

September 9, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Doug Ruskin

Martha's Vineyard All-Island Finance Committee

Re: Martha's Vineyard Regional High School – Athletic Field Improvements
Finance Committee Questions from 8/12/20

Dear Mr. Ruskin,

As we have indicated, we do not intend to attend the All-Island Finance Committee meeting that has been called for September 15, 2020. We look forward to your participation in the Martha's Vineyard Commission's (MVC) public hearing to review our application relating to Phase One of the improvements to Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's (MVRHS) athletic fields, which will include a discussion of the costs involved in providing our students with improved, safer, and sustainable athletic facilities. However, in response to several questions raised during the All-Island Finance Committee (AIFC) video conference / public hearing of August 12, 2020, as well as in your letter to Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Superintendent, Matthew D'Andrea, dated August 28, 2020, we would like to direct you to the following information that has been compiled from the existing public documents submitted to both the MVC and the Oak Bluffs Planning Board (OBPB). All of the information contained below is readily available for public review on the MVC and OBPB websites. We have summarized and included it here to ease your review.

1. Are the MVC and OBPB reviewing the entire master plan or just Phase One?

Response: Both applications to the MVC & OBPB are for Phase One only. The specific scope of Phase One Improvements includes the following:

- 1. New eight lane 400m running track*
- 2. One (1) multi-purpose synthetic turf field*
- 3. One (1) natural grass athletic field renovation*
- 4. New LED Sports Lighting,*
- 5. 1000 Seat Grandstand & Press box*
- 6. Fieldhouse Building with locker rooms, bathrooms, trainer's room, concessions, weight room, classroom and storage.*
- 7. Track & Field Equipment Storage Shed*
- 8. Walkways, fences and associated site improvements.*

2. Is there a breakdown of construction costs associated with the Phase One Scope of Work.

Response: Yes. Please refer to the "Estimate of Probable Construction Costs, Option B Phase 1". You can also refer to page 30 of the attached "Martha's Vineyard Regional

High School Athletic Field Master Plan” prepared by Huntress Associates, Inc., dated February 4, 2019 for the same information (Option B - Phase One, dated 12/18/18) in its full context.

- 3. Is there any additional information, or additional detail, for the annual maintenance costs associated with Field #1 (Synthetic Turf), and Field #2 (Natural Grass)?**

Response: Yes. Please refer to the “Estimate of Probable Long-Term Costs” for both natural grass and synthetic turf field options. You can also refer to pages 84 and 85 of the attached “Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Athletic Field Master Plan” prepared by Huntress Associates, Inc., dated February 4, 2019 for the same information in its full context.

Additionally, these costs break down the annual recommended maintenance scope of work for both a typical natural grass and synthetic turf field. The hourly rate for actual employee costs/hour were provided by MVRHS.

- 4. Has the School Committee voted to include synthetic turf and not natural grass on Field #1.**

Response: Yes, on 2/04/19 the MVRHS School Committee formally voted to recommend and approve the use of synthetic turf for Field #1.

- 5. Members of the Finance Committee from several towns have expressed concern with the costs associated with maintenance of the (synthetic) field, especially considering all of the components listed in the ‘XtremeTurf Maintenance Manual’.**

Response: Please refer to the attached “MVC Staff Question & Answer” document provided by Huntress Associates, Inc., dated April 3, 2020. Question #8 outlines the recommended annual maintenance program which will be included in the project specifications. Further, the specifications require the selected turf manufacturer provide all required sweeping and grooming equipment to the owner and provide two (2) years of turf field maintenance at no additional cost to the school. During that two-year period, MVRHS staff will work with the turf company’s maintenance staff to receive the appropriate training required to properly care for the field. After the two-year maintenance has expired, MVRHS staff will take over the annual care for the field. The cost for annual maintenance, as outlined in our project specifications is not expected to exceed more than \$7500 annually for the turf field. A breakdown of the hours and tasks associated with annual turf field maintenance can be found in the “Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Athletic Field Master Plan” prepared by Huntress Associates, Inc., dated February 4, 2019.

- 6. Members are concerned that the stated costs for the grass field (maintenance) seemed high.**

Response: Please refer to the attached “MVRHS Turf Field Annual Maintenance Plan” dated November 14, 2018. You can also refer to pages 86-94 of the attached “Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Athletic Field Master Plan” prepared by Huntress Associates, Inc., dated February 4, 2019 for the same information in its full context. This plan includes a detailed scope of the recommended maintenance for a natural grass athletic field for High School Use. Additionally, the aforementioned attachment, “Estimate of Probable Long-Term Costs” for the natural grass field provides a breakdown of estimated annual maintenance costs tied to that plan. Please note that the hourly cost for labor was provided by MVRHS and represents actual employee costs/hour at MVRHS.

7. Members of the AIFC have requested a report listing itemized maintenance costs for the existing fields for the past three years.

Response: MVRHS began tracking Athletic Fields spending as a separate spending category beginning in FY18. From that time, MVRHS spent approximately \$136,729 in FY18, \$153,649 in FY19, and is budgeted to spend \$155,500 in FY20. You can also refer to the attached “MVC Staff Question & Answer” document provided by Huntress Associates, Inc., dated May 26, 2020, Question #8 for the same information in its full context.

8. Members of the AIFC have requested a similar itemized listing for anticipated annual maintenance costs of the artificial fields.

Response: Please refer to the attached “Estimate of Probable Long-Term Costs” for the synthetic turf field. You can also refer to page 85 of the attached “Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Athletic Field Master Plan” prepared by Huntress Associates, Inc., dated February 4, 2019 for the same information in its full context.

Finally, a question was raised during public comments regarding the role of Huntress Associates, Inc. in this process. Please know that the MVRHS School Committee chose Huntress Associates, Inc. after interviewing several other professionals for the project based upon Huntress Associates’ extensive experience and reputation in the field. Christian Huntress is a registered Landscape Architect in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts specializing in sports, recreation and campus environments and his firm has been designing athletic facilities for public and private high schools, colleges, and professional sports for over twenty years. Huntress Associates, Inc. has never been employed by any synthetic turf manufacturer and has designed more natural grass fields than synthetic. The master plan, details, and estimated costs provided by Huntress are based upon real and local projects for which they have tracked values and unit prices for over twenty years. A complete summary of their recommendations can be found in the attached “Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Athletic Field Master Plan” dated February 4, 2019. Although lengthy, we would encourage you to read it as we believe it provides important information regarding the long-term financial impact of the project.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity of presenting our project to the MVC as the next step in providing improved athletic fields to our students and look forward to answering any other questions you may have at that time.

Sincerely;
Richie Smith, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

Kimberly Kirk
Chair
Martha's Vineyard Regional High School - School Committee

cc: Alex Elvin, General Planner, MVC
Matthew D'Andrea, MVPS Superintendent
Chris Huntress, Huntress Associates, Inc.
Joseph Sullivan, Daedalus Projects, Inc.

Att: Martha's Vineyard Athletic Field Master Plan – dated 2/4/19

MVC Staff Review & Response, prepared by Huntress Associates, dated 4/3/20

MVC Staff Review & Response, prepared by Huntress Associates, dated 5/28/20

Plan set entitled Athletic Field Improvements – Phase One, dated January 22, 2020, prepared by Huntress Associates, Inc. and the updated sheets L2, L3, L3.1, & L13 dated 4/28/20.