

Arlington 2023 Annual Town Meeting — Amendment

ARTICLE NO. 12

Dated: 5/4/2023

I, Greg Dennis, hereby submit the following amendment to the Melofchik substitute motion under Article 12.

- In the voted text, strike “; 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”
- In section A.a, replace “eight (8) members; three (3) of whom shall be nonvoting, ex-officio members, and five (5) of whom shall be” with “seven (7)”
- In section A.a.ii.4, replace “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” with “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”
- Strike section header “A.a.i. Ex-officio non-voting members,” move its subparagraphs under “A.a.ii Voting members,” and renumber accordingly.
- In section A.a.iv., replace “designee of the Conservation Commission” with “chair,” and strike “one or more chairs, whose responsibility shall be to convene and preside over all future meetings. The Committee shall also elect”.
- In section A.a.v., add a new subsection A.a.i.3. as follows: “A.a.i.3. 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.”
- Strike the Moratorium section.

So that motion reads as follows (additions are underlined, removals are in strikeout, renumberings done implicitly):

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 nonvoting, ex-officio members, and five (5) of whom shall be seven (7) 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.i. Voting members:

- A.a.i.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.i.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.i.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.i.4. Two (2) residents of Arlington each of whom shall have demonstrated experience working with local environmental advocacy or non-profit organizations, 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.
- A.a.i.5. The Director of Public Health or its designee;
- A.a.i.6. The Director of Recreation or its designee; and
- A.a.i.7. The Superintendent of Schools or its designee.

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

A.a.ii. 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.iii. Organization and First Meeting

The initial meeting of the Study Committee shall be convened by the ~~designee of the Conservation Commission chair~~, 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.iv. 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 Annual Town Meeting or to any earlier Annual or Special Town Meeting.
- A.a.i.3. 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.

A.a.v. 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.

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.~~

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

Commentary

I wanted to put forward an amendment 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. My amendment makes four key changes:

- 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

Greg Dennis
Precinct 1

Date Voted: _____

Action Taken: _____