

AGAINST THE SYNTHETIC TURF NATURAL GRASS IS THE WAY

Wendi Goldfarb <wendigoldfarb@gmail.com>

Wed 1/13/2021 2:56 PM

To: Oak Bluffs Planning Board <planningboard@oakbluffsma.gov>

Cc: elvin@mvcommission.org <elvin@mvcommission.org>; lucy@mvcommission.org <lucy@mvcommission.org>

To the Martha's Vineyard Commission and Oak Bluffs Planning Board,

I am against the installation of the synthetic turf field.

There are so many questions about the synthetic turf fields. Is it safe? Is it recyclable? Will it pollute our water? What will be the carbon footprint? Will children overheat, become injured, get sick as a result of these fields? What are the liabilities for the town? For Chris Huntress? Will Chris be living with the potential negative consequences of having his drinking water poisoned? Are there other areas of the MVRHS that could benefit from the funds that are potentially going to be funneled to one aspect of programming? What will happen to the water? Is our water at risk? Our single source aquifer. I personally enjoy drinking clean water without worry.

Yes, there should be maintenance and repair of existing fields and track so students can safely enjoy their athletic activities.

But at what cost? With the answers to these questions not confidently answered, is it worth it? If we cannot confidently state that the synthetic field can be recycled, why risk it? If we cannot confidently state that children won't be at risk of injuries or infection because of the lack of give or absorption of a synthetic turf, why risk it? If we cannot confidently state that the field won't leach poisons into the water, why risk it?

Why not natural grass which we know how to effectively manage and we have a lot more knowledge about. Why not tap into the The Field Fund? Or Hundreds of landscape companies on the Island who maintain grass all over the Island? For hundreds of years before synthetic fields were invented athletes were able to enjoy games and recreation, what has changed that natural grass is not sufficient? Is managing natural grass much more difficult and worth the potential risks of a synthetic field.

At a time when our planet is so fragile and communities are being divided, why even bring the idea of synthetic fields into the picture and create a further division in our community as well as a model to our children that we don't seriously consider the health of the Island we live on and the Earth.

Thank you for your service and consideration of my thoughts.

Wendi Goldfarb
West Tisbury Resident



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