

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission
From: Anne (Lemenager) Whiting
Re: Athletic Fields

Greetings:

For years now I have vocalized my support of the planned improvements of the playing fields and track on several platforms - most notably my sports telecasts and news telecasts on MVTV. The time has come for the written word.

As a retired educator and coach, and for the past 15 years the producer of over 80 high school sports telecasts on MVTV per year, I feel qualified to have an excellent assessment of the proposed project. It is absolutely ESSENTIAL that the project proceed as presented. There is a mountain of evidence and opinion about the benefits for our kids and the continued success of our athletic programs. We have a great ice arena for hockey and pool for the swim team. The sailing team is fine in the Lagoon. The golf team is blessed with the courses they practice and compete on. The gym is a good facility that is 25 years old and maintained pretty well. But the majority of our athletes are participating in outdoor fall and spring sports that require fields that provide a quality environment to play and compete on. A natural grass surface can't do that with the amount of use and wear and tear that occur with practice and games. It is not like a golf course fairway that is maintained by an extraordinary staff and budget. The game field as proposed is what every fall and spring athlete needs to play on to have a chance for improvement on every level of competition. A muddy, lumpy, rocky acre of "grass" is not conducive to that.

Please approve this proposal - it is the right thing to do for our athletes for the future.
Thank You

Anne and Danny Whiting
Oak Bluffs, MA.