

Environmental Action Task Force
Artificial Turf Fields Resolution
Thursday February 26, 2009

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenwich aspires to lead among municipalities in providing safe, healthy, environmentally responsible and financially prudent recreational facilities to its children; and

WHEREAS, the Town provides athletic fields for the conduct and support of organized athletics for its children, and

WHEREAS, artificial turf athletic fields made of various plastics and other polymers rather than natural grass have been put forward as a means of meeting the Town's aspirations, and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Action Taskforce studied available literature and Town records relative to these technologies, and

WHEREAS, the Taskforce identified potential health, environmental and financial concerns relating to the choice between artificial and natural grass fields discussed in the accompanying report to the Selectmen;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Greenwich carefully review any new investments to acquire, develop and/or replace natural fields with new artificial fields with consideration to health, environmental, benefit and financial questions, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Greenwich sample its current artificial turf fields and infill, using an independent testing laboratory and government accepted testing protocols, to evaluate the presence of and risk posed by chemicals of concern, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health together with the Parks and Recreation Department monitor field temperatures, post appropriate advisories and establish temperature safety and field usage standards for all town artificial turf fields, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen establish an Artificial Turf Working Group comprised of members with professional skills or knowledge that will advise Selectmen related to issues as they relate to updated information, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town consider life-cycle costs in the financial analysis of any artificial turf field acquisition decision, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town obtain an opinion from counsel as to whether there is any additional liability to the Town associated with the use of artificial fields.