

April 1, 2021

ATTN: Martha's Vineyard Commission  
[elvin@mvcommission.org](mailto:elvin@mvcommission.org)  
[turner@mvcommission.org](mailto:turner@mvcommission.org)

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to voice my approval of the proposed plans for the MVRHS track and field project. As stated many times over, 5 of the 6 towns voted for this project. The School has approved it and it will be paid for by outside funding.

The facts are that this is needed sooner rather than later on this island. It is more and more evident that if athletes here want to play at a competitive level this is the only way forward.

It is high time that we get with the rest of the state and invest in our community and support the athletes that would use the track and field. A no vote to me is like telling the high school hockey teams they only have a season if the ponds freeze over or the swim team can only compete off south beach. You need to help bring the track and fields to a competitive level like every other sport that is played here.

If anything I would vote yes just for Coach Kent and the unified athletics program. It would be amazing to support those athletes in this capacity. The majority of coaches (High School and Youth) have already pleaded their case as to why this is needed. Many student athletes have expressed their support and what this would mean for upcoming athletes to be able to use these facilities.

There is also no denying that synthetic turf has already been installed in numerous spots on this island. There are synthetic turf tennis courts located in Chilmark's Abel's Hill Association. The same attorney who spoke for the Field Fund and threatened to sue the high school has almost 3,000 SQ Ft of artificial turf installed at his family owned home here in west chop. There are numerous other 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> owned homes that also have synthetic turf installed on their properties. Is it just safe for the rich landowners on this island or do we think it's time to help the entire island community? Did these homes get approval from the MVC for this?

Donaroma's has it as a service they provide on their website:

*"Whatever you need*  
WHEREVER YOU NEED IT

Artificial lawns and realistic grass surfaces are chemical free, maintenance free and worry free. They let you spend more time enjoying them and playing on them, and less time and money maintaining them. From dog areas, to putting greens, to shady areas where grass is hard to grow, our synthetic turf products are great alternatives, and the possibilities are limitless."

You have the opportunity to help the Community and Athletes on this Island who do not have the financial opportunity to play off island at a competitive level and my hope is that you all vote yes to this project.

If you deny this project with the use of synthetic turf the MVRHS may have to pursue the construction of additional natural grass athletic fields as well as upgrade the existing ones. The 2 additional areas proposed (Due to Title 9) would likely have to include additional roadway access, sports lighting, irrigation and other associated site improvements. The cost of this project would likely far exceed the high schools available budget. From what it seems like to me there would be far more "environmental" concerns with clear cutting forest than installing one turf field that can handle far more of the use than all the fields combined.

This discussion has been going on for far too long as it is. Please do the right thing and vote to approve this project as is. The kids and island community in general deserve this.

Thank you,

Lyra Paciello  
Edgartown Resident