

MV Regional High School playing fields

Rez Williams <rezwilliams@protonmail.com>

Thu 1/7/2021 5:24 PM

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

January 6, 2021

To the Martha's Vineyard Commission and the Oak Bluffs Planning Board:

As you weigh the proposal to replace turf athletic fields at the Regional High school with a synthetic, plastic substance, please do not get lost in the technical weeds of the purveyors of the synthetic "alternative". It is an artificial material that like any building material will need to be installed, removed and replaced at considerable cost. It will also degrade with active use and solar gain, dispersing its toxic residue wherever the wind blows. I have witnessed this phenomenon at a nearby metal cell tower constructed to resemble a sequoia with plastic "needles" which are now scattered everywhere and will never degrade.

Natural grass (is that a term?) is a known, dependable surface for sport and recreation. There are playing fields in Central Park, New York City which get constant, heavy use but with normal maintenance, serve the children and citizens of that place admirably and without problem. In high school, I played soccer on grass and did not feel the need to sue anybody if I occasionally slipped and fell on it.

Please reject this proposal to carpet the High School recreational areas with plastic.

Rez Williams

West Tisbury

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

