

**From:** Wynelle Evans <[evco7@rcn.com](mailto:evco7@rcn.com)>

**Subject:** re: Article 12, to be discussed at Monday March 13 Select Board meeting

**Date:** March 8, 2023 at 6:22:10 PM EST

**To:** Lenard Diggins <[ldiggins@gmail.com](mailto:ldiggins@gmail.com)>, [SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us), Eric Helmuth <[EHelmuth@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:EHelmuth@town.arlington.ma.us)>, [JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us), [dmahon@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:dmahon@town.arlington.ma.us)

Please enter in Correspondence Received, thank you.

Dear all:

On Monday, March 13 the Select Board will be discussing several Articles for ATM 2023, including Article 12, which seeks to impose a three-year moratorium on turf fields. I'm writing to ask for your support of this Article, the language of which is as follows:

ARTICLE 12 VOTE/THREE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE INSTALLATION OF ARTIFICIAL TURF ON TOWN LAND

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a moratorium by bylaw or otherwise, on the construction or installation of any artificial or synthetic turf on any land owned by the Town for a three-year period beginning on May 1, 2023 and ending on May 1, 2026 to allow further study of the cost effectiveness, safety, environmental impact; and further to establish a study group to conduct such study, and set forth the membership of same; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of Beth Melofchik and ten registered voters)

Artificial turf (AT) fields present a number of negative issues:

- The difficulty of containing crumb infill, which migrates into field surroundings, and from there washes into creeks, wetlands, and storm drains, with all the attendant impacts on our environment that causes.
- The higher rate of injuries for players on AT fields. A majority of NFL players have signed a petition to ban AT playing fields, because they believe these fields shorten their careers. [1]
- The lack of recycling options when these fields reach the ends of their lives, in roughly 10-15 years.
- Most importantly, the fact that both crumb infill and plastic grass blades contain PFAS, aka "forever chemicals," the dangers of which to humans and wildlife are becoming more concerning every day. For a brief and informative look at this and other issues, see [2] and [3].

More and more communities nationwide are enacting or considering three- and five-year moratoriums, as well as outright bans. Locally, they include Boston, Brookline, Concord, Littleton, Malden, Martha's Vineyard, Sharon, Wayland. Our own Conservation Commission opposes AT.

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Thank you,  
Wynelle

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[1] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/dereksaul/2022/10/07/football-concussions-the-nfls-worst-fear-may-be-more-likely-on-fake-grass-fields-study-suggests/?sh=6b8f31051e21>

[2] from Sarah Evans, PhD MPH, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai  
[https://www.healthandenvironment.org/assets/images/webinarimages/Evans Slides.pdf](https://www.healthandenvironment.org/assets/images/webinarimages/Evans%20Slides.pdf)

[3] from Kyla Bennett, New England director, and director of public policy, at Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1kokl7I1TrT6\\_ff1heUDx9hr1pDzB9nyA/edit#slide=id.p17](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1kokl7I1TrT6_ff1heUDx9hr1pDzB9nyA/edit#slide=id.p17)