



January 12, 2021

To: Martha's Vineyard Commission

After nearly 20 years of discussion and debate, a multipurpose turf field facility opened at Falmouth High School in August, 2019. Support for a turf field here in Falmouth had always been strong, but decisions surrounding site selection, composition of the infill and its environmental impact, and the benefits of grass vs artificial turf required a lengthy period of community input and information dissemination before the project was finalized.

Falmouth High School Athletic programs experienced the benefits of the turf field starting with the Fall, 2019 sports season. Our field hockey, football and boys & girls soccer teams practiced and played games on the new field that season. Community use by youth football, youth soccer programs and some limited use by adult groups also started at that time. Unfortunately, with the cancellation of the spring, 2020 sports season, our boys & girls lacrosse teams have not had the opportunity to utilize the new facility. Community use last spring and summer was also halted due to Covid related restrictions.

The multipurpose turf field facility has had a significant, positive impact on our athletic programs. As promised, the turf field has greatly reduced the two major problems associated with most grass athletic fields; overuse and cancellations due to poor weather conditions. Lights allowed us to schedule the field for high school programs starting at 2pm until as late as 8pm each school day; eliminating the problems we faced with the loss of daylight towards the end of the fall season. It should also be noted that the turf field is used by physical education classes during the school day and the marching band in the evening and on weekends. When a large outdoor venue was needed, Town Meeting and the School District's Convocation were held at our wonderful new facility.

Kathleen Burke  
*Director of Athletics*  
*Falmouth Public Schools*  
[kburke@falmouth.k12.ma.us](mailto:kburke@falmouth.k12.ma.us)  
508-540-2200 x3022