

The Inquirer and Mirror  
Letters to The Editor  
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Some weeks the news is good, some weeks it is the pits.

The I & M issue of 11/6 brought what one could call a bowl of pits

To learn that the selectmen and the hospital have more or less agreed on taking a piece of Mill Hill Park to build the new hospital is beyond belief; as bad ideas go, this one sure takes top honors.

Being a strong supporter of the Hospital I am all for building a new facility if that is what is needed; however taking part of the only open space in Town is not the right or needed thing to do.

Swapping land on Mill Hill Park for open land on Madaket ? this must be a joke

It seems Nantucket is going through a collective madness phase; some people want to destroy our beaches, others want to steal the boy scouts' property and now others come up with this folly.

Leaving the Hospital at the current location is an excellent idea, Now the next thing to do is to start thinking 'in and out of the box' to figure out how to go about the project.

Looking at the property plan, it is very clear a lot can be done to use it in a more efficient way.

First thing would be to multiply the square footage, how? Do what is done everywhere land is scarce, built up.

The parking lots and other open spaces should be covered, creating a second story with thousands of square feet of space, perhaps more than is needed.

The helipad should be relocated to the roof for a more efficient use of space.

Were we to get more ambitious and if the budget allows it, we could dig down and put all parking underground; if this were done there would be two full stories throughout the entire property. Overkill? Perhaps now, but we are building for the future and we can't predict what the needs will be fifty or a hundred years from now.

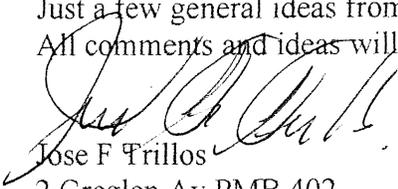
Once it is decided to follow this approach we should use the internet to tap the knowledge, expertise and creativity of schools, architects, developers etc. etc. from all over the world.

The above can be accomplished by sponsoring a contest with an award of fifty thousand dollars or more to the best idea for the project, this could prove to be the best investment. All this will not be easy or inexpensive. The financing will also take a lot of creative thinking

As far as the actual construction; a lot can be learned from the ongoing Stop & Shop project.

Just a few general ideas from someone who loves this beautiful sand mound.

All comments and ideas will be highly welcomed. We are all in this together



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