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To: esullivan@town.arlington.ma.us

Date: 07/13/2020 10:16 PM

Subject: Please, no artificial turf!

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Dear Emily,

Please accept my comment below for the continued hearing on 7/16 for the NOI for artificial turf at AHS.

I want to voice my strong opposition to synthetic pitch at the High School. Most artificial turf is made with old tires. Artificial turfs like these may contain various metals such as cadmium, chromium, zinc, aluminium and lead; oils containing various chemicals including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) such as benzo (a and e) pyrenes, benzo (a) anthracene as well as phthalates. Several of these are known or suspect carcinogens, neurotoxins and potential endocrine disruptors. These synthetic fields have been implicated in causing cancer in adolescents and young adults who use them, particularly lymphoma and primarily in soccer goalkeepers. This concern has led to the initiation of large-scale studies by local and federal governments that are expected to take years to complete. In addition, artificial turf means lost habitat for insects - particularly important pollinators. The runoff may contaminate nearby waterways. Finally, artificial turf contributes to more injuries - particularly concussions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Smolow