

November 14, 2008

Dear Community Members:

This responds to the various emails and questions we have received to date regarding our Facilities Committee's recommendation to construct a multipurpose artificial turf field just to the West of the baseball diamond on the Middle/High School campus.

At this juncture, the Board of Education has not yet made a decision to construct the field. In May of 2007, we conducted a feasibility and cost study and this September we initiated an environmental impact review, as required under SEQRA. Our environmental consultants are currently in the process of preparing the initial documentation required under SEQRA.

Once the documents are complete, we will schedule a public comment session to enable the public to comment upon whether the scope of our environmental review is adequate. After the requisite environmental studies have been completed, the Board (which has declared itself the lead agency for SEQRA purposes), will make a determination as to whether the requirements of SEQRA have been satisfied. We estimate that this process will take us at least one year (perhaps two) and cost us around \$118,000.

Given the current economic troubles, the Board is presently struggling with the issue of whether it is appropriate to spend \$118,000 on the environmental review at this time. Assuming SEQRA can be satisfied and we can get approval from the State Education Department, the current intention of the Board of Education is to put the field up for referendum and let the voters decide whether the field should be constructed. At this point, we believe that the earliest we could be ready for a referendum is in 2010.

We hope this helps clear up some of the confusion about where we are in the process. We thank you for your comments.

Sincerely,
The North Salem Board of Education