

MVRHS turf proposal

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

The town of Oak Bluffs hosts our Regional High School, Hospital, YMCA, MV Community Services, The Hockey Arena, Woodside Village, a busy harbor and downtown as well as many homes.

An artificial turf installation has been proposed for the high school athletes.
An anonymous 7 million donation was offered in support of this plan.

This area is heavily developed already, with zoning in place to allow for much more building.

Martha's Vineyard has one sole source aquifer. Once tainted, forever tainted. Our ponds are showing signs of stress with toxic algae blooms. The Tisbury Water System has only just begun to uncover many failures and abuses. Five Corners flooded with sewage! Edgartown is planning an elderly housing complex that will "piggy back" the sewage treatment connections that were installed when Morgan Woods was built. Have you smelled the neighborhood of the treatment plant? Clearly at or beyond capacity.

I strongly believe that natural turf has not been given adequate attention. There are many safe methods of turf maintenance. Doubtful they were looked at.

Please visit the athletic fields at the West Tisbury and Oak Bluffs schools. Wonderfully restored and maintained by the Field Fund, a group committed to natural turf maintenance.

Veterans Field in Vineyard Haven has received lovely attention. Gratitude to Adam Epstein and the Beach Road Festival for loving this oasis.

Considering our fragile aquifer, I believe the turf installation at our high school should be denied.

Is the generous anonymous donor interested only in artificial turf? Would they support natural turf?

The Vineyard Golf Club was heavily conditioned to be organic and is beautiful. There were many meetings and hurdles to clear. The result being other golf courses cleaned up their chemical usage because of the issues raised! Win, win!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Kind regards,

Sally Apy

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