school planners hope these approvals will be promptly forthcoming. They have no desire to endanger the town's drinking water. There is no challenging the sincerity of Chairman Hunsaker when he says that if the favored site is judged to menace the water supply, his committee will abandon it and look for another in the 71 acres of Goodwill park.

Difficulty is that there may not be a simple answer to the question which Mr. Hunsaker's committee raises when it submits the recommended site to the water authorities. There may be several answers and they may differ.

The Public Health Department may say that school cesspools at least 450 feet from the pond and on the slope which drains away from the reservoir do not threaten pollution of our drinking water. This will be satisfying answer if the people want to take it so.

Rules which the Department of Public Health promulgated in 1904 for protection of Long Pond, its tributaries and its watershed, say no privy or cesspool may be maintained within 50 feet and none within 100 feet of the pond's high water mark unless escape of its contents is made impossible. These regulations are still in effect, but the town has bought acres and acres of the watershed to keep privies and people further than 50 or 100 feet from the source of town water.

The Public Health Department has twice said Falmouth can safely discharge village sewage in the waters of Nantucket sound. The townspeople have made it plain they won't tolerate even the suspicion that water in which they bathe in summer is polluted. The townspeople may now think it is equally important to keep their drinking water above even suspicion.

So we may feel that the question now raised by the building committee is not simply to be answered by an opinion from the sanitary engineers. Beside the question of public safety is the question of public policy. Involved in the question of public policy is the question of public psychology. There is still another question.

A high school with 600 pupils will be a magnet to draw people to the neighborhood of the water reservoir. The school planners have their eye on a nearby natural amphitheatre which they say can be developed as a place of entertainment for large throngs. They say it may be desirable some day to build other schools nearby. So the magnet will become stronger. Perhaps there will be no excuse for trespass upon the pond. Opportunity and invitation to such trespass will be multiplied.

So the broad question rises whether it is wise to destroy the present isolation of our water supply. Where will the invasion of the pond's protected shores end if we start by building a high school only 450 feet from the pond's banks?

Satisfactory answers to such questions must be found, even though their consideration delays progress of school planning. We need the school. Even more we need to maintain our inviolate water supply.

Recommendations to Town Meeting from Committee on Protection of Long Pond Watershed
requesting more land purchases

Report of Committee on Protection of Long Pond Watershed.

To the Board of Selectmen:

We beg to submit the following report of the work of this committee during the year 1921.

In accordance with the vote of the town at the last annual town meeting, the large tract of land at the north end of Long Pond running from the State Road easterly to and across the Brick Kiln Road was purchased from the Estate of Loretta H. Weld. This comprises in all 183.25 acres which will be planted with evergreens as a further protection to the watershed. Two parcels of land on the west side of the pond were also purchased from Samuel and Isabel Moore, these two parcels comprising 16 acres. All the foregoing land was purchased at a price of \$50 an acre. As a result of these additions there is now a total of 72.8 acres of land in the watershed of Long Pond which has been purchased for the protection of the water supply. In addition there are approximately 74 acres controlled by the Trustees of Public Reservations and 45 acres under the control of the Town Forest Committee.

Early in the summer negotiations were begun with certain owners on the easterly side of the pond with a view to purchasing their land. After careful examination of the territory and conferences with various authorities having experience in such matters, we were of the unanimous opinion that it was desirable to purchase land right up to Coffey Street and Brick Kiln Road wherever possible. We have received assurances from owners of the following parcels that they are willing to sell their holdings for \$20 an acre, and articles will be inserted in the warrant for the next town meeting providing for acquiring them: Forbes Estate 100

acres; Est. Thomas H. Lawrence, et. al., 40 acres; Virtue B. Gifford, 4 acres.

Your committee is of the unanimous opinion that it is very desirable and necessary to acquire these parcels of land and to continue the work of acquiring sufficient land around the pond to adequately protect it from the possibility of any future subsidence. We are advised that this policy is thoroughly approved by the State Board of Public Health who, by law, must give its approval to all acquisition of land for the protection of public water supply.

The survey work has been continued throughout the year by our Engineer, G. A. Griffin, and the topography showing the watershed divide has been completed around the pond. All contours have been surveyed over an area of 303 acres, and 10.2 miles of stadia traverse have been run for this purpose. This has all been plotted on the scale of 1 inch to 100 feet with a contour interval of 5 feet and will be reduced to a scale of 1 inch to 200 feet and show all topography, such roads as were crossed during the work, and property lines. Property surveys have been made with transit and tape of a total length of 13,886 feet on all the areas so far taken and work is now in progress on the prospective purchases. This work requires greater accuracy than the topographical work and the cost of this should be properly included in the purchase of the land. Although the funds for the Long Pond survey are practically exhausted, it is recommended that provision be made for these property line surveys by including their cost in the amount appropriated for purchase.

EUGENE E. C. SWIFT,

C. W. RADLEY,

JAMES NICOL,

CHARLES E. L. GIFFORD,

HARRY V. LAWRENCE,

WILFRID WHEELER,

Committee on Protection of Long Pond Watershed.

Report from Town Forest Committee Referencing Intent for Forestation, Water Protection, and Recreation. Notes high unemployment from Great Depression

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Report of the Town Forest Committee.

That Forestry is becoming of increasing importance in the present unemployment situation is evidenced by the fact that the Government, the states, cities and towns have recognized it as a means of profitably employing large numbers of unemployed persons. The state of New York has voted to use the large sum of \$1,000,000 for forestry purposes in the next few years; many of our towns have added to their forest areas and other towns not already owning such lands have started this important work.

We in Falmouth are indeed fortunate in having so centrally located what will become in the future a splendid tract of forest land, surrounding our water supply, and which with certain restrictions may be used as a recreational park by the people of the town.

During the past year your committee has completed the planting of the land in Good Will Park and the town land to the North West of Long Pond, we may now turn our attention to the large area of over 200 acres, to the East of the pond, and which has been recently acquired by the town from the Wild State. A part of this land which is directly on the water shed of Long Pond, your committee with the appropriation made at the Special town meeting has been cleaned up so that planting may be started in the spring. We are leaving some of the best trees on this area such as hickory, maple, flowering dogwood, etc., and these will be supplemented with plantings of evergreens on the water shed. Considerable cord wood cut from the dead trees on the land has been distributed by the Welfare Department to needy persons.

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Roads leading into the area have been cleaned out and a fire break is being cut along the north side.

A forest Survey of the whole area about Long Pond has been started with the co-operation of the Department of Conservation and it is hoped that this Survey will greatly help your committee in all of its future work.

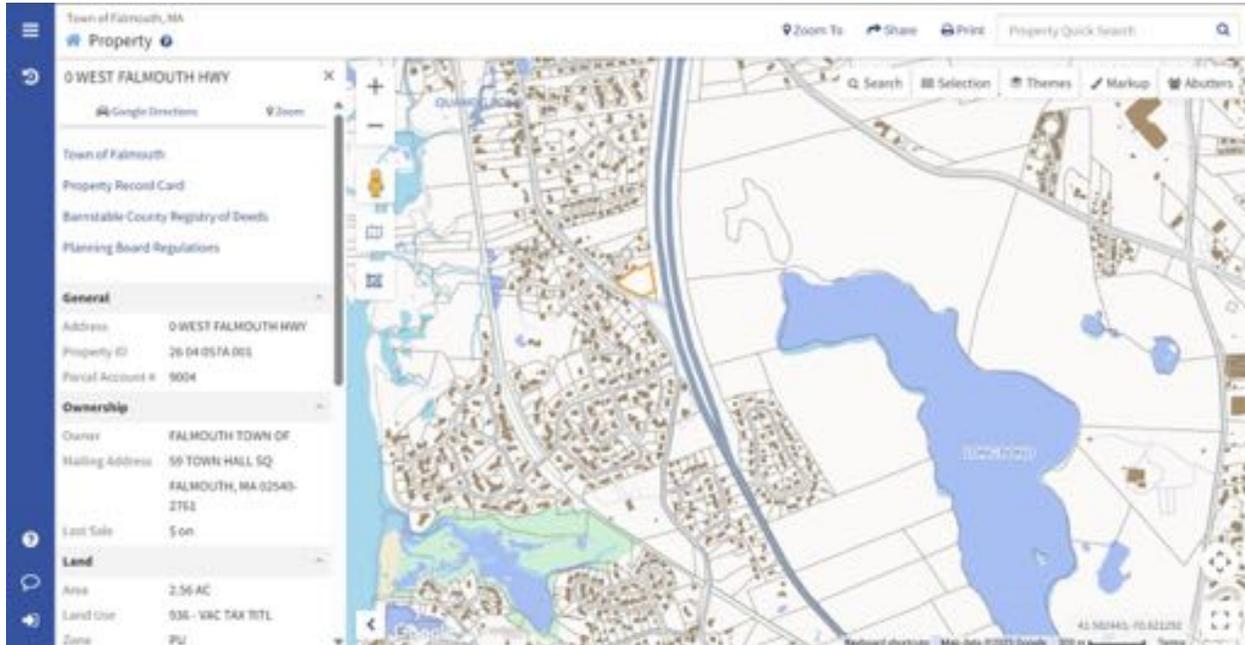
Over 20,000 young trees were planted in 1931 and owing to the very favorable season there were very few losses and the growth among the earlier planted trees has been satisfactory.

Your committee would recommend an appropriation of \$1000.00 for 1932.

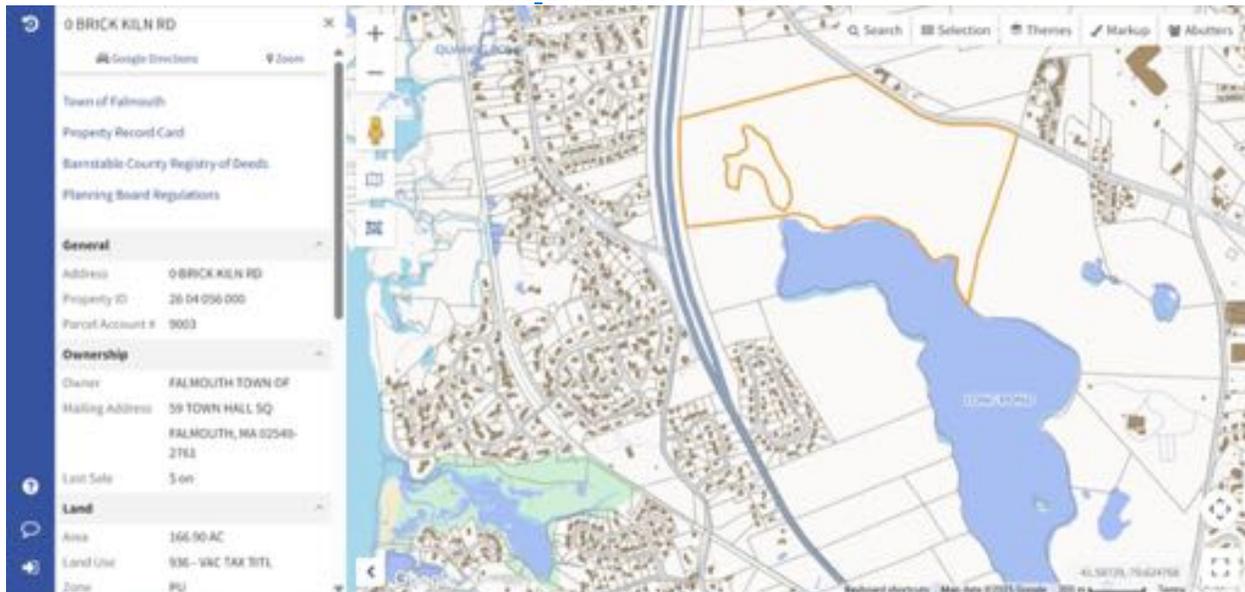
Respectfully submitted,
JAMES NICOL,
WILFRID WHEELER,
HARRY V. LAWRENCE,
Town Forest Committee.

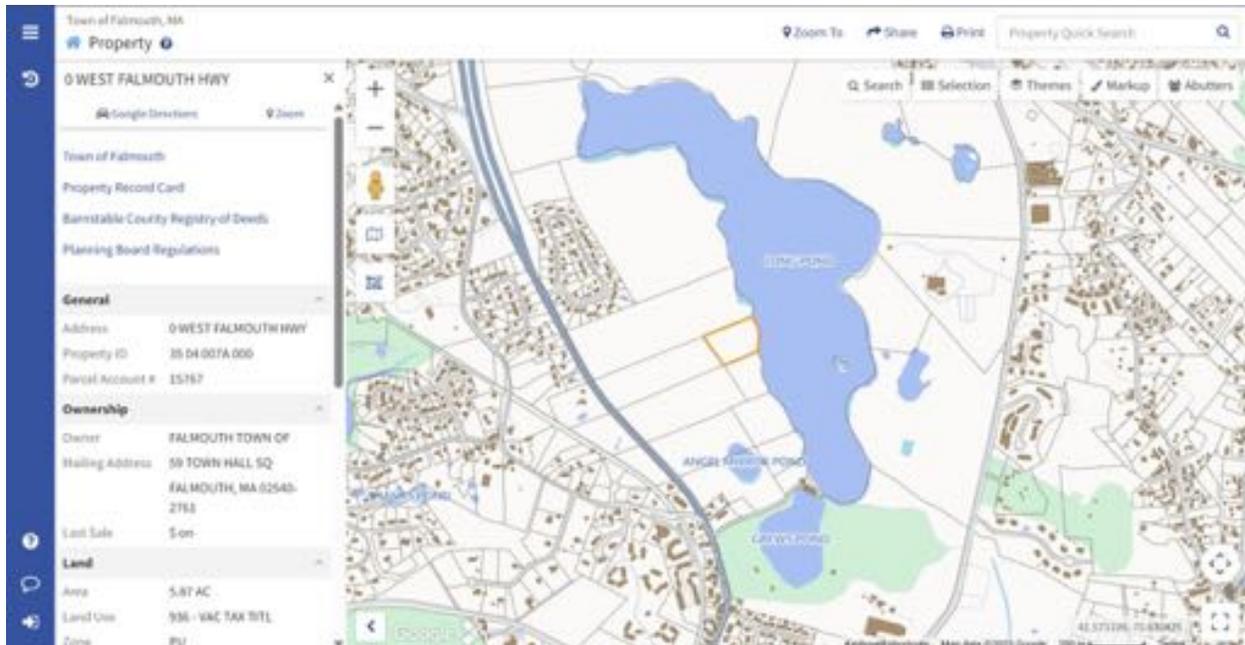
Appendix F Issues in Current Town GIS and Land not Formally Conserved

Other properties incorrectly labeled as “Tax-Title” from these original preservation lands and town forest

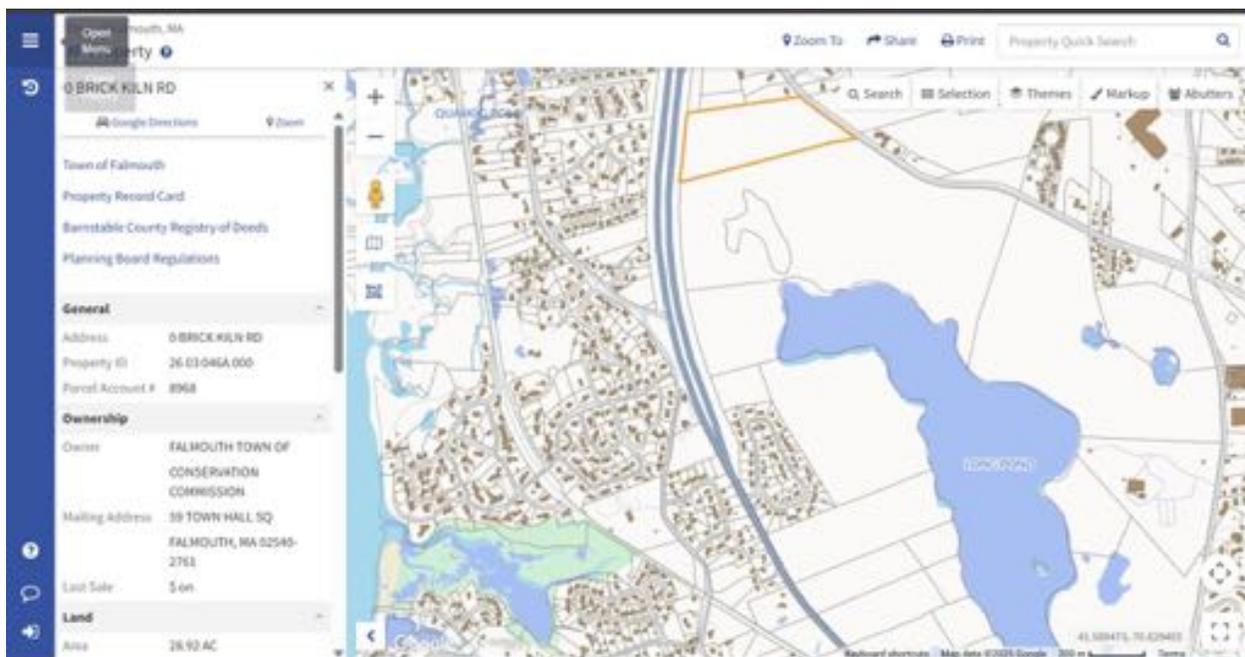


0 W Falmouth Highway and the remainder of the Weld Land, now combined with other lots, are also listed as Tax Title

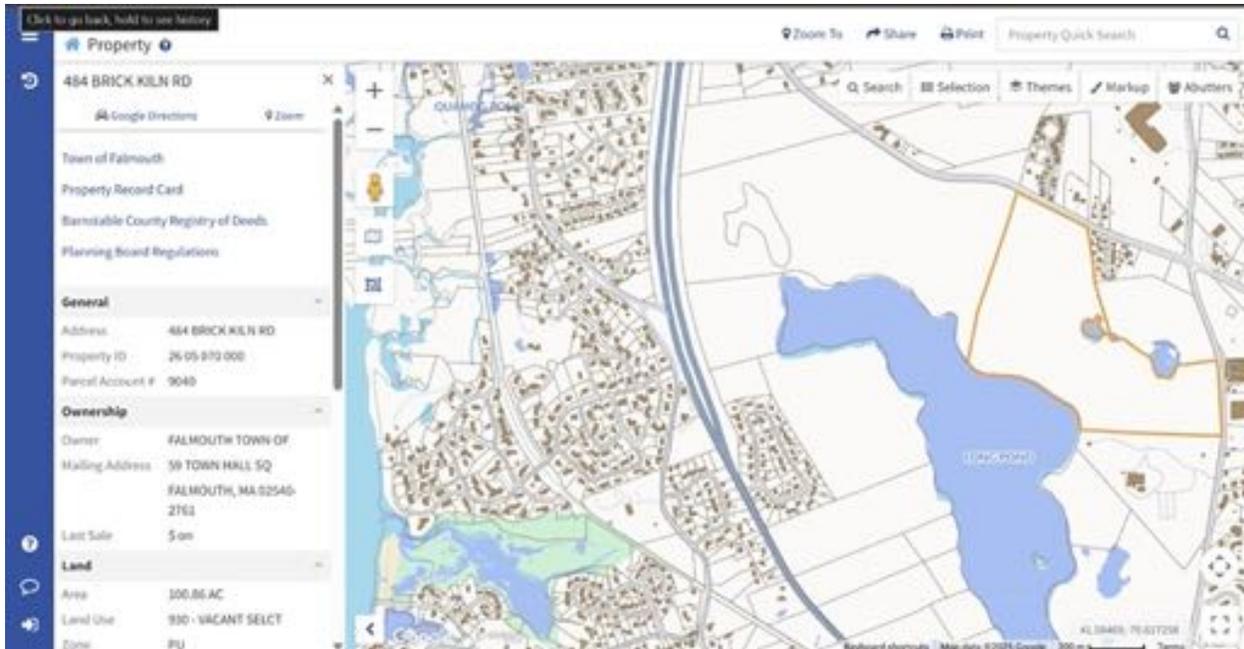




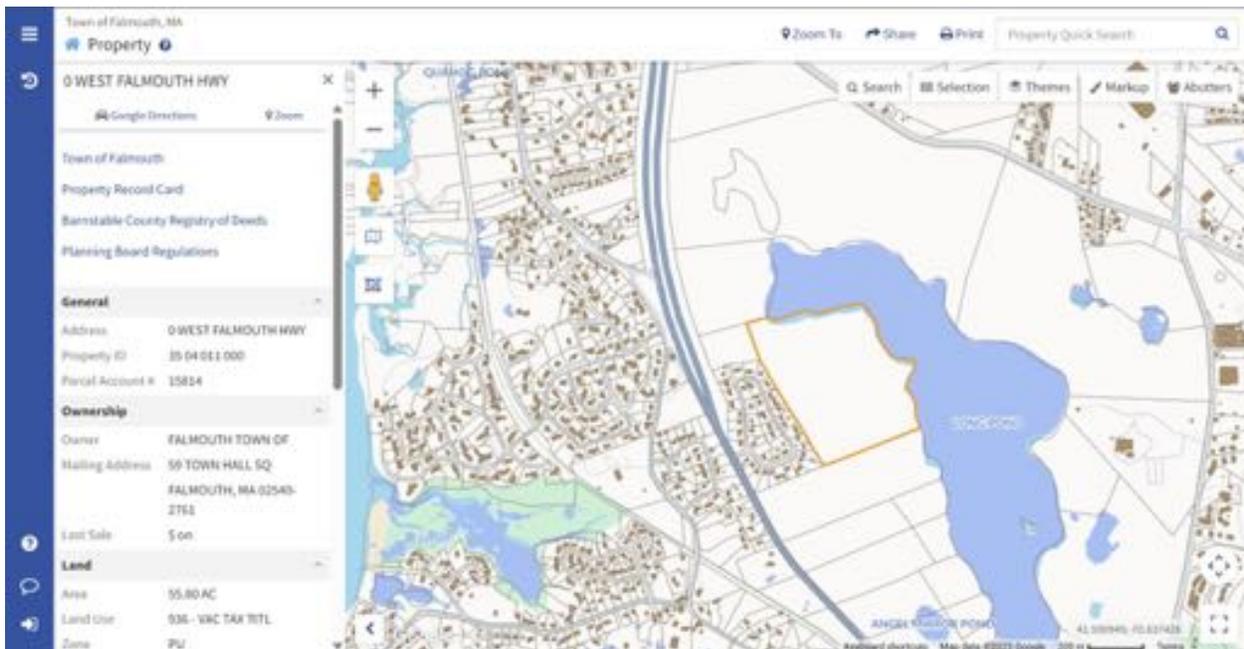
Other portions of town purchased land listed as tax title



Portions further from Long Pond than 0 W Falmouth also owned by the Conservation Commission

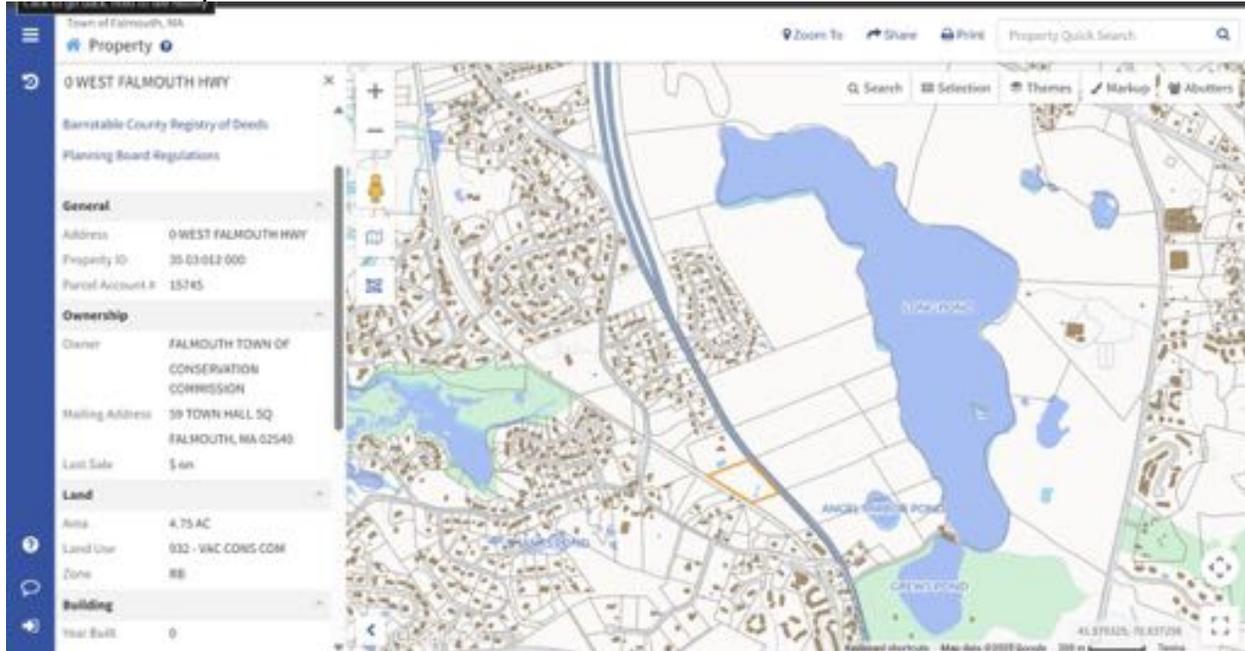


Other land around Long Pond purchased for water protection that is still in the control of the Selectboard and considered for development. Not listed as Tax Title.



More land listed as tax title. This land was in fact taken by eminent domain For the Purpose of Watershed Protection.

Note: Braeside was land owned by an owner who refused to sell to the town despite multiple town efforts to purchase the land.



Other piece of land that was bought by the town and cut off by Rt. 28 but belongs to the Conservation Commission demonstrating clear precedent of Conservation Commission holding lands around Long Pond even outside direct area of surface drainage.