

# Arlington 2023 Annual Town Meeting — Substitute Motion

ARTICLE NO. 12

Dated: 5/4/2023

I, Greg Dennis, do hereby submit the following SUBSTITUTE Motion under Article 12.

**VOTED:**

That Town Meeting hereby establishes an “Artificial Turf Study Committee” to be structured, organized, and charged as outlined below.

## Artificial Turf Study Committee

### 1. Committee Membership and Organization

The Committee shall consist of seven (7) members as follows:

- a. The Director of Public Health or its designee;
- b. The Director of Recreation or its designee;
- c. The Superintendent of Schools or its designee;
- d. 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;
- e. One (1) current or past member of Sustainable Arlington or a designee, to be appointed by the Chair of the Envision Arlington Standing Committee;
- f. 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
- g. One (1) resident of Arlington, neutral on the issue of artificial turf, to serve as chair of the committee and 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.

### 2. Quorum

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

### 3. Organization and First Meeting

The initial meeting of the Study Committee shall be convened by the chair, and the first order of business shall be the self organization of the Study Committee through the election of 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.

### 4. Committee Charge and Reporting

- a. 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.

- b. 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, their contribution to foot and leg injuries as compared to one another, and their potential to inflict skin burns when utilized during hot weather.
- c. If the land swap enabling the Poet’s Corner improvement project is approved by Town Meeting, the Study Committee shall advise the project on topics including, but not limited to: the certification and testing of turf components, maintenance plans that extend the turf’s useful life, the choice of turf infill, downcycling options for the turf at end of life, recovery and reuse of infill, stormwater drainage with filtration and testing, mitigation of infill migration, pre-development soil and groundwater analysis reference points, and general best practices of client- and site-specific design, procurement, and stewardship of turf drawn from the experiences of similar municipalities.
- d. The Study Committee shall report its findings and any recommendations to the 2025 Annual Town Meeting and/or to any earlier Annual or Special Town Meeting.

**5. Dissolution**

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

**Commentary**

I wanted to put forward a substitute motion that offers a compromise and one that is more consistent with the Board of Health’s position. To be clear, the Board of Health has not taken any position on my motion, nor have I asked them to, but their position made a lot of sense to me. Namely, they favor a study committee where all members have voting privileges, and they favor evaluating projects on a case-by-case basis, not a moratorium. The text of this substitute motion is mostly copied from the Melofchik substitution motion, with a few key differences:

- All members are given voting privileges.
- I have reduced the Town Moderator appointees from two to one, so the committee still has an odd number of members, and I specified this person be the chair of the committee. The moderator is charged with appointing someone neutral for the role.
- I have charged the committee with playing a robust advisory role to the Poet’s Corner improvement project, in the event the land swap is approved at a future Town Meeting.
- I have removed the moratorium.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Greg Dennis

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Greg Dennis  
Precinct 1

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

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