

Arlington 2023 Annual Town Meeting - Amendment to the Substitute Motion

ARTICLE NO. 12

I, Paul Schlichtman, do hereby submit the following AMENDMENT to the Substitute Motion offered by Beth Melofchik under Article 12:

**VOTED:**

That Town Meeting hereby establishes an “Artificial Turf Study Committee” to be structured, organized and charged as outlined below; Town Meeting further decrees a temporary moratorium on the construction or installation of artificial turf on Town property as articulated below. The use of artificial turf upon the grounds of Arlington High School, including Peirce Field, shall be exempted from this moratorium.

**Artificial Turf Study Committee**

**A. Committee Membership and Organization**

a. The Committee shall consist of eight (8) members; three (3) of whom shall be non-voting, ex-officio members, and five (5) of whom shall be voting members as follows:

**A.a.i. Ex-officio non-voting members:**

- A.a.i.1. The Director of Public Health or its designee;
- A.a.i.2. The Director of Recreation or its designee; and
- A.a.i.3. The Superintendent of Schools or its designee.

**A.a.ii. Voting members:**

- A.a.ii.1. One (1) member of the Arlington Open Space Committee or a designee, to be appointed by the Co-Chairs of the Arlington Open Space Committee;
- A.a.ii.2. One (1) current or past member of Sustainable Arlington or a designee, to be appointed by the Chair of the Envision Arlington Standing Committee;
- A.a.ii.3. One (1) current or past member of the Water Bodies Working Group or a designee, to be appointed by the Chair of the Conservation Commission; and
- A.a.ii.4. Two (2) residents of Arlington each of whom shall have demonstrated experience working with local environmental advocacy or non-profit organizations, to be appointed by the Town Moderator.

Appointing authorities shall be encouraged to designate representatives who reflect racial, ethnic and other forms of diversity to be found in Arlington.

**A.a.iii. Quorum**

A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum, and decisions shall be based on the vote of a simple majority of those committee members present and voting.

**A.a.iv. Organization and First Meeting**

The initial meeting of the Study Committee shall be convened by the designee of the Conservation Commission, and the first order of business shall be the self- organization of the Study Committee through the election of one or more chairs, whose responsibility shall be to convene and preside over all future meetings. The Committee shall also elect a clerk, whose duties shall include the proper posting of meeting agendas and minutes. The Study Committee shall designate any other officer as it sees fit.

**A.a.v. Committee Charge and Reporting**

A.a.i.1. The Study Committee shall investigate artificial turf in regards to its safety, environmental impact, and cost effectiveness, as well as the available natural alternatives to its use.

A.a.i.1.a. The Study Committee’s investigation into the Safety of artificial turf shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of its impacts on the human body due to long-term exposure, its contribution to foot and leg injuries when compared to natural grass, and its potential to inflict skin burns when utilized during hot weather.

A.a.i.2. The Study Committee shall report its findings and any recommendations to the 2025 ~~2024~~ Annual Town Meeting or to any earlier ~~Annual~~ or Special Town Meeting.

**A.a.vi. Dissolution**

The study committee will be dissolved concurrent with the dissolution of the 2025 ~~2024~~ Annual Town Meeting, ~~unless there is a vote of Town Meeting to effectuate an earlier dissolution or to extend the Committee’s charge.~~

**Moratorium**

A. A temporary moratorium on the construction or installation of artificial turf on Town property will go into effect immediately upon passage of this motion. This moratorium will remain in effect until a final report by the study committee is received by Town Meeting, but no later than two (2) years from the date of passage of this motion. **the dissolution of the 2024 Annual Town Meeting; provided that subsequent construction or installation of artificial turf shall conform to any standards or requirements approved during the 2024 Annual Town Meeting.**

B. The use of artificial turf upon the grounds of Arlington High School, including Peirce Field, shall be exempted from this moratorium.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Schlichtman  
Precinct 9

Date Voted: \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken: \_\_\_\_\_