HUNTRESS ASSOCIATES
Landscape Architecture & Land Planning

February 10, 2021

Mr. Alex Elvin, General Planner
Martha's Vineyard Commission
PO Box 1447
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re: Questions from Amanda Farber – 12/01/20

Dear Mr. Elvin.

I am in receipt of a series of questions provided by Amanda Farber on December 1, 2020. I had intended to reply to those questions at the MVC's Public Hearing scheduled for 2/4/21. As you are aware, that hearing was postponed to 2/18/21. Given the events of 2/4/21, I felt it was fair to provide those responses now and not make Ms. Farber wait until the next public hearing.

Question/Statement #1: HAI's February 4, 2019 document, *"The Final Report from HAI for Martha's Vineyard High School Athletic Field Master Plan"* stated that an entire synthetic turf field could be recycled at a ReMatch recycling facility in Pennsylvania that was expected to be fully operational by 2019. However, according to ReMatch CEO Dennis Anderson, there was no ReMatch Turf Recycling facility actively under construction or operational in Pennsylvania at the time of the report.

Response: In September of 2018 I attended a conference in Boulder Colorado. The focus of this conference was sustainability in athletic field design. The topics and speakers included expertise on design & detailing, products, player safety and sustainability. There were over 200 athletic field designers and engineers from across the country in attendance. One of the Speakers, Mr. Dennis Anderson of Re-Match Turf Recycling, provided 45-minute presentation on the capabilities of a turf recycling facility he had successfully built in Denmark. That facility was operating and was currently processing turf. Mr. Anderson further detailed his company's plan to build a similar facility in Pennsylvania and stated that he expected it to be open and operating by the end of 2019.

At the same time, Fall of 2018, we had been engaged by the MVRHS to prepare an athletic field master plan for their campus. I had a follow-up conversations with Mr. Anderson prior to the publication of our February 4, 2019 Final MVRHS Athletic Field Master Plan, and confirmed that his intentions to build a facility in Pennsylvania remained the same. We included the information from Mr. Anderson in our report because we found it credible. Like you, we later learned that Re-Match cancelled their plans to build the Pennsylvania facility. I am not aware of the reason the plans were cancelled.

Question/Statement #2: Additional claims were then made in subsequent letters by HAI and Mr. Joe Fields, President of Tencate Grass / Greenfields Turf regarding a different company, Greenfields/GBN-AGR. However additional communications directly with GBN-AGR raised questions about the accuracy of the stated claims that the material can be shipped to the Netherlands for processing, that there is a GBN-AGR artificial turf recycling facility which will be online in the immediate future in the US, and that the plastic material is circularly recycled into the fibers for new fields.

Response: Tencate Grass is part owner of the GBN-AGR recycling facility mentioned above, and they have made a commitment to recycle the turf from MVRHS at the end of its useful life should they be selected at the product supplier. We have invited representatives from Tencate Grass to attend the public hearings

with the MVC to directly answer questions regarding their offer, capabilities and future plans for recycling in the US.

Question/Statement #3: The Martha's Vineyard Times has now reported on questions regarding these claims twice: https://www.mvtimes.com/2020/02/04/questions-raised-mvrhs-field-project/ and https://www.mvtimes.com/2020/10/21/concerns-raised-feasibility-synthetic-turf-recycling/

Several other news outlets have also recently covered the growing problems associated with the end-of-life disposal, and challenging "recycling" issues, surrounding artificial turf. Therefore, I was interested to see in your presentation to the Martha's Vineyard Commission on November 16, 2020 (see attached slide), a commitment to drafting a specification "that requires end of life recycling, including chain of custody certification for all products" and "100% closed loop recycling." While specifications are one thing, real world examples are another.

Given the trouble we have had in identifying viable "100% closed loop recycling," could you please share examples from other projects HAI has worked on that have been completely successfully recycled? Specifically, it would be helpful to see Certificates of Compliance including references to job name, site location, serial number of containers, date received at recycling plant, the location of the recycling plant, date processed into post-consumer products, as well as information about the post-consumer products.

Response: You are correct, we have written a custom specification for MVRHS that requires 100% closed loop recycling of the turf product installed at MVRHS at the end of it's useful life. The turf manufacturer will remain responsible for recycling of the product, including a full chain of custody documentation. To further guarantee recycling, we are also requiring the manufacturer post of a $50,000 cash bond prior to installation to be held by the MVRHS until the turf is successfully recycled.

To my knowledge, this specification is unique and has not been required of other athletic field projects in the past, either through my office or those of my peers. This project is also unique, and has afforded us the opportunity to help push the synthetic turf industry into a more sustainable future. Moving forward, this project helps to create a framework for product selection, installation and end of life requirements that will serve as a template for other communities seeking to craft a more sustainable approach to synthetic turf fields.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely.
Huntress Associates, Inc.

Christian C. Huntress
President

Cc: Matthew D'Andrea – MVPS Superintendent
Richard Smith – MVPS Asst. Superintendent
Kimberly Kirk – Chair, MVRHS School Committee
Joseph Sullivan – Daedalus Projects, Inc.