

**February 2, 2026**

**Natural and Synthetic Turf Field Study Group**

Call meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

**Members Present**

Matt Brand

Julie McDonough

Bruce Evans

Motion by Matt Brand to nominate Julie McDonough as Chair. Bruce seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Introductions - DONE

**Purpose of Natural and Synthetic Turf Field Study Group**

The members discussed the purpose of the study group. Issues related to fields included:

- Lack of field space
- Demand for field space
- Field usage impact
- Pros and cons of natural, pros and cons of artificial
- Uniform surface is a consideration
- Playable hours

The members discussed that research exists. Pull studies and data for reference and background information. It needs to be pulled together into one report.

Members suggested it would also be helpful to look at what other towns have done, including Brookline and Wayland. Then we would need to analyze issues specific to Natick.

Members discussed the format of the report and what it will and won't do. It should define the problem and be clear about the problem are we trying to solve. It won't provide a recommendation, but it should help the town begin to work toward a solution. It will not take a position, but will provide data and evidence. It should allow town to make informed decisions in the future.

The report should also contains financial implications. Short and long term cost analysis. Consider cost - FTE, maintenance, replacement of grass, replacement of turf. Cost effective solution. Be mindful of cost to install and maintain. Context within town.

**Invite speakers:**

- School sports
- Youth sports
- Parks and rec
- DPW expertise: maintenance
- Sustainability
- Board of Health
- Conservation commission
- Experts on grass
- Experts on turf

**Action items:**

- Develop template
- Draft objective and problem statement
- Set up

**Meeting schedule**

Monday, Feb. 9th - 5:00 p.m.

- Template
- Questionnaire
- Begin to schedule presenters

Monday, Feb. 23rd - 5:00 p.m.

- Announce template to SC and SB
- Begin to fill in template

**Warrant article at Town Meeting to hear report (interim)**

- Bruce will handle

Motion to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. - Matt Brand

Bruce Evans - 2nd

3-0 in favor