



The Town voted under Article 25 of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting to purchase 7 acres of land at 37B Commonwealth Avenue with frontage on Warner's Pond "...for municipal purposes, including active recreation and affordable housing...". The Concord Housing Authority has offered to construct a unit of public housing, abutting an existing unit of CHA housing at 365 Commonwealth Avenue. The remainder of the property, which is adjacent to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, will be developed as public park. This article proposes that the portion of the property with frontage on Commonwealth Avenue be transferred to the Concord Housing Authority for the development of one unit of affordable housing.

BY PETITION ADOPT A MORATORIUM OF SYNTHETIC TURF ON TOWN PROPERTY

ARTICLE 28. To determine whether the Town will adopt a moratorium on the construction or installation of any synthetic turf (monofilament carpet with infill) and any surface covering of loose fill made from scrap tires on any land, of any size, owned by the town for a three-year time period starting on April 18, 2019 and ending on April 18, 2022; or take any other action relative thereto.

This moratorium is a three year extension of the 2016 moratorium which the town voted to put in place to prevent the construction of synthetic turf fields on town land in Concord. Crumb rubber, used in synthetic turf, contains known carcinogens and endocrine disrupters raising concerns about its health effects, especially in young children. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stated that without further study no conclusions can be drawn about the safety of crumb rubber and together with the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, they are still working on a study regarding the safety of synthetic turf. Synthetic turf also has environmental impacts which include the loss of carbon capture by grass; the annual loss of 3-5% of the crumb rubber that leaches from the fields into the surrounding area; plastic monofilaments that break off and leave the fields; and poor retention of water after heavy rain events. Building synthetic turf fields violates the four sustainability principles adopted by the Town in 2011. The proposed moratorium does not include the sealed surfaces currently in use on running tracks and children's playgrounds. It would apply to Concord Public School fields but not Concord-Carlisle Regional High School fields or privately owned land.