



**TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS, MA  
PLANNING BOARD**

P.O. Box 1327  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557  
Ph. 508-693-3554 X117 Fax 508-693-5375

December 16, 2020

Adam Turner  
Martha's Vineyard Commission  
P.O. Box 1447  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Dear Adam,

I had the chance to review the third LUPC meeting. It seems now is an important time to clarify the objective of and expectations around the PFAS testing. You know this has been a concern of mine for a while.

- Is your expectation that all of the products will need to be PFAS-free to be approved by the MVC?
- What standard are you using to determine whether the products are PFAS-free?
- Will you be following the Green Certified Standard for Textiles or Green Screen Standard for Furniture and Fabrics? Those standards state: *"PFAS-free is defined as zero intentionally added PFAS to the product and PFAS contamination in the product must be less than 0.0001 percent by weight of the product (1 part per million) total organic fluorine as measured by combustion ion chromatography."*

At the meeting Alex Elvin mentioned "trace amounts" versus "concerning levels." PFAS are measured in the parts per trillion and the PFAS-free standards above require less than .0001 percent of the weight of the product. By definition we are dealing with trace amounts.

It's better to have this conversation now than to start debating when the results come in. Jeff Gearhart wrote in his letter to us that they have continued their testing of synthetic turf since the Globe story last year and additional samples had similar findings. Fluorine has been detected in 100% of their samples tested. So I think we should expect similar results here. The clearer everyone is in advance on what that means, the better.

Sincerely,

Ewell Hopkins, Chairperson  
Oak Bluffs Planning Board