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Subject: Fernald reuse task force  
To: joevizard@verizon.net  
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As a lifetime Waltham citizen and a community activist I have been involved in the ongoing resolution of the Fernald property since it was decided by the State that Fernald and other similar facilities servicing the mentally retarded need to be closed and their residents transferred to other types of facilities. For some time now I have been accompanying the families of the residents to the State House as they were represented by their lawyer, Beryl Cohen and at times have also voiced my opinion regarding the situation.

Now that a closure date has been set by the Patrick administration of Spring of 2010 to transfer the residents irregardless whether the families of the residents can still be in close contact with them one has to consider the possible uses in the future of this over 200 acre of land in Waltham.

I tend to agree with others that a portion of the land should be used for a cemetery.

The City of Waltham will need additional space in the future.

On a recent bus tour of Fernald arranged by Mayor Jeanette McCarthy, it was startling to observe just how many buildings are on the site. The infrastructure of the site will need to totally analyzed for contamination. I assume that will be a State responsibility. I think that some affordable housing could be another use. Waltham has met their Chapter 40 limit with building of Indian Ridge on Lexington St. I also agree that Green walking paths would a beneficial use and would not affect traffic in the area of the site. Thank you for the opportunity to express an opinion on this most important parcel of land in the City of Waltham.