

From: **Geilen, Alicia (DEP)** <Alicia.Geilen@mass.gov>

Date: Tue, Aug 1, 2023 at 12:09 PM

Subject: RE: Inappropriate Removal of Artificial Turf at Newton South High School near playground, storm drains, and wetland

To: ellie.goldberg@gmail.com <ellie.goldberg@gmail.com>

Cc: Melissa Brown <brown.truncer@gmail.com>, Better Action Now on Artificial Turf in Newton <betteractionnowontoxicturf@gmail.com>

Hello,

The municipal Conservation Commission is in charge of enforcement of all projects in WPA jurisdiction, including municipal projects. Conservation Commission members are volunteers appointed by the Select Board. You are welcome to reach out to them as well.

I have heard back from Jennifer Steele. She notes that only a very small portion of the work is in ConCom jurisdiction as shown on the attached plan. The 100' Buffer Zone to wetlands is shown in pink highlighter, and the 100-year floodplain is shown in blue highlighter (no work is occurring there). The Commission has no authority outside of the 100' Buffer Zone or the FEMA floodplain.

Conservation Office staff confirmed that temporary erosion controls (staked straw wattles) were in place as required at a pre-construction site visit. I am informed that although the erosion controls were breached in one area (which I can see in one of the photos you sent with this email), no sediment or other materials reached the wetlands. Staff will go back out today or tomorrow to confirm that erosion controls are being properly maintained, assess any impacts beyond the Limit of Work (the staked straw wattles), and work with the DPW to ensure that any materials/impacts beyond the Limit of Work are dealt with in accordance with the regulations and the permit issued by the Commission.

Jenifer noted that the DPW was notified that crumb rubber reached the catch basin and very likely has migrated into the storm drain system. DPW was told to clean the catch basin(s), sweep the ground in the area, and install a "silt sack" to protect the drain system moving forward.

If you observe crumb rubber in a wetland area, please notify Jennifer Steele. She will ensure that appropriate actions are taken. If you have any other concerns about work in ConCom jurisdiction, please reach out to Jennifer Steele, or attend the next ConCom meeting, which according to the Town's website is September 7, 2023.

Best,

Alicia

Alicia Geilen

Wetlands Circuit Rider

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<https://www.mass.gov/wetlands-protection>

Pronouns: she/her/hers

