



Town of Lexington
Board of Health
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Wendy Heiger-Bernays, PhD, Chair
David S. Geller, M.D., Vice Chair
Susan Wolf-Fordham, J.D, MPA
Burt M. Perlmutter, M.D.
Jillian Tung, M.D., MPH

To: Town Meeting Members
Re: Article 10j, Lincoln Park Field Improvements

As the Town considers options for replacement of current synthetic playing fields, the Lexington Board of Health (BOH) recognizes the need for the playing fields. We support the efforts of the Joint Turf Working Group in our collaborative effort to ensure that Lexington has usable, safe and enjoyable fields for recreational activities.

The BOH prefers the installation of organic natural turf instead of synthetic playing surfaces. The BOH comes to this position through careful consideration of the health and environmental impacts of the composition of synthetic fields, new information concerning the toxicity of some of the chemicals in the materials, considerations of excessive surface heat on synthetic fields during increasingly common 80+ degree days and reports of more frequent injuries and abrasions to players. Improved practices related to installation and maintenance of organic natural turf provides an alternative worthy, in the BOH's opinion, of the Town's consideration. While natural turf is the BOH's preference, we recognize that the choice of field surfaces is complex and depends on multiple factors. If, after due consideration, it is deemed not feasible to use natural turf, we recommend prioritizing synthetic products that minimize the presence of toxic chemicals, since not all synthetic options are equivalent.

BoH Members in Attendance: Wendy Heiger-Bernays, Chair, PhD, David Geller, Vice Chair, M.D, Susan Wolf-Fordham, J.D, MPA, Jillian Tung, M.D., MPH

BoH Member Absent: Burt Perlmutter, M.D.

Motion to Approve Statement as revised: Jillian Tung, M.D.
Second: Wendy Heiger-Bernays, PhD

Role Call Vote. Unanimously passed: March 27, 2023