

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
May 31, 2018**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Avon Senior Center, in the Community Room by Mr. Stokesbury. Members present: Messrs: Pena, Speich, and Bernetich. Absent was Chairperson Maguire. Also present were Board of Education members: Mmes: Chute, Blea, Young, and Messrs: Indomenico, Cavanaugh, Fleischman, Oprica, and Spivak as well as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bridget Heston Carnemolla. Also present were Brandon Robertson, Town Manager; Grace Tiezzi, Assistant to the Town Manager; Myles Altimus, Director of Operations; and Tim Filon, Athletic Director.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Stokesbury.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

13/14-48 Synthetic Turf Field Project: Avon High School

Mr. Stokesbury gave an introduction. He reported that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to review and discuss a revised single field and track plan for the High School to determine if it meets the needs of the community; no formal action will be taken tonight. He recognized a few key players who have been active on the project: the efforts of our past Town Council Chair Mark Zacchio and our current Chair Heather Maguire who has made it her mission to move this matter forward; Maria Mascoli and Mary Deppe for their efforts as members of the public and parents of student athletes who have attended many Town Council meetings and kept the matter before us; and the many members of the Town's Recreation and Parks Committee and its many sub-committees for their continuous and ongoing efforts over many years to develop this project and other critical recreation projects in Town. He also extended congratulations to the High School Girls Outdoor Track Team which once again Class M champions having won it for the second time in three years.

Mr. Stokesbury noted that the outline for tonight's meeting is that he will give some background and context; he will then introduce Kurt Prochorena and Jesse Harris from BSC Group and Jennifer Kertanis, Health Director from the Farmington Valley Health District. Following that presentation there will be discussion among the two boards, followed by comments from the public. He clarified that comments from the public generally refers to taxpayers and property owners in the Town; we are going to limit individual comments to three minutes or so until we get through a full round of people and if people want to continue with comments we will recognize them until we answer all comments before us. He noted that the Town Council is looking for the Board of Education to provide us at some later point either an endorsement of this current plan or otherwise express its position regarding the project and any suggested changes or alterations. We hope to act on a plan as soon as possible in order to bring it to a

Town vote later this year and assuming approval move to construction next summer. Mr. Stokesbury gave a recap and introduction. He noted that the turf field project admittedly has a long history; the current plan as endorsed by the Town Council and the Board of Education calls for a \$5 million project consisting of two turf fields and a track at the High School; funding for that project as consistently expressed by the Town Council was with the expectation for funding from three or more funding sources: State grant, private fundraising, and Town bonding; earlier this year Ben Barnes, Secretary of the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) made it clear to the Town that the Town would not be receiving funding for this project from the State; in addition, no private fundraising effort has been organized, that is other than recent efforts by James Beaudoin who may be in the room and we recognize his efforts. He added that we are now left with the Town as the sole funding source; the revised plan that we are going to see shortly has an estimated budget of \$2.5 million and is consistent with the allocation carried by the Town Council in its long term capital budget planning; we had carried it at \$1.5 million and increased it to \$2.5 million as part of our planning for FY 18 and have been carrying it forward since then. Mr. Stokesbury gave a financial recap. He noted that Avon's capital debt structure is in good shape; we owe approximately \$22 million in bonded debt which is scheduled to be burned off in the next ten years; we have no major school projects on the horizon unlike our neighbors Simsbury and Farmington but other anticipated capital projects include: the West Avon Road land acquisition which is scheduled for a vote Monday night, Town wide radio communication system, possible new North West Firehouse, Reconstruction of Old Farms Road, and sometimes overlooked, the Town of Farmington Sewer Project which although will not directly impact our operating budget, it will increase sewer charges to those taxpayers in Town who use public sewer. He added that we are also looking at increased capital maintenance cost on an ongoing basis for paving, building roofs, HVAC and numerous other expenses. For those that voted last week, thank you but we need to be aware of community sediment; the FY 19 budget was the first budget that failed numerically but passed by Charter – 269 voters voted against it, only 258 voted for it for a grand total of 4.2% of our voters; we are cognizant of that vote and we are concerned about it. In addition, we have and we have all seen the State fiscal woes; ongoing risk of reduced State aid and its impact on both the Town of Avon and the Board of Education operating budgets and the well-known risk that the State may put some or potentially all teacher pension costs onto the Towns; finally we have a Town wide property revaluation scheduled for October 1, 2018 which will first be felt in the FY 20 budget so another year out; any reduction in the Grand List value will require a mill rate increase just to stay even; all of these factors add pressure to our combined Town of Avon operating budget. He introduced Kurt Prochorena and Jesse Harris with BSC Group, and Jennifer Kertanis with the Farmington Valley Health District.

Kurt Prochorena, Civil Engineer and Jesse Harris, Landscape Architect with BSC Group out of Glastonbury, CT, made a presentation which is attached and made part of these minutes. Mr. Prochorena noted synthetic turf fields were developed to essentially replace natural grass fields; natural grass fields suffer various problems being natural systems; synthetic turf fields offer increased playability, fairly immune to the weather; one of the biggest advantages of synthetic turf fields is that no matter what the rainfall amounts are even in frozen weather they still have a high degree of performance; we have all seen natural grass fields that get muddy and ruined and very difficult to bring that field back to a playable condition - a major advantage of synthetic turf fields; these are work horse type fields; they can be used from sun up to sun down; one of the largest benefits of these fields is that they can withstand continued use with very little

maintenance and care – a major advantage over natural grass fields; no mowing, no water so save on resources and ties in with the savings on maintenance; we always think of maintenance as long-term life cycle maintenance so instead of comparing upfront costs we always have to think about the life of a field and the amount of player hours that a field can withstand and synthetic turf fields can far and away withstand many, many more player hours than natural grass fields. He noted that consistency ties in with the maintenance and degradation of fields; after years of use, a synthetic turf field will perform just as well as it did on the day it was installed versus natural grass fields which if not properly maintained, and at the municipality level we know that is extremely difficult, may be a quite different scenario for professional sports teams which have full staffs and for the rest of their fields, that is not realistic at a municipal level so that consistency over the long-term is a major benefit of these fields.

Mr. Prochorena highlighted the Existing Conditions diagram. He noted that this project contemplates your existing stadium field at the lower right hand corner as well as the track. He highlighted the Recommended Layout diagram. He noted that the two major components are the running track going from a 6-lane to 8-lane and the synthetic turf field on the inside. He highlighted the Project Scope. He noted that Project Alternates can include various things; if the project moves into a final design we can look at; right now an example are the different logos and depends on the final cost of the project when bids come in.

Mr. Harris highlighted the Project Scope – Running Track. He noted that the new track would be permeable so the water can infiltrate through it down to the asphalt layer below and off gases any gases from the bituminous paving below as well. He added that other colors are available at a premium cost but the standard color is red; the track will be an 8-lane track, up two lanes from your current 6-lane configuration so that meets your current high school regulation standards for dimensions referred to as an equitable quadrant track meaning that the two radiuses on the end are equal radius to each other. He noted that we added a run out lap at the 100-yard finish line. He added that on the interior we have located the high jump area to the left and on the opposite end of the field is the two long jump, triple jump running lanes in that area surfaced with the same track material as the running track itself; the other sporting events will be discus positioned in the lower left corner throwing out into the field, shotput is outside the track and field area to the lower left; and in the lower right is pole vault surfaced with the same track material. He noted that an 8-lane track is wider but also to accommodate a 65-yard soccer field inside the track; there are other sizes available but you run into space constraints getting anything larger than that; it gives a ten foot safety zone between edge of track and edge of soccer field markings; all other fields fit within that same footprint – men's and women's lacrosse, football, and field hockey all being marked with inside that footprint of the center field; we have had to push into the slope that comes down from the adjacent parking in the northeast corner and have to put a small retaining wall to accommodate that wider footprint and covered in the cost of the project.

Mr. Prochorena highlighted the Project Scope – Synthetic Turf. He noted that the second major component of the project is the turf system – all components work together to achieve the desired performance results and that is to simulate a high quality natural grass field. He added that they are proposing an acrylic coated crumb rubber infill material – each particle of the crumb rubber is coated with an acrylic material; a synthetic pad will provide cushioning and resides directly below the carpet and that gives padding for running, turning, falling, concussions, etc. He noted that we do various tests when the field is done to make sure that it meets a wide variety of

performance parameters and a critical parameter is the shock from players hitting that turfed surface. He noted that we went with a pad system and 1.75 inch turf is that if it was ever determined there was an issue with the infill we could remove that infill and put a different infill material in the field and would have the same performance characteristics; to contrast, other fields don't have the pad so they rely on a much deeper infill system and rely on the infill 100% to achieve those performance characteristics so if you change an infill on one of those fields you may not achieve the performance and safety characteristics you need which will be a real problem; by including the pad we have given ourselves some insurance and a very simple procedure. He noted that the stone drainage system is two layers and makes these fields perform so well in wet weather; there are a series of pipes underneath the field and collect to the drain that runs around the inside of the running track.

Jennifer Kertanis, Health Director for the Farmington Valley Health District which is also your Health Department. She noted that the potential health implications of turf fields has been raised in the past and an important consideration as municipalities and towns have been moving in the direction of enhancing or replacing fields with the synthetic or artificial turf. She has been asked to summarize what we understand today relative to the studies on this issue. She noted that over the past several years there have been any number of published and peer reviewed articles on this issue; they have looked at different things; some of the more comprehensive studies have actually been conducted in Connecticut where it was an actual exposure study; regardless all of these studies are coming back repeatedly indicating that the current understanding is that these turf fields do not present an increased risk to the public and those that play on the fields; there are a number of factors that we look at and studies look at when we are trying to assess health implications of a new product, something like what we are dealing with here. First is understanding the specific compounds and their toxicity and we know at face value that rubber and tires, etc. are comprised of components that would be considered toxic and could be potentially problematic under certain exposure scenarios but understanding what those components are and the toxicity is not enough for us to make an assessment about health implications. We also have to understand the concentrations at which people may be exposed, we have to know the root of the exposure, how people will be exposed and consider the duration of the exposure. When we are conducting risk assessments we always use very conservative estimates to help us create a worst case scenario relative to all of the things she mentioned; this allows us to help address any uncertainty that we have with respect to any data collected, helps us address the potential variability, i.e. weather conditions, type of turf field, the extent to which weather conditions are creating certain circumstances, and by building in these conservative assumptions it allows us to protect the most vulnerable populations. In summary, there have been many studies and they are consistently indicating that we have not been able to identify an increased risk to the public playing on these fields. The environmental protection agency has not conducted their own studies or released their own studies on this; there are a myriad of studies that have been done, there is no perfect study but when you look at them in total this is the most current information that we have.

Mr. Harris highlighted the Maintenance Considerations. He noted that one of the biggest proponents of a turf field to your municipality is the savings on the maintenance side. He added that no fertilizers are required. He highlighted the field maintenance schedule. He noted that the maintenance equipment has a magnetic bar and will pick up any metallic items deposited in the fields, the biggest one is hair pins, or other products that get lost in the field. He noted that there

is not a lot of prep in the spring/fall to get the field ready; lines are already there; snow melt occurs fairly early because you have some heat absorption on the rubber side to help melt it faster and get out there much earlier than you could on a natural grass field. He noted that tinning de-compacts the infill especially after having snow sit on it over a winter with no activity and loosen that back up before playing on it. He highlighted Field Life Cycle Cost. He noted that these figures aren't specific to your project; these are industry wide and also their experience with other similar projects. He added that the latest versions of the products out there today they are easily seeing a 12-year life cycle, even 15-year on low use fields so you far exceed the warranty period in most cases. He noted that with the carpet replacement the infill would be removed, stored, remove the carpeting of which there are recycling opportunities with that now-a-days, put in a new system, and gives you an opportunity to upgrade to the latest and greatest turf products that are out there and then put the previously used infill back into the system and might have to add new material to top it off. Mr. Prochorena reinforced one point regarding the infill and the studies that Ms. Kertanis were talking about in contrast to your project were not coated crumb rubber; for this project we are proposing a coated crumb rubber and each particle has a very thin coating of an acrylic material over it; it is money well spent.

Mr. Stokesbury thanked all for the presentation. He opened up the meeting to a discussion and Q&A from various Board members.

Debra Chute, Board of Education Chairperson, commented that she thinks this Board is excited to move this project forward; it is a down-sized version of the original one and part of their concerns have always been what the infill was and want to make sure that they are agreeing to a project that is the safest opportunity for students to be playing on; the other pieces, equal playing times for boys and girls, and the maintenance of it; as far as the project goes, they definitely would like to see this moved forward.

Jeff Fleischman, Board of Education member, commented on the maintenance and asked if such can be done by their current staff or if there is a cost to bring in specialized staff and specialized equipment. Mr. Harris responded that as part of the project it is already worked into the price; you are getting the equipment you need to maintain the field and as part of that the manufacturer will train your staff.

Jackie Blea, Board of Education member, commented that it was a really informative presentation. She asked if we have that pad and the acrylic coating how much real exposure for the students to the material that you are concerned about is there. Ms. Kertanis responded that the studies that have looked at actual exposure are studies where for instance air monitoring was actually done while people were playing on a synthetic field; the studies in Connecticut looked at four outdoor fields and one indoor field; they take that data, a collection of concentrations of different chemicals based on what we know is in crumb rubber, and apply conservative estimates regarding the duration of time that people would play on the field, worst case scenario in terms of breathing rates, age, etc. and when looking at all of that they did not find any increased health risk; the coated crumb rubber that they are talking about when meterized would actually result in less of any off gassing or exposure, particularly as it results in metals like lead has been identified as a potential concern; the data and risk assessments have indicated there would not be an exposure that presents a health risk. Ms. Blea asked if this project includes lights. Mr. Stokesbury responded that the scope of this project includes conduits under the field for possible

later installation much in line with the original project which brought all sorts of neighborhood concerns that we have addressed; the current project does not have lights, does not have any bleachers, it doesn't have a lot of stuff but it does have a track and a field.

Laura Young, Board of Education member, stated that Ms. Chute outlined three of the main concerns that she remembers from our most recent meeting when we had voted on this supporting a project to go forth at the High School; it does concern her that as recently as March of this year there was testimony being heard before the Connecticut General Assembly on a potential moratorium regarding crumb rubber and there are communities around the State who have pulled this material out, coated or uncoated so it does concern her that we are still considering the product that is outlined here and at our meeting, as I recall, we had an addendum that said that the Board of Education maintained the right to determine what that fill would be and she would like to see the community exploring non-toxic TPE for example, organic sand, silica, whatever other materials that might be out there that we have not received to her knowledge, prices or the effect on the scope of the project; for her the infill is still a critical piece and obviously making sure that all teams have equal playing time to the best of the ability within the scope that is now being set forth and a maintenance plan that is collaborative between both the Town and the Avon Public Schools because fields are used all summer by recreation groups that pay fees to the Town to use them so it needs to be a collaborative maintenance plan moving forward. Mr. Stokesbury responded that the agreement between the boards on the agreed upon project called for the Board of Education to have a member on the building committee to look at, at that time, the infill material; it did not give the Board of Education final determination right on that material; that said, he thinks everyone in the room is concerned about the material and that issue; that is one of the concerns before both boards tonight; have we heard sufficient testimony regarding health risks, are we still concerned; how does each board want to approach it. He responded that as to maintenance, he thinks the expectation is that the routine maintenance that has been described in the presentation tonight would fall within the Board of Education operating budget and would largely replace existing expenses and perhaps result in overall savings, the cost of water alone must be significant. He responded that as to the long-term budget plan for replacement of the turf surface in eight to fifteen years, first it is a long way out, the price is becoming more reasonable than what we had started our conversations with and there is a consensus from the Town Council that the Board of Education being the larger part of the budget has a lot of capital needs, roof tops, paving RTUs, and a lot of things go into your capital budget and we try to soften the blow and recognize that the field is not just a school field but that is used by the greater Town and allocate the cost appropriately; he does not know that we have a percentage here, maybe it will fall completely within the Town side of the budget when the replacement project comes along. Ms. Young stated that in a letter dated December 29<sup>th</sup> to Brandon Robertson by the previous Superintendent, motion that was made by Mrs. Blea and seconded by Mrs. Howard to approve artificial turf field proposal subject to later concurrence with turf fill and presence of BOE member on a building committee related to the project is what she thought we had agreed to. Mr. Stokesbury responded agreed, in concurrence by both boards as to the infill not Board of Education.

Jason Indomenico, Board of Education member, commented that the field will be lined for four to five sports. He asked that once it is lined for all of these different sports, is it practical to use for all the different sports. Mr. Harris responded that each sport has its own color, soccer is traditionally yellow, boys' lacrosse is blue, girls' lacrosse is red, and field hockey sometimes

varies but traditionally we have found that the players understand it and it is clear; sometimes you want a certain sport to dominate the lines more than the other, let's say soccer, so you would break your other sports' lines at those interfaces with the others; you can also paint lines, you don't have to put them into the turf itself; if a sport isn't as popular and you don't want to commit to providing a permanent you can always paint the line which now requires someone to go out at game time or practices and paint the line. But they have found that it does take a little getting used to but once the players are on it, it is fairly clear and understand what lines are for what. Mr. Indomenico asked for fields like this in our area does a typical layout to have this many different sports. Mr. Harris responded field hockey sometimes not, but all of the other sports yes. Mr. Indomenico commented that our kids are already playing on fields like this elsewhere. Mr. Harris responded yes, Simsbury High School and Bloomfield have the same field configuration so it is typical.

Mr. Stokesbury commented on allocation of playing time and asked Debra Chute or staff could address that. Mrs. Chute introduced Tim Filon, Athletic Director. Mr. Filon commented that he worked at Conard High School when their turf went in and they have field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and football all on one and is pretty easy to see the colors. He noted that for playing time, he used a sample from fall, you would play varsity field hockey, football, soccer on the turf; games take priority and are set up on a calendar in his office; coaches come in and we will divvy practice time up; practice time compared to whole field, half field, when he coached at Conard, they had thirds, we had an entire football team of 130 kids on one field in preseason, it works; with soccer they had dividers where he saw the field hockey team on one half and girls or boys soccer on the other half; they will work out a schedule where, for example, field hockey game on Monday, field hockey has the field and they back to back varsity, jv; soccer will still use Fisher Meadows for jv and dv because they all play at the same start time, varsity would take priority on the field; if there are conflicts, if they played once during the week then the second game might be on the grass but we will get it as close as we possibly can so everybody will....if there is a game where Monday field hockey, Tuesday girls soccer, Thursday would be dv or jv football because we have to play on turf, we don't have a grass football regulation field that would get into the other side, Friday could be boys soccer and Saturday football; game sports are already put out in time; if we had a girls soccer game and it ends at 5:00 p.m.; in the fall our field is not used as much as it is for lacrosse in the spring, we could have a team come in and practice from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the turf so there are a lot of variances; Saturday if we had an away football game, he could fill that field the entire morning for practice and everybody gets on it; that is just a matter of he and the coaches sitting down and putting a master calendar out; he has talked to about fifteen athletic directors who do this every season, Glastonbury, West Hartford, Southington, and they say here are the blocks of time, let's sit down, let's work this out and they say about an hour later the entire fall is set so that is how we will work the spring and fall seasons.

Ms. Chute asked in the interest of information if someone could speak at all to other infills that might be an alternate opportunity. Mrs. Kertanis responded that BSC Group would be the experts on the alternatives. Mr. Harris responded that we spent a lot of time with the Committee going through alternates, pros and cons, the cost related to those; we developed a pretty significant matrix, he knows the Town Manager has a copy of this; so we looked at everything available: the coated crumb rubber, the acrylic coated sand, the silica sand, TPE, EPDM, coconut, cork, there are others out there but when it really comes down to it certainly the most

cost effective is using some type of crumb rubber; the coated crumb rubber has been developed in the last few years to try and alleviate some of the concerns related to that; the other benefit that we didn't really touch on is it does provide for a cooler playing surface so that is another added benefit; the other types of infills that are out there, the acrylic coated sand, South Windsor has that, Hamden is using a cork blend on their field, and there are other acrylic coated sands, there are three or four here in Connecticut that he knows of, there are a couple in New York; one of the main concerns on their end is that they haven't been around long enough and haven't been proven from performance and long-term playability stand point; the cost is a major factor of that but also it just hasn't been proven from a performance stand point in the industry at this point to really suggest one over the other; the natural materials, the cork and coconut husks and rice husks require more maintenance, they need a certain moisture content consistently so then you are looking at an irrigation, it requires more maintenance in terms of grooming to loosen them back up, they lend themselves to freezing which creates their own concerns; they spent a lot of time with the Committee going through those materials and ultimately arrived at the coated crumb rubber at this point; if we need to re-engage that discussion we have that information.

Mr. Stokesbury asked BSC Group to speak about, members of the audience may have seen articles in the paper, not locally but in other areas of the State, he thinks Guilford, the field is having problems shortly after installation, is that thought to be an installation or materials problem. Mr. Harris responded there is no definitive answer yet; there are also two fields in Bristol, Bristol Eastern and Bristol High School are having similar issues; it is obviously an important concern for the industry; ourselves as BSC Group were interested in what the issues may be down there, right now there is no definitive answer what is causing it; essentially what is happening is the turf is actually pulling away from its attachment on the perimeter; there are a couple commonalities; there is an acrylic coated sand as an infill and there is a patent; the systems vary slightly but generally they are very similar in that they are 1.75-2.0" pile height, they have the coated acrylic sand, the pad, and the drainage layer but as of right now there is some preliminary studies of product materials to understand what is happening there. He noted there are also a couple in Pennsylvania and some in Kentucky that they know of right now. Mr. Stokesbury commented that assuming it is a product issue are there alternate products available; he knows the scope right now has not identified a particular product. Mr. Harris responded that there are other pad products, there are other infill products and hopefully if this project moves forward we can explore that and hopefully get some results back that help us identify the issue and we can make adjustments as necessary.

Mr. Pena questioned how long the coated crumb rubber material has been around. Mr. Harris responded twenty plus years; it originally started with sand in the old astro turf systems and the southwest does still use a lot of sand but crumb rubber was developed as a way to 1) recycle tires and 2) proven to be a good performance fit as well so it has been around a long time. Mr. Pena commented on the lighting of the turf and that area, we did talk about the lighting and it pertained only to the conduit but in the event that we did have lighting we had conditions that we spoke about some time ago about when and if we would allow lighting.

Mr. Speich questioned the purpose of the infill; is that for compression or to hold down carpet. Mr. Harris responded it is actually both; the infill is what the player's foot is really pushing on and when you compare the various infills, as an example the crumb rubber by its very nature as a rubber material has some resiliency to it, it gives, it absorbs energy; sand on the other hand



doesn't absorb energy; that is one of the things we have to look at and why crumb rubber has been such a favorable material because of its characteristics; the crumb rubber, the infill supports those fibers but that is what really gives you that resilient playing surface; the fields are designed so you are not really playing on the fiber itself, you are actually playing on that infill material. Mr. Speich questioned the maintenance of the infill material, do you have to put infill material in over time or is it just after twelve years you just do it all? Mr. Harris responded that typically over the life of the field you will have to put in small amounts in some of the really used areas, the crease areas, the goalie areas, so as the field is brushed and groomed you may find areas where it gets kicked out onto the track and swept up and thrown away so there is a little bit of material that is replaced almost on a continuous basis; a lot of folks will have a couple of five gallon buckets of it in the shed, every once in a while they find a low spot and put some in there; and as part of the project we actually include extra infill material that gets stored away that is good for quite a few years. Mr. Speich asked if they have been able to see the savings from using this type of field versus natural grass fields. Mr. Filon responded that based on his conversations with previous and current athletic directors definitely a savings with mowing and the lining; it is a lot of man hours; it is a definite savings with the water; everyone uses these fields, they have seen their time; with the turf fields from everywhere that we have in the league right now, they have seen a definite savings in maintenance expenditures. Mr. Speich asked if he saw any unforeseen problems. Mr. Filon responded no. He noted that with the fill there are areas where they are high use and had to go back with a machine to go over with extra fill, the goal areas, high traffic, over time you can see it, but nothing drastic.

Mr. Stokesbury asked Mr. Filon if he could speak to injury rates. Mr. Filon responded that in discussions with trainers and having to coach on it for seven years and talking to medical staff as far as turf versus grass, grass depending on what you are on you are going to get injured on anything; the cushion with the turf field it is a lot easier than hitting the grass, for example, football players that get hit when it's November on turf it is a big difference; as far as actual percentage numbers, at one point two years ago there was definitely a lower correlation among injuries between turf and grass; with infill you can still wear the spikes so you do get a grip, you can wear regular athletic shoe depending on what sport you are in. He noted that as far as injury rates, he can look them up through trainers around the area and see if they had increases or decreases. Mr. Stokesbury responded that is good for me; if people want more information please speak up.

Mrs. Blea questioned what kind of warranty comes with this. Mr. Stokesbury responded that the presentation spoke to an eight-year warranty on the surface. Mr. Harris responded that typically it is eight years, that includes seams, any premature wear on the actual fibers, they get pretty detailed on what that should include but again not asking for anything unreasonable.

Mrs. Young asked if it would be possible to get a copy of the matrix that was produced for the Committee that showed all the different infills. Mr. Harris responded that the Town Manager has a copy. Mrs. Young asked BSC Group to speak to the performance differences between the non-toxic, non-heavy metal TPE versus the organic materials versus coated crumb rubber. Mr. Harris responded that with TPE we find there is a quality issue; the cheaper materials come from China; they have been observed for having a lower melting material and looks like gum in your fields and then it is big trouble; it is still available but comes at a premium to get a better, higher temperature, from a performance stand point it is pretty comparable to crumb rubber but comes

with a much higher premium cost to purchase it out right as with a lot of these other things; it isn't as well documents from a long-term standpoint so he can't speak to that but indications are that it generally performs as well as crumb rubber.

Mr. Bernetich commented that on an 85-90 degree day with full sun what is the temperature on the field at that point and time. He noted that his daughter played soccer and standing out on some of the fields at FSA and felt like her feet were catching fire. Mr. Harris responded that you could get temperatures up around 120 degrees; with coated crumb rubber it is green so we're helping to reduce the heat at the playing field level; that heat is concentrated at the first foot or two over the playing surface and at that point get into the ambient air temperature and to that point you feel it around your feet. Mr. Bernetich commented that he heard stories from Hamden that kids actually had their hands on the field and they were burning their fingers; is that a myth or did that actually happen. Mr. Harris responded that he could not say one way or the other but with the temperature that hot it could happen; that is a concern especially with traditional crumb rubber. Mr. Bernetich commented that he spoke with Mr. Bell from Farmington Sports Arena (FSA) today, they have a hundred turf fields and asked what was it he would pay per field and it is a lot less than we are seeing right here; is there a reason, is it because we are a municipality we just automatically have to pay more. Mr. Harris responded he is not understanding what you mean by what you would pay for. Mr. Bernetich clarified that he asked Mr. Bell how much he paid for the last field and he said it was \$325,000, ten-year warranty plus the site work which was already a flat field and the guys were in and out within four or five days. Mr. Harris responded that in your situation we have an existing field that we have to remove so there is cost to demolish what you already have, then there is cost to expand, there is cost now that we are pushing that track into the slope that comes down from the parking lot, there is perimeter fencing immediately around the track so there is extra cost for that, there are track events, you are getting the maintenance equipment; there is a lot more going on for your situation than that situation without knowing the configuration they have there. Mr. Bernetich commented that he saw the \$850,000 for just the field and he was closer to \$450,000. Mr. Stokesbury commented that in the line item budget the turf system itself is \$425,000 and that field may be larger overall than the field at FSA. Mr. Harris noted that we are about 90,000 square feet of actual turfed surface.

Mr. Stokesbury asked Mr. Filon to speak to the hot temperatures and what you do in August. Mr. Filon responded that there have been times where the heat index is high up and the athletic directors have said no turf today; very rarely, but a couple occasions in August and football is out there it will get warm; you have to use your best judgment; trainers usually have a temperature gauge and go onto the field with and if it is oppressive they move to grass; between athletic trainers, himself, and CIAC there will be a standard set for us and if it is over a certain temperature (inaudible). Mr. Stokesbury commented that could be a negativity as far as playability, otherwise we have far more days. Mr. Filon responded that in August, if it is a game situation where you are playing at 3-4 p.m. on a weekday he has heard of one football school that moved their 1 p.m. to a 10:30 a.m. start. He hasn't seen too many that have postponed games, it was more of the start of pre-season practice and more related to football in most cases; two years ago in August there were a few schools in the southern part of the State that had to shut the turf down for two days and mainly affected football and one of the first days for field hockey and/or soccer. Mr. Bernetich commented that we would be safe to have graduation after a hot day there. Myles Altimus, Director of Facilities, responded that his understanding is we would no longer have graduation on the field once the turf went in.

Mr. Oprica, Board of Education member, commented that research shows that there aren't any detrimental health effects on crumb rubber but what we are proposing here is a coated acrylic crumb rubber and has there been research on that; a newer product. Mrs. Kertanis responded that it is newer and she is not aware of studies that have looked specifically at that but theoretically the heat issue is improved with the coated crumb rubber and any leaching of heavy metals because you are encapsulating that crumb rubber, all of that is likely to be improved. Mr. Oprica commented that theoretically he follows the logic but the acrylic itself could be an issue. He asked if there are any allergy concerns. Mrs. Kertanis responded that volatile organic compounds are the ones that we would be most concerned about relative to respiratory irritation, etc. and the off-gassing in some of the studies happens relatively quickly for the majority of the volatile organics after the field is installed, they may be able to speak to that as well; they have not seen any uptick in complaints about kids with asthma or respiratory irritation after playing on these fields; the exposure studies that are measuring the level of contaminants have taken into account the levels at which those things might be triggered.

Mrs. Chute asked Mr. Stokesbury what next step is needed from the Board of Education. Mr. Stokesbury responded that the next step is we request that you come back to us with an update on your collective opinion on your project; the Town Council wants to move forward as quickly as we can once we know your collective opinion so we can develop the plan if we are going to move forward and the big issue we have heard tonight continues to be the infill material, health risk issue associated with that; if we are going to move forward we want to do so and can go to a Town vote later in the year and then put it out to bid so work can start immediately following the school year; the sooner you can meet, at your next meeting or a special meeting, and get back to us we will try and keep it moving. Mrs. Chute responded that their next regularly scheduled meeting is June 18<sup>th</sup> and asked if that sounded reasonable. Mr. Stokesbury responded that Council's next meeting is next week; we will discuss it again and the outcome of this meeting; you have to be comfortable, it is a busy time for the Board of Education, getting back to us with results of the vote/consensus in mid-June should be fine.

Mr. Spivak clarified that the Board of Education in the past voted as Mrs. Young stated on that date and we at no point have slowed down the process and are still in a position where we do not want to prohibit you from making a decision from moving forward. Mr. Stokesbury responded that he understands that; the primary use of the project is for the Board of Education and students so we want to make sure it is a project that works for the Board of Education and the student athletes so we need to hear that; if you think it doesn't work with one field because of scheduling issues, infill issues, we need to hear it. Mr. Spivak responded that he cannot speak for the entire Board of Education tonight; we did vote unanimously with the conditions that Mrs. Young said and if you want us to vote again, he wants you to understand that we have never slowed the process or our meeting date to delay whatever you are considering; in his opinion, at this point a turf field may be used to be a luxury in most towns but now it is the norm and he does not even know why we are at this point of not having one in Avon and we care about the health of the students and the playability but it is long overdue. Mrs. Chute commented that if you want a formal date we can certainly put it on the 18<sup>th</sup> to have one final conversation and send you off on starting as soon as possible.

Mr. Stokesbury invited members of the audience to come forward with questions/comments; address them to a board or to professional staff or consultants that are here and not engage in dialogue with other members of the public.

#### **IV. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE**

John Carlson, 28 Sudbury Way, questioned placement and size of the shed. Mr. Prochorena responded that the specific size will be determined based on the specific needs; it is a pre-fabricated shed so it can't be that large, probably closer to 20' x 20' or 15' x 20'; location right now is proposed as the northwest corner where you saw the access road coming down, near the current garage facility. Mr. Carlson commented on an earlier proposal and removal of trees and shrubs and asked if any of that work is necessary as part of this project. Mr. Prochorena responded no, that is not included as part of the scope of the revised project. Mr. Carlson commented on drainage and asked where it will drain to, assume a storm sewer and has there been any studies done on the toxicity of that water as it runs off into the storm sewer. Mr. Prochorena responded yes, it will drain into the existing storm sewer system and will have to be fully engineered and permitted through the Town in coordination with the Town Engineer; there have been studies done on some of that water by comparison it is relatively clean water and with the acrylic coating that adds another layer of protection; we have never seen an issue; we have done fields that are next to streams and the like and that has been reviewed and never been an issue. Mr. Carlson thanked Mr. Prochorena and both boards for their time and effort on this and all other things.

Nancy Muench, 34 Sudbury Way, commented that the current track that we have has weeds developing in it and asked if the current track is going to be removed and a new 8-lane track installed and if so, what is going to be done so it won't deteriorate like this track that we currently have that she is not sure if there was any maintenance planned on it and not sure why it has deteriorated. Mr. Harris responded that the current track will be completely removed, the surfacing material, the asphalt base material under it, and that is to facilitate the re-configuration of the 8-lane with the slightly wider infield. Mr. Prochorena commented that the existing track had some issues; if you think of a track as a road because it is constructed very much like a road with a multi-layer surfacing on it that is what we are getting; problems with tracks can come from many different sources, i.e. the base wasn't adequately installed or insufficient for drainage, the bituminous material was too thin, if the issue was with the surface material, something went wrong with installation, sometimes it is just old and eventually needs to be resurfaced; depending on specifically where the issue comes from there are a variety of things that could go wrong. He noted that the new track will be engineered on the latest technology or information that we have for good drainage, a good solid base to give it a very, very long life span, similar to replacing the turf carpet over time through use and depends on the intensity of the use the track surfacing itself will wear out; they are designed to be re-surfaced and not reconstructed. Ms. Muench asked if that was the case with the current one as well so it could have been re-surfaced but it just wasn't. Mr. Stokesbury responded that he believes it has had re-surfacing done in the past; it is simply reaching the end of its useful life before another re-surfacing project is undertaken and he suspects the Board of Education is holding off doing that pending this project. Mr. Prochorena commented that is very common; they get used and eventually wear out and need to be re-surfaced. Mrs. Young commented that track was put in with community fundraising through a private organization in about 2000 and recalls the cost was around \$110,000 so it has been here a

long time. Ms. Muench commented that because it will be an 8-lane track is it closer to the property line towards Sudbury Way or being move closer to the school. Mr. Harris responded predominately closer to the school and that is why we are impacting that slope; there is some slight southerly movement but it is very minimal; they tried to be respective of that shift.

Barbara Ausiello, 11 Fall Brook, commented on the studies that have been done and asked if we are not aware of any that were done regarding coated crumb rubber and of the ones that were done with the crumb rubber do we know who paid for those, where they came from. Mrs. Kertanis responded there are upwards of from twenty to seventy studies of different types, all a variety, they were not paid solely by the industry; for instance, one of the best exposure studies was conducted by the State Health Department in Connecticut. Ms. Ausiello commented on the failing turfs in Guilford and Bristol and asked if those are made of similar materials that are being presented here. Mr. Harris responded similar system but not materials because we haven't gotten into that level of detail but similar system in that it is turf, infill, pad, stone and that is what we are trying to figure out is what component of that system might be causing the problem. Ms. Muench asked how long those fields were around before they started to have issues. Mr. Stokesbury responded that Guilford was just installed. Mr. Prochorena commented that the system we are looking at, and these will be finalized during the final design, we have used in other projects and have not had those issues which is why some people feel it may be a particular material issue or product issue; we will steer away from anything that has the remotest possibility of having an issue, we will stick with the stuff that is tried and true that has demonstrated that it performs with no issues. Ms. Muench commented that we talked about warranty on the actual turf and asked about equipment, maintenance, and sports equipment. Mr. Prochorena responded yes; it is all built in to the specifications and the contractor that ultimately builds your project provides a full package of those various warranties and we detail out in the specifications exactly what those warranties need to contain; those are put into three-ring binders and are handed over to the owner at the end of the project. Ms. Muench asked if they are typically short span. Mr. Prochorena responded it varies from product to product and they are very typical of product type warranties, for example, a soccer goal may have a partial warranty on the finish and a partial on the netting material to be free from degradation so it varies product to product.

Brian Loveless, 83 Westbury, commented that he moved to Avon close to a decade ago and has two children in the school system; from his perspective this shouldn't even be a discussion whether or not to move forward with this project; we are in dire need of what is proposed and the bare minimum of what is required. He recommended increasing the project cost to include bleachers; my in-laws were in town a few weeks ago for a track meet and the conditions of the bleachers are unsightly to say the least. He highlighted the need for a field even more, earlier in the spring his 7<sup>th</sup> grade daughter was getting ready for spring track we went to the long jump and the pits were terrible so we brought our garden rake from home and raked the bits; we live in a wonderful Town and we should do what is right.

Susan Reboul, 23 Sudbury Way, commented on Guilford and recently their new turf began to separate and asked why and what was more startling to her was that the town now has to spend an additional \$50,000 to investigate; as part of that warranty that is being offered what do you cover because she would hate to think we're separating at the seams and that our Town has to cover an investigation. Mr. Harris responded that he is not from the turf manufacturer so he

cannot speak specifically about the warranties in that respect but it is a concern; the industry is very interested in the results that come out of Guilford, Bristol, and the other fields. He commented that could we write a requirement to put that in the warranty, potentially yes. Mr. Prochorena commented that we will specifically avoid any of the materials that were used in those fields once more information comes out; we will stick to products and systems that we have used successfully on other projects that have not any issues; there are a myriad of products available with respect to the different kinds of pads and those kinds of things so we will make sure that we avoid those during the design process so we don't run into the same issues. Ms. Reboul asked the Board of Education and the Town to consider making sure there is a clause so that should we see the separation that Guilford is experiencing we are not sitting here a year later with a field that is locked and additional unanticipated expenses that generally take away from something else; this is avoidable, this is a cost that we are aware exists, let's not let that be Avon because they are extraordinarily frustrated in Guilford; if you don't know about it, research it online. She questioned where the storm drains drain out to; right now we have fields but when you get that turf that water is going somewhere and a lot more of it. Mr. Prochorena responded that from an engineering perspective the amount of water is the same because the rainfall is where the water comes from; with a natural turf field or synthetic turf field the rainfall that is on the field is the same. Ms. Reboul questioned the runoff. Mr. Prochorena responded that right now there is a system out there when we design the field will analyze in great detail where the existing drainage is, we will use the existing drainage to the extent possible but have to do an analysis of the system to make sure that the system that we are ultimately tying into can handle all of the runoff and will get reviewed with the Town Engineer; we cannot put more water downstream per your plumbing codes than under these conditions and is something that is always a concern; the last thing we want to do is push water downstream and cause a problem on someone else's property; it will be very closely analyzed to make sure that the system that is designed, and every system is unique for each field and each specific site condition, that is a big part of the engineering side of these projects so the system we put in to specifically ensure that we are not over handling any drainage system that we tie onto whether it be natural or a piped system. Ms. Reboul commented that if there is drainage somewhere on her street can she go to Engineering and find out where that ties into and to what degree would be affected by turf versus grass. Mr. Prochorena responded yes, any subdivision as it is designed by the engineers, their drainage systems are very carefully designed so if you look at a catch basin in the street it may seem simple but it is not; it is part of a complex system that is very carefully engineered to handle various storm events, design storms, and have to design for what is reasonable; with your neighborhood there are plans when that subdivision was approved, those plans are on file, the engineering calculations that were reviewed and approved by the Zoning Commission at that time, this is kind of the same exact process even though it is not a subdivision, it is a field but we do follow the same process. Ms. Reboul commented on the field and she hears over and over again how the Board of Education has let it get to a state of disrepair, she does not know the validity behind those statements however she asks, as it sounds like this is one turf field, what is the Board's commitment to bringing these dilapidated remaining fields up to a standard where so many of the parents in the schools do not feel as though safety concerns are considered. Mr. Altimus responded right now we have a multi-purpose field/field hockey field that is on a rest period from March until September; we didn't rejuvenate that field and gave it a chance to recover from its excessive use. He noted that we had soil tested on all of our fields and from that we will be developing with all of our natural grass fields a plan to work on each one of them and improve them. Ms. Reboul questioned that is in play for next year, two years, over time; it

doesn't affect his family personally but she has heard this so much; is there a significant problem with angles being bent, big divots, and things that are affecting play and games being stopped; these are all things that have been in the public. Mr. Filon responded that at the High School he has not been aware of having to stop a game; he has heard that we don't play much on the Middle School field which is pretty chopped up; any official from the CIAC or boards that come to our fields do a field inspection prior to the game and if there is anything wrong with the field they will address the coaches or himself and say there is a safety issue and we won't play; we have not had that done. He thinks people are saying the overtime wear and tear on the fields which at the end of the soccer season you can see at Fisher and the end of the lacrosse season at Buckingham and our field you can see the wear and tear. He noted that we have no one on the field hockey field, they have aerated it, done the samples, letting it grow and you can tell the difference now than what he has seen in the many years that he has been at the High School. He has not been approached by coaches or players; there has been some unevenness in the corner for shotput, but as far as soccer or lacrosse he has not heard of severe divots; at the youth level those calls go to the Avon Youth Lacrosse and Soccer Clubs.

Mary Deppe, 35 Westland Road, thanked everyone for their efforts and hopefully this project will move forward with some urgency; it is unfortunate to see that the project was scaled down as the need is there for a second field and great to have as a practice field as you can see there is a great need for fields to be used over and over again throughout the seasons and it would also be economical rather than doing one field. She noted there is a lot of interest and support in Town however as an example tonight there were a couple of Avon Youth Lacrosse games being played in Town as well as Conard High School, also club field hockey games going on tonight so a lot of student athletes who were not able to come and other families; there are student athletes that are currently at Avon High School who are working in the evenings and were not able to attend; there is a petition online in favor of turf fields at Avon High School so there is a great community support; you may not see it in the room but it is out there and want you to be aware of that because at all of the meetings it is always brought up. She questioned the timeline for start and finish of this project and how fast it can get done. Mr. Stokesbury responded that our goal is to have it constructed next summer. He referred to BSC Group to speak to the likely time duration for constructing this type of project; can it be done in ten weeks? Mr. Prochorena responded that ten weeks is right; typically it is defined or constrained by the school season but most folks like to go out in the bid in the winter, start construction immediately upon school ending, some towns have opted to relocate some of their activities to jump on things and start earlier; typically construction will wrap up in the fall, depending on the specific weather conditions usually one of the last things that happens is the surfacing of the track; it is very sensitive to weather conditions, if the season is favorable for us that can get done and the project is almost 100% done by the time we go into the winter season; there have been incidents where the weather, maybe we got a lot of rain during the summer or had early bad weather in the fall and there are some minor things that have to happen the following spring; a typical one if the weather does not cooperate with us is that track surfacing because it is so sensitive to the weather; but many schools most of them do these projects over the summer at the end of the school year and typically done by the time the kids go back to school. Ms. Deppe questioned if the actual plan that was proposed tonight would be put on the Avon Public Schools web site so that maybe some of the people who are on the web site for other things might come across it and more in tune to what is going on between the community, the Town, and the Schools. Ms. Deppe commented to the resident of Sudbury Way and hope that they will embrace this, this is

our community, in regards to Canton's turf you can see the neighbors have totally embraced their field, they have adirondack chairs in the backyard overlooking the fields and audiences out there for many sporting events and it is a community feel and an awesome feeling going even as the away team to watch a game over in Canton.

Maria Mascoli, 9 Tall Wood Hollow, thanked the two boards for coming together tonight; it is something that the public has asked for and she is grateful and the public is very grateful. She gave a shout out to Mr. Altimus for resting the field hockey field and many of us are very grateful for working to make it in top condition for August. She noted that she has been participating in turf meetings and conversations over the last ten years; although her four children will not have the opportunity to play on a turf field, compete on an 8-lane track that we have been talking about for years or play on a field hockey field but she is so excited to hear what is happening tonight and for this project to regain momentum and see what has happened over the last five months so we can continue these discussions and work together as a Town, so thank you both boards. She questioned if this infill proposal for tonight, this coated crumb rubber infill, is the same fill that was proposed about two years ago. Mr. Harris responded yes; that was coming out of the sub-committee that arrived at that. Ms. Mascoli commented that as much as she would like to see this happen sooner rather than later she would like to see as she knows many people will ask that all infill possibilities have been discussed including any natural substances such as coconut and have we considered that as well. Mr. Harris responded that we went to the sub-committee with a pretty extensive matrix of all the available products out there and we exhaustively reviewed every one of those pros and cons costs, performance, and playability with the group and we ultimately arrived at the coated crumb rubber.

Andy Shayler, 87 Hollister Drive, commented that the turf fields have been way long overdue; as a soccer coach we need these fields desperately; the quarterfinals, semi-finals, and finals in the CIAC tournament are all played on a turf field; we have a distinct disadvantage when we got into any of those finals because we have no time to practice on the correct size fields so these fields are very much in demand and will be in over demand. He would like the Board of Education not only to consider the turf field but the secondary field as well. Thompson Brook could be given a little bit more (inaudible) and every single premier soccer club in the world plays on grass so there is a cheaper alternative to give us two fields; yes we need the turf field and yes we need the second field; Fisher Meadows has been very critical and on a wet plain so its usage is strictly limited. He thanked the Board for their consideration.

James Beaudoin, 18 School Street, commented that he was at a Town Council on March 1<sup>st</sup> where the Town Manager indicated he went to an OPM meeting with the State and was told we would not be granted any State money for the field. He added that at that meeting he asked how can we get some support from the State and Senator Witkos indicated that he wanted to hear from the Town people; Town Council indicated that we could send an e-mail or a letter to Senator Witkos. He sat there realizing no one was going to do that so while he was sitting there, he went online to GoDaddy.com and got a web site domain, avonturf.com, and told the people in the meeting we could do a little petition, fundraiser on there; it is up and running; once we get all the signatures he will bring it to the Senator himself and get some support that way as well. Mr. Stokesbury noted that Mr. Beaudoin was the first contributor. Mr. Beaudoin responded that he did pledge that first contribution; the site is up and running; he has flyers; easy to remember; there are already forty signatures; he e-mailed all of our soccer team and people from the Avon



Memorial Day tournament so it is a pretty good start. He did also speak, at the last Town Council meeting, about the actual infill material and asked about the brand name. Mr. Prochorena responded no and the folks that bid on the project would have a series of similar products to choose from, very typical to make sure the Town is getting the best price for an approval on a product. Mr. Stokesbury noted that Mr. Beaudoin is involved in the industry of trucking the material so he has some knowledge. Mr. Beaudoin has some knowledge and experience; we haul the raw material to a facility in Albany, New York and they produce the crumb rubber material through a process where there is no volatile organic received from the material for the health of the kids; there are a lot of studies being done that can cause harm but none of it has been proven so then you are left right where you started; it is inconclusive. He thinks we should get an expert on the actual material that can answer specific questions; he can bring someone in, a sales rep from a company from a knowledge base because there are specific questions you probably want answers from an expert, not just someone that has hypothesized. Mr. Stokesbury responded that assuming the project is approved the building committee would be the body that would be looking at and determining the infill so at that point we would be looking at appropriate experts to give us as much insight and advice as possible to make a knowledgeable decision in an imperfect world. Mr. Beaudoin commented that would put some people's minds at ease if they had an expert on the process. He noted that there is a field in Monroe that has cork fill and when it rains the stuff floats away and they have to replace it all. He added that if the State does fund a field it has to be double encapsulated. Mr. Stokesbury commented that it is safe to say that we would be meeting or exceeding State specs. Mr. Beaudoin responded that would be the way to go regardless and the green color is the cooler temperature. He again noted [avonturf.com](http://avonturf.com) and it would be great to go the State legislature with ammo. Mr. Stokesbury thanked Mr. Beaudoin; at this point we are unlikely to get State funding in this cycle, their budget season is over, but any fundraising that occurs can go towards add-ons to the project or building money for a second field or other alternatives and we all appreciate your efforts.

Adam Lazinsk, 88 Deepwood Drive, thanked both boards for arranging this meeting and Ms. Mascoli for her tireless efforts. He has been following this project not as long as Ms. Mascoli but for many years and has watched it progress and at some meeting some time ago in a previous year he said that we have one chance to get this right and along those lines he is concerned that we have reached a price point that might be palatable to most voters we are selling the project short. He supports the original scope of the project that was developed by that Building Committee through the Recreation and Parks Department to include two playing fields. He understands what Mr. Filon was saying that to a teenager's eyes they are able to discern the different colored lines. He has looked at multi-purpose fields into his 54-year old eyes and have a hard time. He understands the financial burdens placed upon the Town and all the other needs that exist within the Town but if you are going to a project it only makes sense to do it the right way the first time and perhaps the only time.

Mrs. Young commented about the weeds growing through the track because at one point there was a tree growing through the tennis court at the Middle School; there is a reality that stuff has a lifetime that is part of the issue but maintenance is also part of the issue and we have this wonderful new leadership on the Town Council and Board of Education as well as at Central Office and there is a renewed commitment on the part of all three boards to come together and find a way to go forward on this project and also to work together collaboratively because we

don't have the resources on the Board of Education to maintain regular old grass or turf; it needs to be a collaborative effort moving forward; it is exciting to see people come here tonight and great that we are all coming together to keep moving this forward; we did make a decision two years ago but the State did hold things up and that has been part of the problem so now we are on our own and yes, it would be great if we could do the whole project but we are somewhat unfortunately limited to the reality of our financial picture and do have to prioritize.

Sarah Roberson, 24 Sudbury Way, commented that we are your neighbors, we live in this Town too, we love the school, we have always loved it, and have said that to you all numerous times; this is not bang up on Sudbury Way; you said we weren't going to address people in the audience; we are your neighbors, we said a long time ago we were in favor of turf. She is appealing to you all, stop making this a Sudbury Way issue; it is not; these are good logical questions; if you were in our shoes you would ask them too; we are asking about drainage, where sheds go, asking questions that anybody in the Town would ask and she would appreciate it if people didn't say Sudbury Way this, Sudbury Way that because that's not it; our kids go to Avon High School, our kids went to Avon Middle School, our kids went to Pine Grove; we have supported this all along, we supported two fields. Mr. Stokesbury noted that Ms. Roberson was on the Committee. Ms. Roberson responded yes and devoted a lot of time to this, heart and soul, and every one of us on our street spent a lot of time on this and it makes her frustrated and angry and hurt that we're neighbors. She does a lot of things with a lot of you here, so do our neighbors, so please stop making it a Sudbury Way issue; we hear it all the time; we voted for two fields, we voted no lights, and we are just asking questions. She appreciates the time to make that final plea.

Mr. Stokesbury commented that the Board of Education will be addressing the issue in an upcoming meeting and getting back to us and Town Council will run with it again from there, perhaps address the issues that come up; we hope to get it before the public and get a favorable vote. He thanked all for coming tonight.

## **V. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

### **Attest:**

**Trish Munroe, Acting Town Council Clerk**

# Avon High School Synthetic Turf Field Project

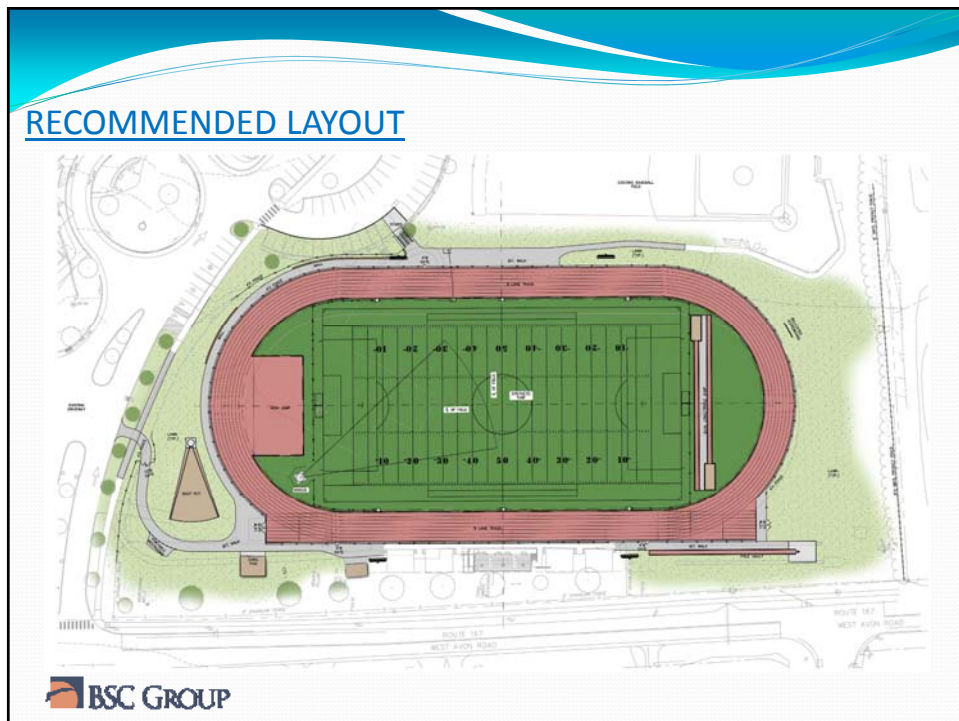
May 31, 2018



## AHS Synthetic Turf Field: The NEED

1. Increased playability, regardless of weather (early and late season play, wet and frozen conditions)
2. Alleviates scheduling and maintenance pressure on existing field stock
3. No mowing required, less water needed
4. More consistent playing surface when compared to natural turf







## PROJECT SCOPE

### Base Project

1. Synthetic turf field
2. 8 lane track with run-outs and field events
3. Access, walkways, and driveway
4. Existing bleachers to remain
5. Visitor bleacher pavement (existing bleachers to be used)
6. Retaining walls
7. New security fence North and East
8. LAX safety netting footings
9. Maintenance equipment
10. Pre-fabricated storage shed

**Base Project Cost:** \$2,300,000

Includes 10% Contingency  
(\$210,500)

Plus approx. **\$300,000** in soft costs (attorney fees, bonding costs, referendum costs, etc.)



### Materials

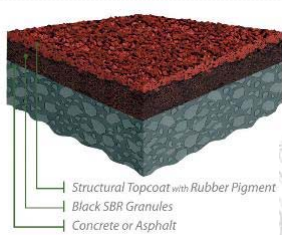
- Synthetic Turf, resilient pad, sand & coated SBR rubber infill
- Bituminous concrete running track with urethane base mat surface

### Project Alternates

1. Field and/or track logos



## PROJECT SCOPE – RUNNING TRACK



- Polyurethane base mat (porous system)
- Color: red
- High school track event layout & standard markings



## PROJECT SCOPE – SYNTHETIC TURF

- 1.75-inch knap turf sand and coated SBR (crumb rubber infill), resilient pad.
- Should crumb rubber ever be deemed hazardous: Infill can be removed and new infill can be installed; resilient pad allows flexibility as to future type.
- Add approx. \$60,000 over traditional non-coated rubber infill
- Stone base layer for stability and drainage.



## MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS

### FIELD

1. Average savings of 160,000 gallons of water per year
2. No mowing
3. No striping
4. No aeration or topdressing
5. No muddy surfaces
6. Ability to play in rain



## MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS

### **FIELD**

- Weekly: Sweeping/raking of infill at High Use Areas <1 Hour
- Monthly: Static/Drag Behind Grooming <4 Hours
- Seasonal – Spring & Fall: Sweeping and tines grooming



## FIELD LIFE CYCLE COST

### **Synthetic Turf Field**

- \$850,000 construction (8 year warranty)
- \$450,000 carpet replacement at year 15

