

The Field Fund

May 22, 2017

Dear Matt D'Andrea, Sara, and the MVRHS Committee,

We would like to submit weekly updates to the school and school committee regarding our progress so that we are all on the same page. In the ten days since we have had official support from the school committee, here's a summary of what we have been up to.

Legal/Finance Structure.

- We have raised more than one million dollars for the 2017-2018 fiscal years and are engaged with other donors who may be interested in a match.
- Mollie Doyle and Emily Bramhall have drafted a Term Sheet with our lawyer, John Blair, to send to MVRHS, which will form the basis of the full, legal agreement between the MVRHS and The Field Fund.
 - Emily Bramhall's Financial Committee reviewed it today and there are some terms that must be ironed out. But the Permanent Endowment is committed to being the fiscal sponsor.
 - Our attorney John Blair and Mark Friedman also talked at length today and have several options for how we might proceed and pursue this agreement swiftly.
 - If Matt D'Andrea agrees, it may be best to get the attorneys in a room to nail down all the details. Our attorney has agreed to fly down if/when the MVRHS attorneys can meet.
- After much discussion, for the sake of expediency, we felt that the initial agreement should be focused mostly on the logistics of the track and infield project. Specific terms regarding the rest of the field upgrades and ongoing maintenance will be specified in a subsequent agreement.
 - This work was in tandem with our very productive meeting with the financial team at MVRHS.
- We met with Sara Dingley, Mark Friedman, Mike Taus, Matt D'Andrea, and Emily Bramhall to discuss the legal and monetary logistics of our relationship.
 - One that emerged from that conversation is the assistant superintendent position being housed within MVRHS (as a custodian). This would allow for that person then to be able to be legally and financially covered.
 - The Field Fund could pay the entire cost of this position for the first two or three years, with MVRHS absorbing a portion of the cost going forward. These exact time frames and numbers are currently being discussed.
 - Additionally, The Field Fund will gift a five year lease of a very high end sports field specific mower to the MVRHS. After five years, the Field Fund would then renegotiate a lease.
 - The Field Fund will also give the necessary training, blade sharpener, and mowing blades so that the mower can be used properly, and MVRHS indicated the mower could be included as part of the school's own equipment maintenance program. Again, this allows the school to use equipment and be legally and financially covered.

Fields at MVRHS and Beyond.

- We met with Mark McCarthy, Mike Taus, Sara Dingley, Matt D'Andrea, field installation expert and STS proprietor Dennis Brolin and architect Patrick Maguire of Activitas to assess ALL of MVRHS' fields. Main takeaways from this meeting:
 - **MVRHS must take immediate measures now to get the fields into better shape for the fall season.**
 - Mike Taus is already pursuing this with Dennis Brolin of STS.
 - **The Field Fund will hire a landscape design firm to develop a Master Plan for all the athletic fields at the MVRHS.**
 - Everyone concurred that it would be foolhardy to do a massive rehabilitation of the fields without this.
 - Basic assumptions including how much it would cost to relocate the lights on the game field are in dispute (Gale estimated \$300K to move them, Patrick Maguire estimated less than \$100K).
 - As a result of this meeting, we have contacted several design firms, including Jeffrey L. Bruce and Company and F2 Environmental Engineering, to evaluate who would be able to facilitate the Master Plan.
 - This will likely mean that the major field rehabilitation will take place during the summer of 2018, giving time to relocate camps, etc.
 - **We need to clarify MVRHS water sources and availability.**
 - We have spoken to Mike Taus, Mark McCarthy, Spike Smith, OB Board of Health, and The OB Water District. While we are grateful for everyone's time, we are getting conflicting reports. Proper irrigation and compliance with Town needs are CRITICAL to the success of this plan.
 - We have a call in to Kevin Johnson (superintendent) and hope to speak with him tomorrow, but the office did feel that there was already town water running to the current track's infield that broke last winter but could be repaired. The town does have a record of usage off that line so we are hoping Kevin can give some clarification in this matter.
 - Additionally, we have reached out to John Clarke who is in charge of the wells to see if he can offer any insights.
 - **There must be open coordination between interested parties.**
 - In our call with the OB Water District on Friday about irrigation needs, we were told that The Sharks are installing bathrooms. This was not mentioned while we toured the campus on Wednesday, even though a coach specifically raised the necessity of improved bathroom facilities. It seems prudent to combine our efforts and resources. Is it possible to place these bathrooms in a more central location?
 - These decisions should be made in unison. Will the installation of those bathrooms negatively impact future proposals for bathrooms for other athletes?

- We have also begun scheduling meetings with town and school representatives with fields that could be included in working with The Field Fund -- including Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, West Tisbury, and Edgartown.
- We have also begun conversations with some of the youth leagues and will continue this outreach over the next week(s).

The Track/Grass Infield Project.

- Timeline for track/infield permitting. According to conversations with the OB Planning Board, this is the sequence of events:
 - MVRHS submits plans for new track and grass infield to the town.
 - Town will send it to the MVC as a DRI. If plans are straightforward and bleachers and lights are not included (in initial plan), it should be approved quickly and sent back to OB.
 - OB Planning Board will order a site plan review (2 weeks) and again, assuming plans are straightforward and bleachers and lights are not included (in initial plan), they should be able to issue a special permit with only one hearing.
 - Note: They are aware that -- in the interest of time -- MVRHS will not be pursuing lights and or stands for the time being. But everyone -- engineers, field planners, school committee members, MVRHS staff -- all agree that it would be helpful to run electricity to the new track and infield. This is not expected to pose a problem with the MVC or Oak Bluffs Town Board.
 - It seems that both the town and the commission are in alignment and seeking to streamline the process as best they can.
- Based on the experience of other MA towns that have used Gale, we felt that a peer review of Gale's plans for the track was necessary. The Field Fund has hired an engineering firm to evaluate Gale's track plans.
 - Nobis Engineering, a nationally recognized engineering firm, is reviewing Gale's plan this week and will make any suggestions to improve the overall quality of the project as well as support the switch to natural grass from synthetic turf.
 - They requested the geotech report from MV@Play/Gale, which is critical for them to evaluate Gale's plan.
 - Unfortunately, Gale did not do this kind of necessary soil due diligence, which is not a good sign.
 - Assuming the plans are OK (or easily improved), then the school will need to engage Gale immediately and see if they can:
 - Modify the plans for an irrigated grass infield
 - Remove lights and bleachers
 - Write a very detailed spec sheet for a publicly bid project
 - Ideally submit plans to the MVC by June 5th for the June 12th MVC hearing.
 - Note: The spec sheet for the infield does not have to be as specific as it does not need to be publicly bid.
 - Also, we feel that Joe Schroeder needs to sign off on the track plans.

- Assuming we can go ahead with the track plans, we communicated with Cape and Island Tennis & Track regarding the construction timeline.
 - Kristoff Eldridge, VP of the Track Division said the construction will likely take approximately 14 weeks, weather permitting.
 - Because the island is warmer in the fall, they can probably go a little later in the year with the work. However, the public bidding process does set the project back 30 days.
 - Kristoff said it will be very challenging to get the project completed this fall, but agreed to remain in close contact.
- Assuming we can go ahead with the track plans, Mike Taus is pursuing demolition permits for the current track and infield.
- Again, assuming we can go ahead with the track, John Keene of Keene Construction as well as Reid Silva of Vineyard Land Surveying and Engineering have GENEROUSLY offered to donate services to help us facilitate the process!!

All of this is to say that we are working as fast as we can given the parameters and scope of this project. We so appreciate all the help, goodwill and efforts everyone is putting forth to make this happen. *However, it is also clear from our conversations and research that very little due diligence was completed regarding this project and that no updates to the original proposal (including the shift to Geofill which would have required irrigation) were made over the last year, so we are working against time.* The project plans from Gale were unfortunately not close to bid ready; we all have our work cut out for us. But we are forging ahead, excited by all the important improvements and long term collaboration in the works. Thank you for trusting us with this amazing project. Onward!

Sincerely,

Mollie Doyle, Rebekah Thomson & Dardanella Slavin

The Field Fund

May 31, 2017

Dear Matt D'Andrea, Sara Dingley, and the MVRHS School Committee,

It's hard to believe that another week has passed. As the school year comes to a close, time is flying! Here are our advances on all fronts this week.

On the Legal/Finance Front:

- John Blair and MVRHS's attorney are meeting on June 15th to hash out legal framework for our relationship. MVRHS's attorneys will be receiving a term sheet shortly. It just needs to be approved by The Permanent Endowment. Our attorney remains in contact with Mark Friedman, who continues to be enormously helpful in this process.
- The Field Fund has formed a not for profit corporation so that we can legally enter into an agreement with the MVRHS. We are officially filing this week. Beyond allowing us to have a legally binding agreement with you, this will also allow us to be covered by liability insurance and serve as the General Contractor for the track and field projects. Additionally, it will allow us to purchase the expensive, field maintenance equipment tax-free.
- We have also hashed out an agreement with the Permanent Endowment so that our relationship will facilitate the donation process and an efficient flow of money to pay vendors, etc.
- On the fundraising front, we have received unsolicited donations ranging from \$25 dollars to \$500, which is just amazing! And we have a commitment of \$10,000 for five years. Finally, we have had several conversations about larger donations that we will follow up with in the weeks to come. Donors are universally enthusiastic. Really exciting to have so many people who are committed to helping -- and at all levels!

Fields at MVRHS and Beyond:

- We have interviewed several landscape architects who could design the MVRHS athletic campus.
- John Clark will be looking at and evaluating the school's wells/water systems with Mike Taus. He asked that we touch base with him tomorrow, the 31st, to make a time for later this week.
- Craig Saunders took water sample today to help establish baseline water quality and values.
- We continue to be back and forth with the Oak Bluffs Water Department.
- We have been researching a "systems-based approach" for our grass field maintenance. And have been in touch with Eric Fleisher of F2 Environmental Design to explore how we can boost our soil quality without nitrogen loading fertilizers.
 - Mr. Fleisher is a soil expert who currently consults for Harvard, Princeton, among other institutions and cities in the Northeast. His focus is on training and facilitating practices for better soil management.
 - He could work in tandem with Jared to implement our grass program.

- Additionally, he has worked on the island before with Harvard landscape architect and Chilmark summer resident Michael Van Valkenburgh. So is familiar with the Vineyard ethos.
- We are continuing to have productive conversations with coaches, schools, towns and youth leagues. We will present to the Oak Bluff School in late June (thank you Kris O'Brien for setting this up!).
- We met with Ray Tattersal to hear about the program they have in place for the maintenance of Veterans and brainstormed how The Field Fund could help. We will continue conversations with him as our program takes shape.
- We are developing an (unpaid) Island Athletic Director position to coordinate field usage with youth leagues, towns and schools. We have a prospect in mind!
- Finalizing our superintendent job description. We have a ton of feedback from landscapers and employers. We will be meeting with Jeff Carlson later this week to refine and post!

Track/Grass Infield Project

- Both engineer firms we requested to peer review Gale's track plans said that a geotechnical study is necessary to evaluate the track base level. They, along with Mr. Fleisher of F2 Environmental Design, said a geotech study is standard procedure for a project of this scope. We could proceed without the report, use Gale's plan and then assess once the excavation work for the track and infield is complete, but all agree that we would run the unacceptable risk of expensive, last minute change orders. (When we say expensive change orders, the engineers estimate the cost could be in the \$100-200K range.)
 - Note that we learned late last week that Nobis could not peer review Gale's plans. They had a conflict of interest.
 - Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company are reviewing the work to see what can be used and what needs revising.
- After several heartfelt conversations amongst ourselves and one with Matt D'Andrea, we feel that completing a track rebuild this fall is not feasible. Had the plans for the track been truly complete and unquestioned by the peer reviews, we could have pushed, but the reality is there are still too many unknowns that make presenting a comprehensive plan to the MVC on June 12th -- and subsequently to Town of Oak Bluffs -- impossible.
- This said, we are still going flat out to make the track happen as fast as possible. Our new agenda for the track is:
 - Sign agreement with MVRHS
 - Engage an engineer/design firm.
 - Meet with F2 and other grass/soil experts to explore a systems based approach for field management (including infield).
 - Gain a comprehensive understanding of the MVRHS water systems and potential (needed for the irrigation plan.)
 - Engage a firm to do a geotechnical study.
 - Once ALL of these pieces are in place, refine the track plans and submit them to the MVRHS, and then, if approved, to the Town of OB. We hope to have this all done by September at the latest.

- Once the track is approved by the MVC, work with the Town of OB and the OB Site Plan Review Committee.
 - Post project, review, award track by January and schedule all work for the track and infield and other designated fields for summer of 2018.
 - Demolition, grass infield work, June 2018.
 - Begin construction, allowing 30-45 days for asphalt to cure before installing track surface, Summer 2018.
 - Kids play on refurbished fields Fall 2018!
 - EVERYONE runs on track Spring 2019. But Joe Schroeder gets the first lap.
- Other agenda items:
 - Hire a Grass Superintendent.
 - Work with landscape design firm to create a Master Plan, which will include a schedule for implementation.
 - Continue to work with the elementary schools and towns to discuss rehabilitation and schedule times for implementation.

And we think that is it for now. MUCH more to come as our meeting schedule for this week is jam-packed!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please write to us. We welcome your feedback and insights.

Thanks,

Mollie Doyle, Dardanella Slavin, Rebekah Thomson

The Field Fund

June 6, 2017

Dear Matt D'Andrea, Sara Dingley, and the MVRHS School Committee,

We know the end of the year is filled to the gills, so we will keep it short.

On the Legal/Finance Front:

- Our legal status is official. The Field Fund is a Not For Profit Corporation.
- Our Phase One term agreement is finalized and approved by The Field Fund and the Permanent Endowment and has been sent to Matt D'Andrea, Mark Friedman, Sara Dingley to be passed on to the MVRHS attorneys.
- We met with several large donors who are now following up with their respective parties to discuss funding The Field Fund.

Fields at MVRHS and Beyond:

- We have have been interviewing landscape architect firms who will design the MVRHS athletic campus and expect to make our final decision shortly.
- We met with John Clark and Mike Taus last Thursday to discuss the well/water landscape at the MVRHS.
 - We all agreed that the addition of another well would be prudent.
 - Once we have a Master Plan in place, we will begin the process of procuring permits and permission to install a third well.
 - Our current thinking is that this well will serve both the track infield and some of the fields across the street.
- In our efforts to establish baseline documentation, we had Craig Saunders do water samples at MVRHS last week and Sheriff's Meadow will help us establish soil and grass cover baselines. We will continue to track and document these important values.
- Eric Fleisher of F2 Environmental Design will be coming this Thursday to discuss how we can boost our soil quality without nitrogen loading fertilizers.
 - As we said last week, Mr. Fleisher is a soil expert who currently consults for Harvard, Princeton, among other institutions and cities in the Northeast. His focus is on training and facilitating practices for better soil management.
 - He would work in tandem with Jared to implement our grass program.
- We are continuing to have productive conversations with coaches, schools, towns and youth leagues.
- We met with Grey Barn owner Molly Glasgow to discuss their farm's approach to organic field management.
 - While they are not sports fields, the health and density of their fields is inspiring.
 - It was helpful to observe the significant strides in soil/grass quality, comparing their newer fields to those under their care for 5+ years.
- We have identified a prospective person who could serve as a General Contractor/Project Manager, helping us and the schools implement the major changes that Jerad Minnick and our soil engineers will prescribe. And help us to oversee the construction of the track.

- We met with Jeff Carlson who continues to be an unbelievable resource for all things -- from soil management to identifying possible candidates for landscape design and our superintendent position.
- Jerad Minnick will be on Island June 20th to help us develop an action plan for this summer.
- We are applying for two grants related to our project -- one through UMass Lowell's Toxics Use Reduction Institute and the other thru Vineyard Golf Club Foundation.

Track/Grass Infield Project

- We have now interviewed three design firms to help us with the track project and expect to make a final decision shortly.
- Harvard landscape architect, Pamela Shadley, who we found via Jeff Carlson, has been an excellent resource.
 - She is based in Lexington, MA and has 30 years of experience in the field.
 - Ms. Shadley also identified other local firms for us to engage for a geotechnical report and for civil engineering (for stormwater management).
- And we continue to go flat out to make the track happen as fast as possible, following the agenda that we laid out last week.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact us. We welcome your feedback and insights.

Thanks,

Mollie Doyle
Dardanella Slavin
Rebekah Thomson

The Field Fund

June 12, 2017

Dear Matt D'Andrea, Sara Dingley, and the MVRHS School Committee,

Congratulations to all on a beautiful graduation ceremony. The incredible talent and dedication on display all weekend reinforced what a special community we have.

On the Legal/Finance Front:

- We meet with Matt D'Andrea, Mark Friedman, the MVRHS attorneys, and our attorneys this Thursday, the 15th of June, to craft the terms of our agreement.
- The Field Fund is now officially a not for profit corporation.
- Over the next 10 days we will submit two grants related to our project -- one through UMass Lowell's Toxics Use Reduction Institute and the other thru Vineyard Golf Club Foundation.
- We continue to meet with donors to discuss funding The Field Fund. We continue to have new donors pledge their support.

Fields at MVRHS and Beyond:

- We have another phone call tonight with Jerad Minnick in preparation for his upcoming visit on June 20th. With his guidance, we are developing the action plan for this summer including field upgrades and maintenance plans and equipment purchases.
- We have been interviewing landscape architect firms to design the MVRHS athletic campus and expect to make our final decision shortly.
 - Pamela Shadley (recommended to us via Jeff Carlson) is coming this Wednesday to meet with us and walk the campus. She is based in Lexington, MA and has 30 years of experience in the field.
- We continue to meet with soil experts to help us determine the best approach to improving soil health.
 - Eric Fleisher (F2 Environmental Design) spent last Thursday with us. He toured the fields, and met with Mitchell Posin (Allen Farm), Molly Glasgow (Grey Barn), and Jeff Carlson (VGC). Sophie Abrams was unavailable, but is part of the conversation too. Eric took samples from multiple Island fields and composts which he is analyzing to better understand our soil composition as well as the resources we have on Island.
 - Sheriff's Meadow is working with us to document baselines for the fields so that we can scientifically track our progress.
- We have been meeting regularly with Jeff Carlson, an invaluable resource. He is helping us build our team and advising us on every step.
- We have identified an excellent candidate who could serve as a General Contractor/Project Manager, helping us and the schools implement the major changes that Jerad Minnick and our soil engineers will prescribe. And help to oversee the construction of the track.
- Our conversations with coaches, schools, towns and youth leagues to understand the needs of each group continue. So far, everyone seems keen to collaborate!
- In the short term, we know that MVRHS, under Mike Taus' direction, is moving forward with STS to address immediate needs. While the standards we apply will be more environmentally conscious, we are supportive of this forward motion and look forward to jumping in as soon as the legal work is finalized.

Track/Grass Infield Project

- All the engineer firms we requested to peer review Gale's track plans said that a geotechnical study is necessary to evaluate the track's base level -- and said it is typically standard procedure for a project of this scope. Unfortunately Gale Associates never conducted one.
- As you are aware, recognizing how crucial this survey is, as well as the timeline for permitting, publicly bidding and constructing a brand new track, we reached the unfortunate conclusion that a track rebuild for this summer/fall is not feasible.
 - Had the plans for the track been truly complete and unquestioned by the peer reviews, we were prepared to push. But the reality is there are still too many unknowns that make presenting a comprehensive plan to the Town of Oak Bluffs (with review by the MVC as well) this month impossible.
- We have now interviewed three design firms to help us with the track project and expect to make a final decision shortly.
 - We have also identified other local firms for us to engage for a geotechnical report and for civil engineering (for stormwater management).
- We are still going flat out to make the track happen as fast as possible. Our new agenda for the track project is:
 - Sign agreement with MVRHS.
 - Engage an engineer/design firm to design track, infield and irrigation system (including new well).
 - Engage a firm to do a geotechnical study.
 - Meet with grass/soil experts to explore a systems-based approach for field management (including infield).
 - Once ALL of these pieces are in place, refine the track plans and submit them to the MVRHS, and then, once approved, to the Town of OB for permitting. We hope to have this all done this Fall.
 - Once the track is approved by the MVC, work with the Town of OB and the OB Site Plan Review Committee.
 - Post project, review, award track by January and schedule all work for the track and infield and other designated fields for summer of 2018.
 - Demolition, irrigation, grass infield work, June 2018.
 - Begin construction, allowing 30-45 days for asphalt to cure before installing track surface, Summer 2018.
 - EVERYONE runs on track Spring 2019. But Joe Schroeder gets the first lap.
- Other agenda items:
 - Hire a Grass Superintendent.
 - Work with landscape design firm to create a master plan
 - Continue to work with the elementary schools and towns to discuss rehabilitation and schedule times for implementation.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact us. We welcome your feedback and insights.

Thanks,
Mollie Doyle, Dardanella Slavin, Rebekah Thomson

The Field Fund

June 20, 2017

Dear Matt D'Andrea, Sara Dingley, and the MVRHS School Committee,

Thank you for your time at last week's school committee meeting. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work together and, while email updates serve their purpose, it's helpful to discuss issues in person too.

On the Legal/Finance Front:

- We met with Matt D'Andrea, Mark Friedman, Mike Taus, the MVRHS attorneys, our attorneys, and Emily Bramhall this past Thursday, the 15th of June, to craft the terms of our agreement. The attorneys will now communicate directly to finalize the language.
- As soon as this document is signed, we will be free to accept bigger donations.
- We submitted a grant proposal to Vineyard Golf Club Foundation last week and are finalizing another this week for UMass Lowell's Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI).

Fields at MVRHS and Beyond:

- We have decided to use landscape architect Pamela Shadley of Shadley Associates to be the Prime Consultant for the MVRHS Field Master Plan.
 - Pamela visited last week and walked the outdoor campus with Mike Taus, who was very generous with his time.
 - Pamela will be responsible for team management, preparation of site plan options, construction cost estimates, site work and meetings, and final graphics for the MVRHS Field Master Plan.
 - She will also prepare the preliminary layout for the track based on standard requirements for high school and will work with us on the infield, seating, access and field events, and construction cost estimates, on a master plan level. She will prepare conceptual grading plans to confirm athletic and ADA requirements are met, and to provide drainage.
- Pamela will also coordinate with other experts to ensure the project is a success. This includes:
 - Turf specialist Jerad Minnick (evaluation of existing turf, prepare draft specs, construction cost estimates, maintenance procedures)
 - Soil experts (evaluate current soil conditions, develop procedure for soil improvements and maintenance procedures)
 - Geotechnical engineer (soil evaluation, conduct testing, general geotechnical information, etc)
 - Civil engineer (assistance with design of sustainable stormwater systems, evaluation of soils, percolation rates, reuse of rainwater for irrigation; utility connections to possible buildings, water supply system, master plan design assistance with construction cost estimates, maintenance protocols)
 - Electrical engineer (existing and proposed sports field lighting conditions and costs)
 - Irrigation designer (creation of irrigation plan, construction cost estimates, and maintenance plan)
 - Architect (concession, storage buildings, etc.)

- Local water experts including John Clark, Craig Saunders (groundwater samples and availability, test wells, new well).
- Jeff Carlson is helping us build our team and is advising us on every step.
- Thanks to Vineyard Golf Club, we will meet with Frank Rossi of Cornell University this July regarding soil health and organic maintenance practices.
- We presented to the Oak Bluffs School Committee, June 20th and believe there is great potential in our collaboration. In fact, Megan Farrell is currently writing an RFP to update the school grounds.
- We have met with Barbara Jean Chauvin twice to discuss potential collaboration with the horticulture department.

Track/Grass Infield Project

- Pamela Shadley has the Gale Associates pdf's that we were given. She will review them with an engineer and provide feedback.
- In the meantime, we are planning to engage the geotechnical expert she recommends to perform the geotechnical survey.
- Jerad Minnick and Pamela will speak this week regarding plans for the infield.
- It remains our intention to have plans and permitting completed this fall, procurement this winter, and construction as soon as the 2018 track season is over.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact us. We welcome your feedback and insights.

Thanks,
Mollie Doyle, Dardanella Slavin, Rebekah Thomson

The Field Fund

June 27, 2017

Dear Matt D'Andrea, Sara Dingley, and the MVRHS School Committee,

Hope this email finds you all well.

On the Legal/Finance Front:

- Our attorneys have submitted a revised license agreement to MVRHS' attorneys. We hope to have it finalized ASAP.
- We are in the process of purchasing liability insurance for The Field Fund, Inc.
- We submitted a grant proposal to UMass Lowell's Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) last Friday. Thank you to Matt D'Andrea, Jeff Carlson (Vineyard Golf), Brendan O'Neill (VCS), Adam Moore (Sheriff's Meadow), and Emily Bramhall (Permanent Endowment) for writing letters of commitment as project partners to support our application.
- We are actively meeting with potential donors including those who might be willing to support the horticulture program.

Fields at MVRHS and Beyond:

- We are now formally engaging landscape architect Pam Shadley of Shadley Associates to be the prime consultant for the MVRHS field master plan. She will be back on Island soon as the planning gets underway.
- Pam has sent us the survey spec for a topographic and existing conditions survey of the MVRHS site which we are sending to four surveying firms for pricing. We are stating the work is to be completed within four weeks of Notice to Proceed.
- We have met with the person we hope will be the project manager for the field renovations as well as the track construction and hope to formalize our relationship in the next few weeks.
- Regarding the non-MVRHS fields, our plan is to take advantage of the critical weeks from mid August to mid October, when improved maintenance practices will make a huge difference for the spring season.
- To make this happen, with Jerad Minnick's guidance, we will:
 - Build our equipment fleet necessary for field maintenance (this includes maintenance plan and lifespan/replacement plan)
 - Assess current conditions of fields including:
 - Surface Grade and Overall Smoothness
 - Turf health, variety and strength
 - Soil compaction
 - Nutrient content and soil particle size (by taking samples)
 - Current condition of irrigation systems
 - Based on assessment, create standard operating procedures for field maintenance
 - Martha's Vineyard specific and environmentally responsible
 - Maintenance approach for durable fields with minimal inputs
 - Collaborate with and train/educate new staff on the standard
 - In collaboration with maintenance team and Vineyard Golf, create solutions for immediate improvement and Fall maintenance for each field designed to promote turfgrass establishment and health

- Implement the solutions for improvement/maintenance, coordinating work with contractor (if needed)
- We are meeting with the West Tisbury School administration this week regarding our collaboration and are following up with the town of Oak Bluffs (and Edgartown? And Tisbury?) to determine what legal agreements are necessary to proceed.
- Note: Jerad Minnick has already reviewed Island fertilizer regulations. Everything he is considering will fall well within the specified parameters. However, we are intending to create maintenance standards that go beyond that, based on organic practices.

Track/Grass Infield Project

- Pamela Shadley is reviewing Gale's design with an engineer and will provide feedback.
- We are preparing to hire a geotechnical expert to perform the geotechnical survey.
- Jerad Minnick will be on Island before July 14th to make recommendations for the infield design.
- It remains our intention to have plans and permitting completed this fall, procurement this winter, and construction as soon as the 2018 track season is over.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact us. We welcome your feedback and insights.

Thanks,
Mollie Doyle, Dardanella Slavin, Rebekah Thomson

The Field Fund

July 12, 2017

Dear Matt D'Andrea, Sara Dingley, and the MVRHS School Committee,

Hope everyone's summer is off to a good start. For us, the majority of the last two weeks has been dedicated to finalizing legal agreements and lining up technical experts to perform site investigation and due diligence as soon as next week.

On the Legal/Finance Front:

- Yesterday The Field Fund, Inc.'s attorneys submitted a host of documents requested by MVRHS' counsel, said to be required before signing the preliminary site access license (allowing surveyors and engineers access to the campus to perform investigative work necessary for the development of any plans).
- Included in the required documents related to the site access license were:
 - Insurance Certificate of The Field Fund, Inc. naming the District as additional named insured
 - Form of Agreement to be entered into between The Field Fund, Inc. and The Permanent Endowment
 - The Field Fund Inc.'s Landscape Architect Agreement including insurance certificates naming The Field Fund, Inc. and the District as additional named insured
 - One page summary of The Field Fund, Inc.'s master plan describing the phases for the overall project
 - Guarantee instrument to assure financial security with the District as a named beneficiary
 - Revised Limited License between the District and The Field Fund, Inc. incorporating changes following last conference call.
- With everything requested now submitted, we hope that the license agreements will be signed promptly so that The Field Fund, Inc. can proceed with its efforts on schedule.
- While we continue to meet with donors, The Field Fund, Inc. will not accept major gifts until the license agreements are signed and the agreement with MV@Play has been rescinded.
- We met with MV Youth Director Lindsey Scott to discuss the prospect of MV Youth helping to fund Phase I of our project. She was supportive, but said that MV Youth has stringent guidelines and if we do not have plans, pending permits and a final budget for the track by October 1, our project is not a contender. So we are working with even more effort to meet this deadline.

Fields at MVRHS and Beyond:

- As soon as our contract with the MVRHS is signed, we will officially sign with Landscape Architect Pam Shadley and she will come to the island to begin her in depth analysis and planning for the track, infield and fields on the other side of the street. We were hoping to get her here when Jerad Minnick visits on the 18th of July.
- And, as soon as our contract with the MVRHS is signed, Pam will engage McPhail Associates, Inc., an engineering firm capable of doing a Geotechnical survey of the infield. They are doing a "Phase I Environmental Site Assessment", which will include research on the high school land

that goes back decades (to see what might have been there before the current conditions), as well as a site visit early next week which will include a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey (ultrasound for the earth) based on the lore of the buried car (and other waste).

- Additionally, as soon as we have a contract with the MVRHS, Pam Shadley will engage an engineering firm to complete a full survey of the school grounds. The survey will be an invaluable resource for both this project and future projects as the MVRHS moves ahead with its other renovation plans.
- Jerad Minnick is coming to the Island on July 18th to inspect the fields including irrigation needs.
- We have plans to meet again with the West Tisbury School (today) and the Oak Bluffs School (hopefully tomorrow) and respective towns to move the plans for improving those fields along.
- Our plan and hope is to take advantage of the critical weeks from mid August to mid October, when improved maintenance practices will make a huge difference for the spring season.

At this point, to state the obvious, time is of the essence. We hope the the MVRHS attorneys and School Committee will be satisfied now that we have put forth every requested document and will approve the licenses so we can really get going!!

It should also be noted, that, at this point, all of the experts scheduled to perform assessments next week will have to cancel their trips if the site access license is still not in place. While it remains our intention to have plans and permitting completed this fall, procurement this winter, and construction as soon as the 2018 track season is over, we will be forced to put those efforts on hold for another year if the agreement process continues to drag on.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact us. We welcome your feedback and insights.

Thanks,
Mollie Doyle, Dardanella Slavin, Rebekah Thomson

The Field Fund

July 27th, 2017

Dear MVRHS Committee, Matt D'Andrea and Sara Dingley,

Over two months ago, on May 11, the MVRHS School Committee voted unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to work with The Field Fund to create a legal agreement and pursue our proposal, which included:

- Installation of a new track with a grass infield
- Upgrades to all the MVRHS fields and possibly even creating new fields on the campus
- Creation of a new groundskeeping position at MVRHS as well as an Island Grass Superintendent
- Collaboration with the MVRHS Horticulture Department to help educate students in sustainable land care
- Donation of necessary equipment for the maintenance of these fields
- Endowment for field maintenance and the groundskeeping position
- Additionally, we committed to work with the Island elementary schools to upgrade their playing fields and support them with their ongoing maintenance

Since then, as you are all well aware, we have been working tirelessly, volunteering our time and resources to deliver on our proposal, which we believe will offer an amazing gift to all Island children, athletes, and the broader community.

This said, while hashing out legal agreements is rarely easy, we have been increasingly surprised with what has transpired with MVRHS' counsel. From the get-go, they asked that we base our license on MV@Play's -- an agreement that was fundamentally flawed -- while demanding far more of us than was ever asked of MV@Play. We complied by offering an agreement that would cover both parties in a much more comprehensive way and provide much better protection for the District and success for the Project. We compromised and worked within the parameters set by MVRHS' counsel.

We proposed a preliminary Site Access Agreement with MVRHS for non-invasive Due Diligence review of the Site and provided the following, per your counsel's request:

- The agreement to be entered into with The Permanent Endowment to conduct a community supported fundraising campaign designed to remove all responsibility of the District to pay for pre-construction, construction and post construction maintenance costs of the Fields.
- Our agreement with the Landscape Architect to conduct Due Diligence of the Site and pre-construction activities, including surveys, engineering, etc. under the subsequent Project License.
- An agreement with a private foundation that has generously offered to be the guarantor of 2M (the estimated cost for the entire track and infield project even though the only agreement being signed is regarding less than \$50,000 of investigative work) for payments of Architect, Engineering and Construction Contractor Invoices. This essentially guarantees they will bankroll The Field Fund to pay for Project Vendor Invoices while we and The Permanent Endowment raise all the funding for the Project.

- Certificates of liability insurance from our Non-Profit corporation and the Architect.
- Drop our condition that MVRHS rescind its agreement with MV@Play upon signing the Site Access Agreement with us (instead do so upon the signing of the Project License).
- Drafts of the Project License (for track and infield construction)

We also committed to providing Insurance Certificates and Performance and Payment Bonds from the Construction Contractor when the Construction Contract Agreement is ready for execution.

While none of these demands were made of MV@Play (nor was this level of engineering due diligence ever completed by them), we provided them in the spirit of partnership and expediency. However, MVRHS' attorneys are now insisting on additional conditions that are simply unjustifiable. They are demanding additional terms far beyond what is required under the MV@Play License including the following:

- Ownership of our initial site investigative work and surveys before entering into the Project License (and before rescinding the agreement with MV@Play)
- That our guarantor guarantee all obligations related to the Project – not just payment of the \$2 million dollars estimated for the costs of Architects, Engineers and the Construction Contractor.

In addition, they insist upon the following:

- The District will not assure us that it has the right to grant us access to the Site. If MV@Play accesses the Site during our Due Diligence period and “materially” interferes with our Due Diligence work, we would be required to notify the District and wait for the District to take action which would cause delays and unnecessary expenses. We suggested a simple solution that MV@Play be instructed not to access the Site during our Due Diligence activities.

MVRHS' counsel's demands are disingenuous and threaten to undermine our collaboration.

We have acted in good faith, spent thousands of dollars on legal fees and hours of our own and others' time getting plans and experts in motion. We have written two grants and are in the process of writing another. And, while the MVRHS Staff has been helpful in facilitating many aspects of our work, we are now asking that there be some goodwill from your legal team.

It should be noted that due to this prolonged legal process, we have had to delay our team -- a team that was lined up and ready to go weeks ago -- from coming to do the work that needs to be done. It is now July 26th; preseason field use begins in a few weeks. The Superintendent has informed us we shouldn't expect an agreement this week. Please understand that the Project timeline we all agreed to is now in question, and MVRHS' students are no closer to getting their new track and fields.

We sincerely hope that, as MVRHS committee members, you can help move this exciting Project forward. Every Principal and Parks & Rec representative we've met with has expressed excitement and appreciation regarding this opportunity. Honestly, we are unclear why anyone would not.

At this point, while we still do not have an agreement with the MVRHS -- we had sincerely hoped that your attorneys would agree to what we consider fair and generous terms this week -- we are pausing on

all meetings with schools and towns until we can get this agreement settled. It is frustrating as we really wanted to support the MVRHS and elementary upgrades sooner than later. But we remain hopeful! And, despite all this, continue to want to work with you and the school!

Finally, and most importantly, let's get this negotiation done so that we can achieve the amazing and central goal we do all agree on: supporting Island children, athletes and their families.

Sincerely,

Mollie Doyle, Dardanella Slavin, Rebekah Thomson
The Field Fund, Inc.

The Field Fund

August 7th, 2017

Dear MVRHS Committee, All Island School Committee, Matt D'Andrea and Sara Dingley,

More than a week has passed since our last update to the MVRHS Committee (please see below) in which we highlighted the ongoing legal hoops The Field Fund, Inc. is being asked to jump through, as well as the negative impact this is having on the project timeline. Since then, we have received a few email replies and text messages and had phone conversations with several MVRHS Committee members and the Superintendent. But surprisingly, no School Committee meeting has been scheduled to address the status of this project.

Of course we understand that it is August. As we saw last week, it is hard to get a quorum this time of year. But, IT IS AUGUST. And, as you know, these negotiations began in early June.

At this point:

- Fundraising season is almost over. Additionally, the lag time between being awarded the opportunity to champion the fields in May and execute anything toward that goal is beginning to hurt our fundraising efforts.
- Preseason practices begin in a matter of days.
- The window for late summer grass maintenance that is so crucial to preparing the fields for next year is closing.
- The experts we had lined up to begin work weeks ago have begun to fill their schedules with other jobs.
- The deadline for our MV Youth application is now impossible to meet.
- And with all this, the prospects for installation of the badly needed new track in time for the 2019 season is increasingly uncertain.

From the get-go, we have been entirely transparent about our intentions, actions, timeline, and more recently, our concerns. On the other hand, there appears to be no sense of urgency from the District. New legal demands each week. Days and sometimes weeks before responding to (or even acknowledging) emails from our attorneys. No school committee meetings. And while the few communications with Committee members and the Superintendent seemed encouraging, your counsel's actions continues to suggest otherwise. This disconnect is unnerving.

On Monday, our attorney John Blair made special arrangements to meet with the District's counsel in Boston, to put what were supposed to be finishing touches on the agreements. The District's counsel assured him we would receive final revisions to the documents on Thursday, following a call with the Superintendent on Wednesday. On Thursday, our attorney was told the call had not happened yet and documents would be sent Friday. On Friday, he received an email that felt like an edict -- with no documents attached -- once again demanding additional financial security as well as other broad concessions by The Field Fund, Inc. based on perplexing interpretations of statutes clearly stating otherwise (see attached memo and email). Again, you had absolutely NO guarantee from MV@Play and we have one for 2M, which more than adequately covers the costs for the track and infield.

Simultaneously on Friday, Mollie got a text and phone call from Matt D'Andrea, saying that he had spoken to the attorneys and that we had "a compromise." Mollie also spoke with Amy Houghton later in the day, who told her that on that Friday morning call, she and Matt, along with Kris O'Brien, had instructed the lawyers to stop pursuing a larger guarantee for the project, to cut ties with MV@Play and work things out with with us. Amy also told Mollie that the District's attorneys are still rehashing old issues (including our contract with the Permanent Endowment which has already been revised multiple times per your counsel's request) on which The Field Fund, Inc. and our attorneys have already compromised and agreed.

We are at a loss as to whose interests are being served by this course of (in)action. To date, The Field Fund, Inc. has sunk the equivalent of an entirely new field into legal fees. We can only imagine how much of our collective tax dollars have gone toward the District's counsel. But the students at MVRHS -- and children Island-wide -- surely are not. They deserve a new track and fields as soon as possible. Please let us get to work for them.

We sincerely hope that this school committee will instruct the lawyers to stand down, advocate for its students and help us move this project forward.

Sincerely,

Mollie Doyle, Dardanella Slavin, Rebekah Thomson
The Field Fund, Inc.

Please note: We are now addressing the All Island School Committee as well, as they represent students from the entire island. While our initial agreement is with MVRHS, the delay has interfered with the upgrades and maintenance support that The Field Fund, Inc. intends to gift to other school and municipal fields.

TO: The Field Fund, Inc.
FROM: Blair & Roach, LLP
DATE: August 4, 2017
SUBJECT: Massachusetts Statutes/Documents

I. Massachusetts Statutes. Most often, the School District's Attorneys have based their refusal to work together on mutually acceptable language on two statutes – applicability of Public Bidding Laws and the Powers of Regional School Districts under Massachusetts Laws.

A. Public Bidding. M.G.L. Chapter 30B provides several exemptions from the Public Bidding Statute including Section 1(b)(20) which clearly provides an exemption for:

“A contract that is funded by proceeds derived from a gift to a governmental body or a trust established for the benefit of a governmental body”.

Although the exemption is clear on its face, the District's Attorneys claim that it only covers cash gifts even though after the work on the fields is completed, The Field Fund, Inc. is required to and will in fact gift the work to the District.

B. Power of School District. M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16(i) grants the District general powers and the following specific power:

“To receive any grants or gifts for the purposes of the regional school or schools”.

The District's Attorneys have claimed that any restriction regarding the length or scope of maintaining the fields as grass fields would constitute the granting of a “conveyance of an interest in real property” which would require special legislation. It is self-evident that an agreement to maintain the fields as grass fields is not a conveyance of an interest in real property. Section 16(i) grants the District the power to accept the gift of the work on the fields regardless of any actual or perceived associated agreement or restriction.

C. Documents. Prior to our 7/31 Attorneys only meeting, we understood that the District was ready to move forward with final language details. Instead, other issues were once again raised that seemed to be previously resolved. The District's Attorneys committed to deliver revised documents on 8/2 which was revised by the District's Attorneys to 8/3 because of their need to speak with the Superintendent. Instead, we received the attached 8/4 email from Nancy Campany but no documents.

The Field Fund

August 15th, 2017

Dear MVRHS Committee, All Island School Committee, Matt D'Andrea and Sara Dingley,

First and foremost, thank you for all your goodwill and kind words at last Thursday's MVRHS Committee meeting. We deeply appreciate the fact that you were willing to rescind the MV@Play contract at this juncture and work toward establishing an all-grass policy for the school. These felt like genuine, meaningful gestures of support. Thank you.

This said, we have consulted with our attorneys, as well as a donor, to see if the school's policy will suffice. While the policy is no doubt significant symbolically, the donor (who is lined up to make a significant donation to The Field Fund, Inc.) was clear that to write the check, there must be a legal commitment from the District to keep grass fields for a mutually agreeable amount of time.

We asked our counsel to seek an outside opinion on the law that your attorneys and ours are reading so differently. Yesterday, our attorney talked with the General Counsel for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to get their take. They said that your counsel's interpretation of the law was extremely narrow and that these laws in fact are designed to be broadly interpreted so that schools, particularly regional schools, can receive gifts with reasonable conditions such as the one we are requesting. Please see our attorney's attached memo for the full report on this conversation. But the overall question the General Counsel had for our attorney was, "Why would a school's counsel be making it so difficult for a school to receive a gift?"

Given tomorrow's scheduled meeting to follow up on the discussion from last week, read the policy for grass again and attend to other school business, this seems like a good time for you to circle back to your attorneys to discuss this issue? Maybe the District should also get another opinion from another attorney? Perhaps your attorneys could follow up with the General Counsel?

If the General Counsel for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees had had a more lukewarm response to our quandary, we might not continue to push this. But it seems like our gift is indeed legal and not too much to ask given how much -- and for how long -- we and our donors are willing to commit. If funders are feeling nervous without any legal assurance, our job of raising six million will be that much harder.

Speaking of money, we received a \$8,500 grant from UMass Lowell's Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) for a slicing aerator! They are looking at our project as a pilot program for the Commonwealth and the country to demonstrate the power of aeration, as well as a regional approach to sustainable land management. On September 7, we will travel to Lowell to meet other grant recipients and the TURI scientists. We would like to thank Matt D'Andrea, Brendan O'Neill of Vineyard Conservation Society, Adam Moore of Sheriffs Meadow, Emily Bramhall of The Permanent Endowment, and Jeff Carlson of Vineyard Golf for the strong letters of support. We are honored and thrilled to be a part of this incredible program.

Thanks so much for all your help and we look forward to hearing from you.
Sincerely,

Mollie Doyle, Dardanella Slavin, Rebekah Thomson

The Field Fund

August 21, 2017

Dear MVRHS Committee, All Island School Committee, Matt D'Andrea and Sara Dingley,

First and foremost, thank you for all your goodwill and kind words at the August 10th MVRHS Committee meeting. We appreciate the fact that you were willing to rescind the MV@Play contract at this juncture and work toward establishing an all-grass policy for the school. These felt like genuine, meaningful gestures of support. Thank you.

Please know that our absence at the August 16th meeting was due to the sensitivity to the legal discussions happening right now. As you are hopefully aware, hours before the August 16th meeting, our attorneys had a lengthy phone conversation. It was the District's lead attorney, Matt Tobin, first day back following his vacation (otherwise the call would have taken place the week prior). In their conversation, both counsels agreed that while the policy was a clear statement of goodwill on behalf of the school committee, it unfortunately would not satisfy The Field Fund, Inc.'s need for a reasonable commitment from the District.

On Thursday August 17th, we floated an entirely new legal approach to both your attorneys and Matt D'Andrea as a way to appease all parties and move forward. We have yet to hear back on this front but expect that we will early this week so we can discuss at Thursday's school committee meeting.

On another note, we received a \$8,500 grant from UMass Lowell's Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) for a slicing aerator! They are looking at our project as a pilot program for the Commonwealth and the country to demonstrate the power of aeration, as well as a regional approach to sustainable land management. On September 7, we will travel to Lowell to meet other grant recipients and the TURI scientists. We would like to thank Matt D'Andrea, Brendan O'Neill of Vineyard Conservation Society, Adam Moore of Sheriffs Meadow, Emily Bramhall of The Permanent Endowment, and Jeff Carlson of Vineyard Golf for the strong letters of support. We are honored and thrilled to be a part of this incredible program.

More from us soon!

Sincerely,

Mollie Doyle, Rebekah Thomson, Dardanella Slavin

The Field Fund

Hi Matt,

Your proposal does not address the elements necessary to move forward with an acceptable all-grass campus project. The Field Fund, Inc. provided two alternatives to the license model after your counsel advised the MVRHS Committee that there were potential criminal penalties if they agreed to any grass field restrictions in a license document (difficult to understand how, but that is what the Committee was advised by its counsel).

In collaboration with the District's counsel, our counsel explored securing an advisory opinion from the Attorney General's Office (an approach your counsel confirmed was possible and indeed there are examples of advisory opinions posted on the AG's website). But at the August 24th meeting, you advised the MVRHS committee that such an alternative was not possible.

Our last proposal was simple, efficient, and would provide the District with approximately two million dollars of cash for engineering and construction of the track and a grass infield. Your counsel indicated on more than one occasion that the exemptions from procurement and public bidding rules for contracts using gifts and the powers of a school committee to accept gifts work best if the gifts are gifts of money. Despite repeated assurances that your counsel would work with ours to consider and refine the proposal, your counsel did not once follow up during the week-long period leading up to the last MVRHS Committee meeting. But you indicated that you had multiple conversations with him during that time.

The Field Fund, Inc. has pointed out statutory authority for the MVRHS Committee to accept cash gifts to fund the project with restrictions for an all-grass campus for ten years. But, without citations to ANY regulations, cases in other Districts, or Attorney General guidance to support your position, you have proclaimed it is not possible to accept cash gifts with restrictions offered by The Field Fund, Inc. Although we do not understand your position given our offer to make the track and grass fields project a reality at no cost to the District, it appears the MVRHS Committee has agreed with you not to accept our offer.

Thank you for the opportunity to try to make the MVRHS project happen, but we are not able to continue to expend the time and legal costs to make the project successful on mutually acceptable terms. You have rejected all of our proposals -- offering no reasonable counter-proposals -- so we will turn our attention, focus and efforts to other areas. All previous offers, proposals or understandings of The Field Fund, Inc. are hereby revoked and withdrawn.

Legalese aside, while we deeply appreciate the support of some MVRHS Committee members and the amount of time they have put in to try to help move this along, we have been sincerely disappointed by the overall adversarial tone of the negotiations. We have gone to great lengths to meet the District's needs -- including returning again and again to The Permanent Endowment, our landscape architect and engineers to refine these relationships; and, when time began to get tight due to the negotiations, we even went so far as to ask one donor to guarantee two million dollars of the project to ensure that the track would be completed by the end of 2018. We have continuously been the party that has looked for common ground and a way to give a track and new fields to the school and community.

But the District has not reached back in the same way. The number of your counsel's unreturned phone calls, unanswered emails, and missed deadlines speak volumes. Sadly, it does not seem like the District sincerely wants to work with us and, as was suggested by one committee member at last week's MVRHS Committee meeting, is much more comfortable with the relationship they had with MV@Play, which is, quite frankly, perplexing considering that The Field Fund, Inc. was committed to offering so much more.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we are extremely distressed that all of this haggling and reluctance on the District's part to engage constructively with us, will delay the chance of a new track once again. This is a tragedy. In your efforts to protect the school from goodness knows what, you have hurt the kids.

We wish you and the MVRHS Committee the best.

Sincerely,
Mollie Doyle, Rebekah Thomson, Dardanella Slavin

September 10, 2017

Dear Matt D'Andrea, Sara Dingley, and the MVRHS School Committee,

This past Thursday we traveled to University of Massachusetts Lowell's Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) to accept a grant. It was an honor and privilege to meet with the TURI scientists and learn about their efforts to lessen the toxic load on our environment. It was also heartening to hear their response to our efforts. They are extremely concerned about the proliferation of synthetic turf and its impact on the greater environment (as well as the overuse of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides). While public education about harmful toxins is important, being able to point to examples of communities responsibly and successfully maintaining natural grass playing fields is extremely powerful. The TURI team is impressed with the thoughtful, regional approach we developed and want to use Martha's Vineyard as a pilot program for the rest of the Commonwealth. In June, we, along with the other recipients, will travel to the Statehouse to present to legislators and other leaders about our respective initiatives.

We also spoke with Pam Shadley, the landscape architect we had contracted to design the track and infield as well as the master plan for the rest of the MVRHS athletic campus. We explained the current standstill at MVRHS and explored the timeline for moving forward, should the District decide to work with us.

For the track and infield to be completed by Fall of 2018:

- Pam would need a green light (this includes a signed contract with the District and a signed contract with Shadley Associates) in the next few weeks -- no later than October 1.
- At that point, Pam would move forward with the subcontractor for the environmental scan which will take approximately one month for the results.
- During that time, Pam would seek bids for a survey of the track and infield area. Subsequently, she could begin preliminary track design based on the schematics Gale Associates provided in their PDF.
- Once all the investigatory information is compiled, Pam would refine the track design and engineering and then work with the project manager to seek permits.
- Assuming all this is approved, the project could be put out to bid in January. According to Pam, January is the optimal time to bid the project, giving us first dibs on the best contractors, the lowest prices, and optimal construction scheduling. (Bidding the project later would likely limit the bidders, raise the project costs, and minimize scheduling options.)

Obviously meeting this timeline would require swift action on the part of the MVRHS committee, and, above all, decisive leadership. Specifically, the Superintendent will need to present to us a mutually agreeable proposal, previously approved by the District's counsel and the MVRHS committee. We are not interested in further, prolonged negotiations. It was extremely frustrating when our last offer -- itself the result of conversations with the District's counsel -- was declined based on inaccurate assumptions and without any dialogue.

We have been crystal clear about the scope of our commitment -- for the track/infield project, master plan, and ongoing maintenance -- as well as the need for a legal commitment from MVRHS. We know

that there are a multitude of feasible approaches available that would satisfy both parties' needs. If the District would like to partner with us to get this project underway, we trust that you will figure out how.

The ball is in your court.

Sincerely,

Mollie Doyle, Rebekah Thomson, Dardanella Slavin

From: Mollie Doyle <molliemdoyle@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: HS Moving forward
Date: January 11, 2018 at 2:02:59 PM EST
To: Amy Houghton <amybarryhoughton@att.net>
Cc: Dardanella Slavin <drdardy@slavinchiro.com>, Dardy <dardyslavin@gmail.com>, Rebekah Thomson <rebekahjthomson@gmail.com>, Matthew D'Andrea <mdandrea@mvyps.org>, Kris O'Brien <vineyardkris@comcast.net>

Dear Amy,

Thanks so much for keeping us in the loop. And please let us know when you have a more cohesive plan.

Warm regards,
Mollie

On Jan 11, 2018, at 11:36 AM, Amy Houghton <amybarryhoughton@att.net> wrote:

Hi All-

Just wanted to let you know that there was a facilities sub-committee meeting on Monday. The track was discussed.

The next steps:

- The School is prioritizing the long-term constructions/renovation of the track
- The School wants/needs to take the lead on how to ensure that the school and District take responsibility for providing a safe track and interior field.
- There is an interest in potentially developing a 501(c)3 "Friend of MVRHS" that would enable the District to accept donations and other community support without many of the constraints imposed by virtue of municipal and state laws/regs. If that does not happen, the sub-committee will work on ways in which the funds will be appropriated through the school budgeting process.
- The school personnel (Sara, Mike Taus, Mark McCarthy, etc) are reviewing the past plans to ensure that we can understand what the costs would be to develop and construct the track and interior field. They will present to the Facilities subcommittee at our next meeting in the end of January.

The Sub Committee and school personnel are hopeful that we can move forward on this project with support from the whole community and will certainly look for ways in which the Field Fund and other interested groups can be a part of the success!

That's all for now.
Amy