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Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 1:51:48 PM

Cc: Nicole Banks <nbanks@newtonma.gov>; Mayor Ruthanne Fuller <rfuller@newtonma.gov>; Jonathan Yeo <jyeo@newtonma.gov>

Subject: RE: Safe and Appropriate Disposal of Artificial Turf at Newton South High School

Dear City Council,

I wanted to provide an update on the synthetic turf replacement project at NSHS. The stadium running track resurfacing work was completed and the turf carpet and infill material have been removed. I was away on leave for a short period and did a site inspection immediately upon returning to work. Through observation I became aware of the drain cover not being properly protected. The contractor was notified and immediately added a silt sack on the drain grate to ensure storm drains are protected from migrating material. The project did receive an order of conditions from the Conservation Commission and is in full compliance. The conservation Office also did a site inspection, as required by law, the week of July 17th to ensure the straw wattles were in compliance. I can assure you that no turf material was stored within the swing set area, contrary to what has been reported, and erosion and sediment control barriers are in place to prevent runoff into the adjacent wetlands. The contractor will be clearing all remaining debris as part of the project work over the next couple of days.

The turf being hauled away is on route to a facility in PA, we are awaiting the Bill of Lading which we have promised to furnish to the Programs and Services Committee. We will send this report along as soon as we receive it from the contractor.

Additional project updates:

- The new synthetic turf is being delivered today and installation will begin this week. The recyclable TPE infill will be arriving later this week.
- Removal of the synthetic turf from the Brandeis field will begin this week. We are working with the contractor to implement better containment practices.
- All work is anticipated to be completed by the start of the school year.

I would like to address the SMMC's comment about transparency. PRC has presented on the topic of the turf field replacement efforts at several public meetings before the City Council. We have posted all of our presentations at our project website and the City Council meeting recordings are all available for streaming. The SMMC's January meeting minutes state that members felt it was appropriate to submit any questions to PRC about the project. We have also asked the Commission in an email through its chairperson to submit any questions they may have. To this date no questions have been submitted to PRC.

We care deeply about our fields, parks, open space areas, and other recreational facilities. We ask that people reach out to us right away with concerns. In this instance I had already met with the contractor and mitigation work was initiated several days before anyone reached out with concern.

Thanks,

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