



TOWN OF AVON

60 West Main St. Avon, CT 06001-3719
www.avonct.gov

**POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL
EMERGENCY - 911**

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Fax (860) 409-4375

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Tel. (860) 409-4200
Fax (860) 409-4206

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Fax (860) 658-3204

PUBLIC LIBRARY
281 Country Club Road
Tel. (860) 673-9712
Fax (860) 675-6364

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Fax (860) 673-0338

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December 2, 2015

To the Avon Community,

Synthetic Turf Field Project: 99 Thompson Road & Avon High School

As you may know, 99 Thompson Road and the High School have been discussed and reviewed as potential locations for the installation of a synthetic turf field (s) and related improvements. The Town Council and Board of Education will hold a joint meeting on December 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Senior Center Community Room (635 West Avon Rd) to receive a presentation and to further discuss these locations.

By way of background, the Town worked with an outside consultant to develop a Recreation & Park Facilities Master Plan in 2007. The Recreation and Parks Plan identified the need for additional athletic fields throughout Avon. The consultant also met with the architect for the High School Expansion and Renovation Project, then underway, to determine if a full sized multipurpose field could be built on the High School Site.

Given the perceived limitations of the site, it was determined that alternate sites should be considered for such a facility, and the focus shifted to a possible site at the property at 99 Thompson Road. The consultant then prepared a very preliminary conceptual plan illustrating various athletic related improvements to the site. The development of the Thompson Road site for athletic purposes was noted in the Town's long range Capital Improvement Plan beginning in 2008.

Many of you may recall that the Town purchased the 99 Thompson Road Property in 2003. The property was home to an 85,000 square foot manufacturing facility known as M.H. Rhodes, Inc. Funding was approved at a Special Town Meeting for the acquisition, demolition and remediation of the property. The required ground water monitoring of the site was completed in 2012, which reinvigorated discussions for athletic fields.

The Town Council subsequently charged the Recreation and Parks Committee to work with an outside consultant to review the design included in the Master Plan,

make modifications as necessary, and develop a general budget. The Sub-Committee retained a consultant (BSC) and held several public meetings to meet the charge. The Sub-Committee presented their recommendation to the Town Council in November of 2014.

Due to several factors, including cost and the logistical issues associated with having the field so far removed from the High School, a recommendation was made to revisit the High School Site as a potential project location. Again, the Recreation and Parks Sub-Committee worked with BSC to assess the site. It was determined that the impacts due to the installation of the expanded field were not as significant as previously thought and could be reduced further, making a project there feasible. The Sub-Committee presented their recommendation to the Town Council in June of 2015.

The presentations made to the Town Council regarding both sites are posted on the Town's web-site located at www.avonct.gov. Also, agendas, minutes etc., of the referenced Town Council Meetings and Recreation and Parks Sub-Committee meetings are on the Town's web site.

At the meeting on the 7th, BSC will provide an overview of the preliminary design, benefits, constraints, and budgets for the two sites. In addition, staff from the Board of Education and Town will be on hand to review and discuss various operational issues. The focus of the meeting will be to bring each board and the public up to speed on each conceptual plan, collect feedback, and ultimately make a site decision should we move forward with a project.

It is important to note that no decision to advance a project has been made at this time. An item will be included on the agenda for public input and your attendance is encouraged.

On another note, the Avon Police Department has initiated its triennial Citizen Satisfaction Survey, which will run on-line through December 11, 2015. The goals of the survey are to: Measure levels of citizen concern for safety, Assess levels of police performance, measure public confidence in the department and provide citizens an opportunity to comment on police performance.

The Police Department is eager to hear from you. The direct link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/apdsurvey2015>.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is currently preparing an update to the Town's 10 year Plan of Conservation and Development. The Commission has hired the survey research firm of Great Blue Research to conduct a telephone survey of 250 randomly selected households. Questions will be asked that relate to the Commission's charge of balancing conservation and development. Questions such as what type of development should be encouraged (commercial, residential, office) and what areas should be prioritized for conservation will be asked.

Most households will not be part of the random selection process. The link for the survey is <http://na4.voxco.com/Survey/intweb.dll?project=9993&imode=2>. If you would rather like to participate by filling out a survey on paper, copies will be available at both the Library (281 Country Club Road) and the Town Manager's Office (Avon Town Hall, Building #1) and should

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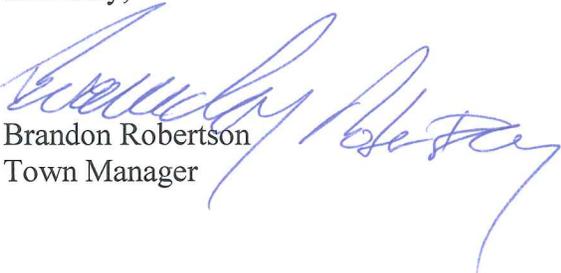
be returned to the Planning Department at Town Hall. The approximately timeframe for the telephone surveys is between Monday, November 16th through Friday, December 4th.

The Avon Water Company has completed their work on the water main replacement project on West Avon Road for the season. Work will continue in the spring.

Finally, the Town has taken delivery of a new dump/plow truck just in time for the winter season. A picture of the truck is on the Town's web site.

As always, please call (860-409-4300) or E-mail (brobertson@avonct.gov) me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,



Brandon Robertson
Town Manager