



Town of Arlington
Office of the Town Manager

Sanford M. Pooler
Town Manager

730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington MA 02476-4908
Phone (781) 316-3010
Fax (781) 316-3019
E-mail: spooler@town.arlington.ma.us
Website: www.arlingtonma.gov

TO: Town Meeting Members
FROM: Sandy Pooler, Town Manager *SMP*
DATE: May 8, 2023
RE: Article 12 and Belmont Hill School

The Town has been notified by Belmont Hill School that it cannot move forward with its proposal to fund the artificial turf filed at Poet's Corner. This has come as a complete surprise.

I have said all along that I oppose Article 12, because the moratorium subverts the regulatory and policy roles of the Conservation Commission, the Board of Health, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Town Manager. I also think the proposed study committee is imbalanced and excludes important stakeholders. The issues around artificial turf fields are important to study and tonight I will announce my intention to appoint a balanced, community study committee on turf.

There have been an extraordinary number of amendments offered to Article 12. Given the new circumstances, I hope the proponents reconsider their need to move forward on Article 12 and on all the amendments and that town meeting can move forward on the other important articles on the warrant in a timely way.



Poet's Corner Statement

Since Belmont Hill began exploring the Poet's Corner opportunity more than three years ago, unfortunately many circumstances have changed. We have entered an inflationary period where building costs are daunting and borrowing rates are exceptionally high. Simultaneously, our school continues to prioritize our East Campus project, having navigated the Belmont Planning Board process over the past year and recently received approval to proceed with our plans. While Belmont Hill has pursued the Poet's Corner partnership in good faith for a number of years at considerable expense, our Trustees have recently decided that it would be prudent to put this project on hold for the foreseeable future. We want to take this chance to thank the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department, the Archdiocese, and the Town of Arlington for all of the collaborative work on this partnership. We hope circumstances might allow us to reconsider this kind of investment at some point in the future.