

## Fwd: Fields

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

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Kate <katehap5@comcast.net>  
**Date:** January 14, 2021 at 3:10:04 PM EST  
**To:** Mv Commission <elvin@mvcommission.org>  
**Subject:** Fields

To the commission

I am writing with great sadness on this issue. There are strong feelings on both sides. We have involved our children and created a divide on our Island that I cannot say I have seen before. I hesitated to speak up because the community has come down so hard on all who express opinions on either side. But the events of the past week have changed my mind.

Some things need to be aired publicly and all views should be heard. So I have some questions I think you should consider.

Artificial turf is costly to install, costly to maintain and needs to be removed and replaced about every ten years. Where does the old artificial turf go? How do we pay for that? And what are we left with if we cannot pay for that? If we don't know the answer to all these questions in detail then we should not proceed.

The Martha's Vineyard fields are a watershed. What will all the plastic do to our drinking water? My niece plays on artificial fields in Connecticut. Her room is covered with little tiny black dots— rubber I think. What is that doing to her body? What will leach into our water and what will it do to those who drink it.? We don't know the long term effects. And that's, of course, the big question. If we don't know the answer we should not proceed til we know.

Will PFAS be like POFAs in West Virginia where entire communities developed cancer and the rural agricultural life was destroyed by run off? And like BPAs will a slightly modified formula be presented so we are not using the offending compound but one that is slightly different and just as harmful? Do we know the chemical make up of the field and know that it is not harmful?

Before we can't turn back we should answer all these questions definitively so we don't destroy our home and have no ability to bring it back.

I just hope we are all thinking about that.

In closing, when my child was diagnosed with autism I asked a million times how this happened. My sons doctor said "Did you or your husband have a microwave growing up? Did anyone put plastic in it? Did you eat food that was in a microwave with plastic?"

We don't know enough about plastic and how we should use it. We should know more before we roll it out in our backyard and let our children play on it.

Kate DeVane

Sent from my iPhone