

Paul Foley

From: Cindy Flanders [cindyflanders@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 11:56 AM
To: Paul Foley
Subject: MV@Play

Dear Members of the Martha's Vineyard Commission:

Please accept this letter in support of the grass roots effort by MV@Play to rebuild our aging and deteriorated athletic fields.

My children have participated in athletics on the island for almost 15 years, beginning with the island recreational programs and currently with the high school football and soccer teams and travel soccer programs. One of my children is a soccer goalkeeper, so I have paid close attention to the developments in the proposals by MV@Play. I was so impressed with their willingness to listen and adapt their proposals, eliminating the potentially harmful crumb rubber, based on the concerns raised by the community.

The current state of our fields is awful. In the early spring, the travel soccer program has no place to train and practice until mid April; and then sometimes four teams share the space at Veteran's in Vineyard Haven. The recreation soccer program which has upwards of 350 children registered, plays on the fields in West Tisbury during every daylight hour in the fall and in the spring. The high school fields as currently presented are used non stop for ten months of the year, leaving no time for rest or adequate rejuvenation of the grass. They are presently covered in dead grass or crabgrass and hard as concrete.

People who care about the island kids and understand the value that athletics and sport may have in their development have invested their own time and money, at significant cost to themselves, to advance this project. They have envisioned a multi-sport partnership between the community and the public schools to provide quality athletic opportunities for all islanders of all ages. I encourage you to let the project move forward.

Regards,
Cindy Flanders