



Town of Arlington  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of the Board of Health

27 Maple Street  
Arlington, MA 02476

Tel: (781) 316-3170  
Fax: (781) 316-3175

Artificial Turf Study Committee Agenda  
12/12/23

Meeting Date: December 12, 2023

Meeting Time: 5PM-6:30PM

Location: Zoom

**Objectives:**

- 1) To identify the specific content areas outlined in the project scope that the committee will review and report on as part of the study.
- 2) To establish working groups in which Committee members will work in smaller groups to conduct research on the specific content areas as defined by the Committee.
- 3) To establish a method on how the Committee will consider and/or process public input.

**Agenda**

- I. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes
- II. Correspondence Received
- III. Discussion: Establishment of Working Groups
- IV. Discussion: Defining Project Scope
- V. Discussion: Methods for Public Input
- VI. New Business
- VII. Adjourn



Town of Arlington  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of the Board of Health  
27 Maple Street  
Arlington, MA 02476

Tel: (781) 316-3170  
Fax: (781) 316-3175

**Memo**

To: Artificial Turf Study Committee Members  
From: Natasha Waden, Artificial Turf Study Committee Clerk  
Date: December 8, 2023  
RE: Community Forum on Artificial Turf

---

As discussed during the meeting on Tuesday December 5, 2023, below is the link to the Community Forum on Artificial Turf which was co-hosted by the Arlington Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission on May 2, 2023.

Link to Community Forum on Artificial Turf: <https://youtu.be/nvAMhGJcnog>



Town of Arlington  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of the Board of Health

27 Maple Street  
Arlington, MA 02476

Tel: (781) 316-3170  
Fax: (781) 316-3175

**ARTIFICIAL TURF STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: December 5, 2023

Meeting Time: 5PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Committee members present: Natasha Waden, Mike Gildesgame, Leslie Mayer, Joseph Barr, Jill Krajewski, Marvin Lewiton, James DiTullio, David Morgan, Joe Connelly

**Agenda**

**I. Welcome/Introduction**

Natasha Waden, Public Health Director and designee of the Health and Human Services Director, opened the meeting by introducing herself and informing all participants that they had been muted upon entering the meeting. Waden explained that only individuals on the Artificial Turf Committee would be unmuted at this meeting but that a discussion about public participation/input at future meetings would be discussed later. Waden unmuted all Committee members and asked that when called upon they introduce themselves. The following voting Committee members introduced themselves: Natasha Waden, designee for the Director of Health and Human Services; Mike Gildesgame, appointed by Conservation Commission; Leslie Mayer appointed by the Park and Recreation Commission; Joseph Barr, appointed by Capital Planning Committee; Jill Krajewski, appointed by Envision Arlington; Mavin Lewiton, appointed by Town Moderator; James Ditullio appointed by the Select Board. The following non-voting members introduced themselves: David Morgan, Environmental Planner and Conservation Agent for the Town; Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation for the Town.

**II. Review of Article 12: Establishment of “Artificial Turf Study Committee”**

Natasha Waden provided a brief overview of the Article 12, highlighting the Committee’s scope and charge as voted on by Town Meeting last spring. Waden explained as the designee of the Health and Human Services Director, her role was to organize the first meeting for the purpose of electing Committee Chair(s), Committee Clerk, and any other officers agreed upon by the Committee.

**III. Organization of Committee**

**i. Election of Committee Chair(s)**

Natasha Waden asked Committee members to self-nominate or make suggestions for the position of Committee Chair. Mike Gildesgame suggested

that Natasha Waden serve as Chair. Natasha thanked him, but stated she would recommend James Ditullio as Chair.

Motion made by Natasha Waden to nominate James Ditullio as Committee Chair.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Jill Krajewski .

Vote:

- Mike Gildesgame, Yes
- Leslie Mayer, Yes
- Joseph Barr, Yes
- Jill Krajewski, Yes
- Natasha Waden, Yes
- Marvin Lewiton, Yes
- James Ditullio, Abstain

Approved (6-0 with 1 Abstention)

**ii. Election of Committee Clerk**

James Ditullio recommended Natasha Waden for position of Committee Clerk.

Motion made by James Ditullio to nominate Natasha Waden as Committee Clerk.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Leslie Mayer

Vote:

- Mike Gildesgame Yes
- Leslie Mayer, Yes
- Joseph Barr, Yes
- Jill Krajewski, Yes
- Natasha Waden, Abstain
- Marvin Lewiton, Yes
- James Ditullio, Yes

Approved (6-0 with 1 Abstention)

**iii. Election of other officers**

No additional officers were elected or discussed.

**IV. Discussion: Project Scope**

**a. Health, safety and environmental impacts**

The Committee determined that this language is very broad. Therefore, the Committee agreed to discuss this in more depth at the next meeting with the intention of outlining specific health, safety and environmental impacts that should be included in these categories. A quick brainstorm of ideas included the following specifications: chemicals, mental health, physical injury, capital/financial considerations, heat impact, storm water permeability, and climate change factors. Committee members will make additional suggestions about specific topics that should fall under these categories at the next meeting.

**b. Potential Mitigation Measures**

The Committee agreed that identifying potential mitigation measures is not something that the group can decide upon until the research begins. Therefore, mitigation measures will be discussed at a future meeting.

**c. Comparison of Artificial Turf to Natural Turf Fields**

The consensus of the Committee was to utilize the same set of health, safety and environmental health categories, to be defined at the next meeting, when comparing artificial turf fields to natural turf fields.

**V. Discussion: Structure of Report of Findings and Recommendations**

**a. Conducting Research**

Committee members discussed and recognized the previous efforts made in collaboration by the Conservation Commission, Recreation Department, and Health Department, to host a public forum educating the community about Artificial Turf last spring. The Committee requested that the link to the forum be re-circulated and reviewed so that members can take this into consideration when determining what type of research should be conducted and what specific topics within the scope (health, safety, environmental impacts) should be included in the study. A point was made to indicate that the report should also include the rationale as to why or how the Committee concluded why a product, such as crumb rubber, should or should not be used. Additional discussions about the 3 month time line to complete the study/report and the feasibility of conducting testing or evaluating Arlington fields was mentioned as potential challenges. Committee members also discussed the desire/feasibility of reviewing information/data/reports that are similar in comparison to Arlington, such as field accessibility, environmental factors, climate conditions, and geographical location. To this point, there was mention of considering the development of a decision making guide or matrix as a possible tool to help evaluate or outline the site specific conditions when/if considering artificial turf field over natural turf fields. No definitive decision was made regarding the guide/matrix as the Committee acknowledged that research must be conducted first. The Committee agreed that dividing into subcommittees to conduct the necessary research and having each subcommittee report back to the larger Committee would likely be the most time efficient way to complete this work. The

Committee agreed to allow the Chair and Clerk to work together to brainstorm subcommittee topic areas which will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

**b. Reporting Format**

Committee members agreed that the report format will be determined at a later date, either during the process of conducting or evaluating the Committee's research. A brief discussion on a combination of both visual and written format was mentioned.

**VI. Discussion: Project Timeline**

Whereas, Town Meeting starts on April 22, 2024 and the work of this Committee must be completed and presented to the Select Board by March 22, 2024, the Committee recognized a lot of work must be done in a 3 month period. The report deadline will continue to be discussed further by the Committee with particular consideration regarding the process to be placed on the Select Board agenda.

**VII. Discussion: Meeting Schedule**

The Committee agreed that weekly meetings will most likely be needed given the timeline. A discussion about breaking the Committee into subcommittees to expedite efforts was of particular interest and will be further explored at the next meeting. Additionally, the meeting schedule will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting and will be dependent on the formation of smaller working groups (subcommittees), which will report back to the larger Committee.

**VIII. Discussion: Public Input/Comment**

The Committee agreed to accept written comments, but in the interest of time and to maintain the scope/charge of the Committee, it will not provide an opportunity for oral public comment during scheduled meetings. It was determined that written comment should be submitted and disseminated to all Committee members prior to the meetings. The specific procedure and timeline for comment submission will be developed and reviewed at the next meeting.

**IX. Discussion: Next Steps**

Next meeting: 12/12/23 5pm-6:30PM via Zoom

**X. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30PM made by Mike Gildesgame.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Marvin Lewiton

Vote:

- Mike Gildesgame, Yes
- Leslie Mayer, Yes
- Joseph Barr, Yes
- Jill Krajewski, Yes
- Natasha Waden, Yes
- Marvin Lewiton, Yes
- James Ditullio, Yes

Approved (7-0)



Town of Arlington  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of the Board of Health  
27 Maple Street  
Arlington, MA 02476

Tel: (781) 316-3170  
Fax: (781) 316-3175

**ARTIFICIAL TURF COMMITTEE MEETING COMMENTS FROM THE CHAT**

Date: December 5, 2024  
Time: 5PM  
Location: Remote Participation

---

17:08:08 From Wynelle Evans To Everyone:

Could you let us know Marvin's role, please? Thx!

17:16:14 From Susan Chapnick To Everyone:

I suggest:

17:16:44 From Susan Chapnick To Everyone:

Someone makes a motion and another member seconds the motion then vote

17:26:34 From Susan Chapnick To Christine Bongiorno(Privately):

David Morgan is in the waiting room

17:37:40 From Beth Melofchik To Everyone:

Please consider the necessity of asking Town Meeting for an extension. I think no one imagined after the vote at Town Meeting that it would take 5 or 6 months to seat this committee.

17:41:11 From Robin Bergman To Everyone:

Reacted to Please consider the ... with "👍"

17:49:06 From Jordan Weinstein To Everyone:

I would suggest you invite scientist Dr. Kyla Bennett of PEER, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. She was the the first scientist to discover PFAS in the green plastic of artificial turf and has studied extensively (and documented) what is in artificial turf and to what extent it enters the environment: <https://peer.org/author/kyla-bennett/>

17:56:35 From Susan Chapnick To Everyone:

<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/News/News/12938/3972>



17:56:48 From Susan Chapnick To Everyone:

That's the link to the Artificial Turf Forum

17:56:55 From Jill Krajewski To Everyone:

Reacted to "That's the link to t..." with 👍

17:57:44 From Robin Bergman To Everyone:

Reacted to That's the link to t... with "👍"

17:58:01 From Robin Bergman To Everyone:

Removed a 👍 reaction from "That's the link to t..."

17:59:33 From Susan Stamps To Everyone:

There are lots of chemicals besides PFAS

18:00:18 From Jordan Weinstein To Everyone:

Arlington forum with Dr. Kyla Bennett, on the science of artificial turf:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgiywwXsdPU>

18:01:18 From Jordan Weinstein To Everyone:

Except rubber crumb is exactly what is currently used by AHS and the Church sports field.

18:02:46 From Robin Bergman To Everyone:

Replying to "Except rubber crumb ..."

Yes and related rubb...

18:02:59 From Wynelle Evans To Everyone:

Some, but not all, of the chemicals found in AT: Known carcinogens include: 1.3 butadiene, arsenic, benzene, butylated hydroxyanisole, cadmium, nickel, chromium, flouranthene, toluidine, trichloroethylene.

Suspected carcinogens include: carbon black, carbon nanotubes, styrene.

Neurotoxic and other toxic elements include: 4-(t-octyl) phenol, benzothiazole, lead, manganese, mercury, N-hexadecane, octylphenol, phthalates, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

18:08:27 From Wynelle Evans To Everyone:

I understand and respect the concern about public comment at every meeting. But I do hope you will keep the chat open, as it's a great record and resource. Thank you.

18:10:01 From Susan Stamps To Everyone:

I agree with Leslie

18:11:36 From Marvin Lewiton To Everyone:

Same here

18:11:38 From Jordan Weinstein To Everyone:

We, the public, can suggest resources for public data and scientists for you to consult.

18:11:41 From Anne Ehlert To Everyone:

We are smart people and many of us are Town Meeting Members and this is way more than scientific input.... this is a Town Meeting project please include us

18:13:21 From Robin Bergman To Everyone:

Those of us who worked on the original warrant article put together many resources, some of them are here

[sites.google.com/view/green-arlington-ma/resources](https://sites.google.com/view/green-arlington-ma/resources)

18:13:36 From Robin Bergman To Everyone:

Reacted to We are smart people ... with "

18:13:43 From Anne Ehlert To Everyone:

The Town Meeting Members can help you make sure you will be providing helpful information for TM

18:14:37 From Christa Kelleher To Everyone:

I have a scope question/comment that I would think may be important to consider earlier rather than later: It seems that an important dimension is artificial turf in indoor facilities and in outdoor settings. Is this something that will be part of the scope of analysis?

18:18:10 From Susan Stamps To Everyone:

The MBTA Communities Working group had no chat or public comment and they got a lot done - they also had lots of separate community listening discussions and read all letters and emails, so they still got a lot of feedback..

18:24:38 From Wynelle Evans To Everyone:

Thank you to all!