

To: James Malloy, Town Manager

Re: Article 10i

Fr: Melissa Battite, Director of Recreation and Community Programs

March 24, 2023

Members of the Recreation Committee, Board of Health, Sustainable Lexington Committee and Town staff representing Recreation, Public Health, Sustainability & Resilience, Conservation, and DPW have developed a working group and have been meeting over the past few months to understand and enhance the Recreation's synthetic fields program. The reconstruction of the proposed resurfacing of Lincoln Field 1 capital request for FY2024 was the catalyst for the creation and immediate focus of the working group. Discussions have been focused on how best to ensure that the new field meets its performance needs while also addressing concerns related to disposal of the old field and synthetic materials associated with artificial turf fields, since a natural grass field is not suitable for this site.

The team is reviewing and recommending language to be incorporated in the project bid specifications to:

1. ensure that disposal is transparent and excludes landfilling and incineration to the extent possible,
2. require material disclosure and testing (including testing to ensure the materials are PFAS-free, using the state TURA definition of PFAS) based on appropriate disclosure and testing approaches, and
3. ensure that infill material specifications meet the Town's performance needs while reducing the presence of toxic materials found in crumb rubber.

The working group members are committed to developing the bid specification language before the bid is released later this year and we support installing a new turf field at Lincoln Park. We will be collecting feedback from neighboring communities (including Minuteman Tech) that are using natural infills to better understand their experience with the usage and maintenance of these fields. We encourage Town Meeting members to support Article 10i to meet the town's need for safe, high-quality, accessible recreational space. Your input is welcome as we work to finalize decisions on specifications related to disposal, testing, and infill before the bid is released later this year.