

Artificial Turf

Jim Athearn <jim@morninggloryfarm.com>

Mon 1/25/2021 11:14 AM

To: Alex Elvin <elvin@mvcommission.org>;

Cc: Samantha Look <slook@vineyardconservation.org>; Beatrice Whiting <beawhiting@me.com>;

Greetings MV Commissioners and Staff,

I would like to add my voice to those who are opposed to the use of artificial turf on our Island playing fields. I know that you have received extensive scientific and ecological information with the eye-popping facts about the need to replace the expensive plastic frequently, the lack of ability to recycle the plastic, and health consequences for people and animals. I couldn't add to that.

My feeling is that our schools traditionally teach more than facts and techniques to our growing youth, they also set by example and by personal action teach ethics, how to assess a situation and do the right thing. Our local values on Martha's Vineyard lean toward do-it-yourself, hand-crafted, healthy and natural behaviors. We fight for clean waters and healthy shellfish. We teach our horticulture students and professional landscapers to moderate their fertilizer use. Our "brand" as a resort community is of quality, beauty, and taking the time and money to do things right.

Plastics are about taking shortcuts on quality today and global health tomorrow. If we choose to use plastic for our playing fields, students learning by our example would see that their elders took the Walmart route and bought what is fashionable, cheap, and disposable. They will also be smart enough to know that there is no place to throw away plastics on this planet. They don't go away, they only pile up or spread out.

We are faced with excessive use of plastics everywhere. My own business, agriculture, has gotten into plastics big-time and it's going to take some effort and time to get back to alternatives. The food industry has way more plastic packaging now than just 10 years ago. Even hardware has their nails and wrenches in bubble packs of plastic. We all have to start where we can to make better choices. You have the opportunity to make the right choice here.

Respectfully,

James A. Athearn