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Martha's Vineyard Commission
Oak Bluff MA 02557

Dear Martha's Vineyard Commission;

As the written record closes for the MVRHS Athletic Field project, I want to Thank You for the respect you have extended to me & our firm during the testimony portion of the process. As you work toward a decision, please know that I / we welcome any additional questions that you might have about high-use, natural grass fields. I / we will gladly answer as much as we can!

I am excited for the athletic field project to get started. It has now been 4 years since we started work on the Athletic Field Master Plan that FieldFund was to gift the MVRHS. The need then was big. No doubt the need has only grown since then. Great things indeed are ahead!

During the 4 years since, we have had the privilege to continue work with Field Fund to provide the local community with natural grass education & support island field maintenance We also had the privilege to support the field renovation at Oak Bluff School - a project that had work performed only by on-island contractors. Of all the projects in our portfolio, that is the 1 rehabilitation project that all work has been done specifically by contractors & / or people in the local community. A unique & special distinction!

With these 4 years of work, we have learned so much about grass & soil on Martha's Vineyard. We also have learned how to work inside different, unique island rules & regulations that we thought might be "limitations" for improving the grass. For example - the island fertilizer laws / nitrogen limits at 1st seemed daunting, especially with such sandy, porous soils. But with using slow release fertilizer technology combined with old-fashion compost while also using new, improved grass varieties that aggressively grow roots - roots which also turn into organic matter in the soil (free "fertilizer") - all work has respected the Island fertilizer laws with no issue on grass growth. In areas around well heads - where no fertilizer can be used, we creatively



encouraged the use of both microclover & Bermudagrass. No, not to be the grass being played on - but to grow roots / support growth of desired grass.

This creativity to improve grass on Martha's Vineyard is the sort of creativity I hoped we encouraged in our Design Review of the High School Athletic Field Plan. For high-use natural grass fields to truly reach their possibilities, the design must embrace the a) sandy, porous soil on the Vineyard while also b) utilizing new, cutting edge methods of construction. Similarly, the maintenance approach utilized on Vineyard fields must utilize new, cutting edge methods that will a) improved durability & b) increase field use while c) reducing the overall inputs needed compared the inputs required for traditional field maintenance. Indeed, less can be more & lead to more use!

Thank You for taking the time to read my previous notes - and Thank You for taking the time to consider these points as well!

Sincerely All The Best!

Jerad R Minnick

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