

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

Re: Martha's Vineyard Regional High School
Athletic Field Improvements (Amended DRI # 352)

Via email to: elvin@mvcommission.org
Cc: adam@mvcommission.org
bpackish@oakbluffsmma.gov

Good morning Dr. Elvin.

It has recently come to my attention of a March 16, 2021 letter to you from Christian Huntress, President, Huntress Associates.

On Page 5, Question 4 a reply to a question of options ...*should the MVC not allow the use of synthetic turf at the High School campus we would be forced to find locations for two (2) additional natural grass fields at MVRHS.*

Two locations for placement of athletic fields were suggested.

AREA #2 consists of approximately 6.00 acres of existing forest across Edgartown Vineyard Haven Road. This area is not encumbered by Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) areas, wetlands, or other regulatory restrictions. This area was not originally designated for development due to its location on the opposite side of the road, its immediate proximity to the Schoolhouse Village Neighborhood and the fact that it would require clear cutting of existing mature forest.

I am strongly opposed to the use of AREA 2 for the suggested purpose of Athletic Field Improvements. As a former Chairman of the MV Regional High School Committee I am aware of the history of the land that originally was provided to the High School for the purposes of education of the Island community. Parcels of the property were divided to provide land leases for the Ice Arena, Community Services, Island Elderly Housing, and the YMCA. These were approved by the MVRHS School Committee to respond to the needs of a growing year-round community. Discussions also concluded that several acres should be left as open land for the primary purpose of any future need for classroom or other educational building. This long-term planning for education should remain intact.

Clear cutting 6 acres of AREA 2 destroys some of the last remaining mature forest in the MVRHS property. This forest adds to the quality of the environment for the many community members that avail themselves of the services of the granted programs. Ancient way walking trails would be interrupted or eliminated. A removal of the buffer of land between a residential neighborhood, Old Schoolhouse Village, would be detrimental to its quality and character.

I am not opposed to student athletics. Our sons and neighboring children are some of the many students and the community that are enriched by participating in the extensive MVRHS athletic programs. It is the adjacent associated noise, lighting, and traffic that I am opposed to.

It is my hope that the MV Commission at its' April 1, 2021 meeting reviews the convincing analyses and testimony to support the use of artificial turf, and to prevent the placement of fields on AREA 2.

John Curelli
12 Old Schoolhouse Village, Oak Bluffs MA 02557

