

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments: Per Council rules and procedures, please limit comments to what can reasonably be read to the meeting record in three (3) minutes or less. Please be mindful that this form is for public comment only. Please direct questions/general inquiries to Council members directly.

First Name	Last Name	Street Address	Comments
Pauline	Parrish	262 Naubuc Ave	Recently, my family and I took a trip to the Killington valley in VT.It's known as the Easts outdoor adventure capital where enthusiasts come from all over the world to enjoy mountains, lakes and its natural beauty.Our family loves to ski & we have been searching nearby mountains to see which fits us best. I'm telling you this because when we got there we where shocked to find out the entire surrounding area of Killington had contaminated water and was unusable.Not to drink, cook with, even brush your teeth with. Sadly, even an Elementary school was affected. Why? Because the water contained more than 20 nanogram per liter of PFAS.The same PFAS that are in the artificial turf Glastonbury wants to install.The artificial turf that is being purposed has 40,000 pounds of PFAS containing plastics.The turf will breakdown, leaving microscopic pieces of plastic to penetrate our beautiful town with toxic chemicals that could and will most likely end up in our water, streams, CT river, and ultimately our bodies. We moved to Glastonbury for many reasons, one being its open farm land, natural beauty and environmentally friendly outlook.The town was paving the way to a greener, more sustainable future.This was the right fit for us.Killington was not. I hope Glastonbury decides to keep its green grass not only for the environment/sustainability but also for the youth that would be exposed to these chemicals on a daily basis. Financially, Killington was awarded \$6 million for phase 1 of the clean up project.They will most likely have to spend millions more.The hotel we stayed at gave out hundreds of free water bottles a day (more plastic). The lost revenue from people like myself that will not bring my children to that mountain again.The cost of this turf could end up costing the town of Glastonbury as well.Please do not willingly, knowingly allow exposure to harmful chemicals like PFAS's by installing the turf fields.Together, lets protect the people & environment of Gbury.

Amy	Hennessy	220 BELLE WOODS DR	As a parent of two student athletes in the community, I strongly urge you to consider the funding of the BOE recommended facility projects which includes a multi-sport turf field and an on campus weight room. These two projects will be a major benefit to all athletic programs and our various community programs. Children of working parents are at an immediate disadvantage when strength training programs are not held on the school campus. Transportation is not provided by the town or the schools and all are not able to access strength and conditioning programs with their teams unless they can secure their own transportation. This is simply not equitable. We are the only town in our athletic conference that does not have on campus weight training facilities which are vital to the mental and physical health of our youth. Given the rich history of athletics in our community, it is shocking that we are limited to only one athletic turf field that is shared by multiple sports throughout the year. Our practice experience needs to be consistent with the game experience and asking teams to practice at 7:30 pm due to lack of daylight and limited turf space is unacceptable. We can do better for our community.
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William	Maag	70 Nicole Drive	I cannot believe that the Town Council is seriously considering spending \$1.5 million of taxpayer money PER FIELD to buy environmentally destructive, non-recyclable fake turf made from shamefully harmful fossil fuels that lasts less than a decade and will release microplastics into the environment and off-gas toxic chemicals. Even if it was free, you shouldn't want to pollute our town with something that's that bad for the health of our environment, our waterways, and our children. I sincerely hope that the Town Council never considers this option again.
Jim	Bidwell	3270 Hebron Ave	I oppose the artificial turf project in Glastonbury. It has been shown to be unsafe for kids playing on the fields and it is not needed.
Lisa	Mendum	45 Candlewood Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033	Thank you for providing public comment opportunity.I'm writing again regarding turf fields.Unfortunately, arguments are drowning out the issue that athletes want better facilities.They are making do with existing fields never intended for their current usage level, nor designed or engineered to cope with todays traffic.We have been told that turf fields have been fully vetted.How?What plans and costs were reviewed to bring existing grass fields up to par?Was only turf considered?Is this fully vetting?In the CIP budget workshop we heard that after the initial \$3m install costs, they cost zero to maintain.The half million dollar price tag to replace the existing field was left out.The raking machine to maintain turf fields was left out.Sanitation, top-up and general maintenance costs were left out.What IS the disposal plan for the 40,000 lbs of plastic when the existing turf field comes out?Where will it go since it can't be recycled?How much will this cost?This is an unregulated industry growing exponentially because manufacturers continue to greenwash claims hiding the truth.The state of Connecticut recognized there is a significant problem with pollution from turf fields, so much so that SB100 establishes a general fund for clean-up of PFAS pollution, necessary mitigation measures and remediation of town-owned and residential properties.Tax dollars would be needed to install turf fields, tax dollars would be needed to maintain turf fields, then tax dollars will be needed to clean up the fields.How is this prudent?We have many seniors and low-income families already struggling with increasing property taxes.Some that have lived here for decades are faced with having to leave. I hope Glastonburys children will look to us and say 'thank you for making the right choice' instead of 'what were you thinking?'We have to be responsible stewards of THEIR environment and ditch our obsession with petro-chemical products choking air, water, every inch of our land.

Mark and Peggy	Schroeder	151 Barrington Way	<p>We oppose spending money to build an additional turf field in Glastonbury. We fail to understand how replacing a grass field with a turf field furthers any student’s education. We are confused that the BOE’s recent top capital improvement priorities relate primarily to sports: locker rooms, weight rooms, fancy fields, etc. Instead, we would hope our elected BOE and Town Council members would be analyzing how to best use their limited funds to upgrade school buildings and further educational opportunities for all students, not on unnecessary athletic perks. We would prefer this money go toward increasing student engagement and recovering educational time lost during Covid, as is being accomplished with the long overdue effort to install classroom walls at Naubuc (a low-cost improvement which inexplicably faced opposition). Turf fields are less forgiving and more injury-producing than grass fields. We now know that rubber material on these fields is made from toxic PFA compounds that present a health threat. Why would we unnecessarily expose our student athletes to additional injuries and hazardous material? If turf fields were so desirable, European football clubs would use them. Yet the top leagues, including the English Premier League, forbid their clubs from using artificial fields. The City of Boston also recently banned artificial turf in their parks due to concern over toxic ‘forever chemicals.’ We believe that budgetary decisions should not be made based on the number of people from a special interest group who attend a meeting to support a pet project. If you were to poll the residents of Glastonbury or put this project to referendum, most would oppose funding this project on the grounds of it being dangerous, environmentally damaging, and educationally unnecessary. It would be viewed as wasting precious dollars for an artificial field used by a small fraction of students and a private town recreational club. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
Michael	Gustafson	68 Candlelight Drive Glastonbury CT	<p>The turf time in Glastonbury is severely limited for some teams due to the amount of sports that require the field. If we had this field put in, the times, for not only soccer but all other sports that need turf time would be much easier to figure out. As for the weight room if you asked almost any student present tonight they would wholeheartedly agree that a weight facility would definitely benefit the school</p>
Anju	Arora	70 Nicole Drive	<p>As a Glastonbury resident, I am concerned by the prospect of installing artificial turf fields at the high school given the known environmental impacts. Most recently Boston successfully banned artificial turfs in parks, the largest municipality to date. Knowing that artificial turf fields are made up of 40,000 pounds of PFAS containing plastic and degrade and generate microplastic released in the environment, why would we spend \$3 million and compromise our environment and health including GHS facilities staff. A quick internet search reveals how insurance companies are triggering the pollution exclusion in their commercial general liability policies to avoid covering PFAS exposure. Shouldn’t we pause and ask why would we pay millions for a product with PFAS that the insurance industry calls a pollutant? Selecting an artificial turf is not a sustainable practice and doesn’t align with the town’s Sustainable Purchasing Policy. I sincerely hope the Town Council will consider my comments in their decision.</p>
Zach	Bergin	47 heritage drive	<p>The new additions would help players develop and would be a reward for the success of the program throughout the years.</p>

Karen	Fecko	24 Vista Ln	After looking at the evidence presented in the ongoing discussion about installing a new turf field in town, I stand firmly on the side of keeping natural grass. If the players associations representing World Cup soccer and the NFL are speaking out about the injuries sustained from playing on turf fields, why would our community agree to expose our kids to those types of fields? If the increasingly common occurrence of extreme weather events are an indication of what lies ahead, why would our community agree to any project that will speed up that deterioration? Bottom line - the long and short term risks that turf poses to our kids' health and to the environment are too serious to ignore. Keep our athletic fields free of harmful materials
Trevor	Hoffman	56 Chatham Hill Road	I believe that a turf renovation and a campus weight room facility would benefit the Glastonbury high school athletic community and Glastonbury community as a whole. It will allow athletes to up our skills and work on progression in health and fitness throughout our academic and athletic careers. The benefits of these additions are endless as it will make our sports better for everyone.
Tiago	Barreira	59 Marlborough Road	The Turf Renovation Project and Weight room facility will allow athletes to have more opportunities to work together or alone to become better at what they do which will improve the quality of our sports.
Robbie	Meissner	259 Penwoodxing	If we were able to get an on campus weight room, as well as another home turf filed, it would greatly benefit all athletes at GHS. An additional turf field would help greatly with practice times as well as scheduling for outdoor teams, and an on campus weight room would benefit all athletes at GHS.
Jacoby	Crawford	115 Lakewood Rd	As a GHS athlete, I know for a fact that not only me, but all athletes that I know want another turf field and a good weight room on campus. It would allow for much easier accessibility, and I believe that any kid that you ask would agree with me.
Elizabeth	Eldridge	108 South Mill Drive	I am strongly against the proposal to install a new artificial turf field in town. Not only do they pose health risks to the athletes, they are also an environmental hazard. AT fields are comprised of 40,000 pounds of plastic. They emit high levels of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and shed microplastics and other chemicals into waterways. Artificial turf is made with toxic PFAS compounds, also known as forever chemicals. Currently there is a bill, SB100, in the state legislature which will provide municipalities with grants to test for the presence of PFAS contamination in drinking water supplies and remediate any such contamination. A review from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) outlines a host of health effects associated with PFAS exposure, including cancer, liver damage, decreased fertility, and increased risk of asthma and thyroid disease. We should not be considering spending \$1.5 million to install an artificial turf field when we have a safe existing alternative, natural grass.
Tammy	Pistritto	474 Marlborough Road	Good evening! Having three children in a variety of different sports and attending multiple schools throughout the state, we have noticed the lack of fields and facilities that our town has for our children. We are in desperate need for fields and facilities for our children to use to move forward and excel like other towns have for their athletes. Please deeply consider these as it is a must for all our children to have a proper foundation and fields to play on.
Grayson	Haskins	104 , Butler drive	A new turf field will benefit us in many ways. Firstly, it will enable more kids of all ages to gain the needed experience to further the winning of Glastonbury sports. this gives kids the needed teamwork skills for later in in life. it will also allow many more sports to be played on the turf.

Richard	Eldridge	108 south mill drive	To the town council members, I see that REI will stop selling cooking ware with PFAS chemicals in them as they are moving away from selling products with forever chemicals in them. This is good as this will limit peoples exposure to the chemicals. Unfortunately, here in Glastonbury, we are looking at the possibility of installing 40 tons of plastic on our athletic fields which will expose our youth and other players on the synthetic turf to more PFAS chemicals. It is sad to see that as other areas of our society move away from exposing us to these forever chemicals the Glastonbury Board of Education is proposing to install two new artificial athletic fields . Thanks Richard Sent from my iPhone
Erica	Silverman	61 Lakewood Road	I am in full support of building the turf fields
Dan	Schilke	450 Buttonball Lane	State of the art turf athletic fields will give Glastonbury athletes and community members the chance to practice health and wellness in a safe space. The community deserves an investment like this that will benefit generation after generation. Studies show that people who play and train on turf have less injuries to joints and muscles. It is our obligation to improve the community when chances like this arise.
Griffin	Szalkiewicz	580 weir street	The turf field and weight room should definitely be added to the high school. The weight room would strongly benefit all of the athletes at the high school by allowing them to get stronger and faster for their sport which will help lead that team to greatness. The new turf field would also be a great addition because it would allow sports times and schedules to be easier and allow football and other sports to practice at the same time. For example I am on boys varsity soccer and there were many times our practice got moved because football had the turf that day, also there would be time changes that would affect my school work. Practices help teams develop and grow for the season and being able to practice everyday on a turf field will help everyone become a better player.

William	Marut	264 Carriage Drive	<p>Although there are many factors to consider, proponents of ARTIFICIAL TURF tend to place most of the emphasis on one factor (student experience) and to downplay the others. Furthermore, they get some of their information from manufacturers, who cannot be relied on to provide unbiased data. After hearing all the testimony and evidence, if there is reasonable doubt in your mind about the safety of artificial turf, then please vote AGAINST replacing grass with artificial turf. Following are three factors that carry more weight than student experience. (1) Health Risks: Some artificial turf products contain toxic chemicals such as lead and mercury, which can pose health risks to players and users, especially children who are more vulnerable to the effects of these chemicals. These chemicals can be released from the rubber infill used in artificial turf, which can be ingested or inhaled during play or maintenance activities. In addition, artificial turf can get hot in direct sunlight, increasing the risk of heat-related illnesses. (2) Increased Risk of Injuries: Compared to natural grass, artificial turf is harder and less forgiving, which can increase the risk of injuries such as concussions, ankle sprains, and knee injuries. Players can also experience skin abrasions and burns from the artificial turf, which can be painful and take longer to heal. Studies have shown that injury rates are higher on artificial turf compared to natural grass. (3) Environmental Impact: The production, use, and disposal of artificial turf can have significant environmental impacts. Most artificial turf is made of plastic, rubber, and other synthetic materials that are not biodegradable and can take hundreds of years to decompose. Additionally, the production of these materials requires a significant amount of energy and resources, contributing to carbon emissions and climate change. When artificial turf is disposed of, it can release harmful chemicals and pollutants into the environment.</p>
Tim	McGuire	107 Pond Circle	<p>As a student of Glastonbury High School, I believe that an additional turf field and weight room facility would be very beneficial to the growth and success of the school and youth sports within the town. Considering the amount of teams that use the turf field in the fall and the limited time available to use the field, that an additional one would allow for more athletic and academic success. Some nights I would get home from a practice that started at 6:00 and ended at 8:30, still have to clean up, eat, and dinner, and then begin my homework at 9:00. With another turf field, this would not have to happen. Kids would be able to get home at a reasonable time, be able to complete their athletic activities and still have enough time to mentally and physically recover for the upcoming school day and practice for their sport. This is just one example of many that I could give, which would show to you why an additional turf and weight room would be incredibly beneficial to the Glastonbury community.</p>
Alexander	Karwowski	03 Macintosh lane	<p>For my first year at Glastonbury high school, I enjoyed playing on the soccer team. As a soccer player I enjoyed playing on the turf field. But the turf field is not the same size as a regular field. The width of the current turf field is not the correct width as a regular soccer field. And on top of the field not being the correct size, other sports are going on at the turf field as well. If we had a new turf field we wouldn't need to worry about the football team or the field hockey player delaying the time we get on the field. Thank you!</p>
Jack	Shaheen	300 old farms road	<p>An on campus weight room and turf will help every sports team at GHS in many ways. Practices are always canceled due to wet fields and kids always have no rides to apex after school. But with a new turf and on campus weight room that changes.</p>

Nick	Lacapruca	76 line street	<p>An on campus weight room would allow ALL GHS athletes to have access to the many positive benefits of weight training. (Not only those who can get driven/drive to the facility) Weight training builds discipline and sets the foundation for student athletes like myself to make healthy choices in all aspects of life. Weight training also reduces stress and anxiety while increasing focus and concentration, which makes an easily accessible on campus weight room a very helpful tool to student athletes. Along with the on campus weight room, a second home turf field would benefit all of the GHS athletic programs, by being easier to maintain than grass, and providing more practice and playing time for all our sports programs.</p>
Drew	Stranko	87 Chamberlain Ln	<p>I hope our town can move forward with a new turf field. Some of my best high school memories have happened on the turf with the soccer team, especially when it is pour weather out. This turf field allows us to continue our journey and prepare for the state tournament by being available rain or shine. By having two fields, it would allow all teams at all levels to be able to practice and have games at all times. This allows all teams to continue their progress everyday, preventing their progress from being prohibited by weather. I remember my freshman year, many games and practices were canceled due to poor field conditions whether it was raining or the field was mud. To continue, many teams require the field we have right now. By adding another field, it can allow for more games and practices for the sports teams without the stress of if there will be space to play. From my experience, the sport teams at GHS just want to represent our beautiful town and bring home trophies for us. This second installment of a turf field would allow us to do that. Thank you.</p>
Christy	Gordon	15 Colton Road	<p>For me, the issue of turf fields is simple: we should not, as a town, be contributing to the creation of non-biodegradable waste which will negatively impact our planet and the life forms on it. Though we need plastic for many critical purposes, turf fields are completely unnecessary.</p>

Christine	O'Hare	125 Farmstead Lane	<p>I am writing in support of the addition of turf fields at GHS. I am reaching out as an architect that has designed CT schools for 25 years & as an AP in sustainable design, but mostly as a mother of children in this district. I support & encourage the use of sustainable practices, where possible, practicable & cost effective. However, sustainability is the balance between the environment, equity, & economy. The implementation of sustainable practices & policies has to support the town's responsibility to support an equitable & vibrant community & economy. They cannot reduce the overall equity & wellbeing of the members of this community. In this case, the equity & wellbeing of our youngest community members are at risk. The BOE has acknowledged the childhood mental health crisis & has stated that the social & emotional health of our students has to be a priority. The TC has also made a commitment to supporting resources & services that support the wellbeing of our children. Participation in sports gives children a sense of belonging. It helps them make new friends & builds their social circle. All of this contributes to lower levels of anxiety & depression. Our turf field is overbooked resulting in some teams not being able to use the field. Our grass fields are often in poor condition, requiring practices & games to be canceled on a regular basis. Providing additional turf fields is a critical first step in the process of improving availability & creating equity for all ages & gender youth in our community. I am confident that you can do their own research & weigh the facts with what is best for our community. Following a similar process many CT towns have recently come to the conclusion that the importance of having all weather field available for their community outweighed the consequences of doing nothing. Finding the right balance between the environment, equity, & economy along with the overall wellbeing of our community members must be a priority.</p>
Patrick	Kenny	32 Needletree Lane	<p>As a community member, and father of two daughters who play sports in Glastonbury, I am writing to communicate my support for a new on campus weight room and new multi sport turf fields. Allocating money for these two projects will undoubtedly allow future generations of Glastonbury athletes to compete at a high level and develop life long habits focused on health and wellness.</p>
Sid	Silverman	131 Coldspring xing	<p>I am a Freshman at Glastonbury High School and am writing to show my support for new turf fields at the high school.</p>
Sander	Silverman	114 Harvest Lane	<p>I am a junior at Glastonbury High School and I am writing to show my support for new turf fields at the high school</p>
Eric	Peterson	139 Marlborough rd	<p>As a graduate of Glastonbury High School and a 40 year resident I am strongly in favor of improving our athletic facilities throughout the town. I have a son who is graduating this year and is on the high school basketball team. It's sad seeing him play on the same basketball surface that was there in 1989 when I graduated. In traveling to various sporting events over the years with my son and 12 year old daughter I feel confident in saying Glastonbury is woefully behind the majority of towns in the state when it comes to our athletic facilities. We are fortunate to be part of such a great community but now it's time to step up and bring out athletic facilities to a level commensurate with the rest the town has to offer.. Let's start with a turf field and build from there. Thank You Eric Peterson</p>
Ray	Dolan	78 Coldspring Crossing	<p>I support new turf field. Given Glastonbury's caliber of our student athletes and our national ranking with niche, our facilities should represent the same standards that our academics do.</p>

Jaye Winkler 87 Owens Lane

Dear Town Council members: I am not an authority on playing surfaces for sports teams, but a simple Google search reveals a disturbing push back concerning use of synthetic surface athletic playing fields. There are CT towns who are ripping out their synthetic fields, delaying putting any in or towns such as Westport and Hartford who have banned it. NFL and major women's soccer teams have refused to play on artificial turf for years. The grounds keeper for the the most recent Super Bowl prefers grass to artificial turf. Sports Illustrated discussed Women's soccer fields back in 2015 due to - " the high-profile complaints of Abby Wambach, who called playing on turf "a nightmare." Professional baseball teams led the way onto playing sports on synthetic surfaces, but by 2015 only two of the MLB teams still played on artificial turf, according to the 2016 article "Turf Burns or Grass stains". When you look at all the reasons against the synthetic fields: the amazing cost, increasing burden on landfill for an expensive product with a 8 year useful life, need to wash after use, environmental damage, injury to players, and public backlash, and rejection by other towns around us, why would you choose this road? Sincerely yours, Jaye Winkler 87 Owens Lane

Gail Griffith 23 Carriage Drive

I am writing in support of the BOE and their commitment to improving their health and wellness of our kids. The Glastonbury Public Schools have finally put the health and wellness of the students at the forefront and it is time that our town step up and afford them the resources they need to be successful. I have continuously watched kids in our town attempt to enhance their strength and conditioning by running on the roads through our neighborhood, attending private sessions with trainers and using finances to acquire personal gym memberships. I was extremely surprised to learn that our town does not offer a modern day facility to help meet their needs. In addition, it is unfortunate that our town does not provide the youth programs with the facilities they need to participate in health and wellness programs in our schools. I was amazed to see the difference in the playing surfaces of the grass fields compared to the the turf and track at Glastonbury High School. Recently, I had the opportunity to tour the amazing athletic facility at the University of Connecticut. As a longtime Husky fan I was proud to see the two turf soccer fields, the turf baseball and softball fields, weight room and construction of a brand new hockey rink. I have visited numerous high school and college campuses the fast few years and don't understand why a town like Glastonbury has not evolved or provided the resources for health and wellness for the kids in our community. Spending the money and making the health and wellness of our kids is not only money well spent but it should be a high priority.

Amy	Landers	22 Carriage Drive	<p>I am writing in support of the Board of Education's plan to construct a new weight room and turf fields at Glastonbury High School. I have traveled across the state to watch my daughters compete in various sports the past fifteen years. It is clear that our town is lacking and has done very little to improve, enhance or provide the necessary facilities to afford our kids opportunities to live a healthier lifestyle. Replacing a 70 year old field house, that was in violation of Title IX, was a welcomed step in the right direction. The answer of an off-site weight room facility and continuous closing of grass fields in the summer for growing seed or excessive rainfall is disappointing, to say the least. Many students and town folks are forced to obtain a gym membership and/or hire personal trainers to allow for continual exercise and strength training. This has become a very clear access and inequality issues - it's back to the 'haves and have nots". It's also important to note that the demand for the one current turf field significantly impacts our student-athletes' schedules. By the way of example, in the fall, field hockey, soccer and football (each sport has 3 levels - freshman, JV and Varsity) compete for turf time each week. While the Athletic Office has done its best to make a fair schedule, students' and family lives are also impacted. Because of the irregular rotation, it's hard for students to have after school jobs, be available to watch younger siblings, or collaborate with peers and complete homework with any regularity. We are finally at a point in society where talking about mental health is acceptable. With regards to this, we need to prove our youth, and our community members, with healthy active outlets and the requisite resources. Let's not put up barriers, let's come together to remove barriers and build fields and create resources that allow for regular physical and mental exercise for the betterment of all. We can do better, Glastonbury.</p>
Connor	McManus	60 Roser Drive	<p>I believe that building a new turf field and a weight room at Glastonbury High School supports the health and wellness of student-athletes of our town, thus benefitting the youth of Glastonbury.</p>
Paul	Bourdoulous	2455 New London Turnpike	<p>As a parent of a GHS boy and girl, I fully support the town in adding additional turf fields. Simply put, youth sports are critical to our children, successful youth sports are critical to successful high school sports, and successful high school sports contribute to successful children and a successful town. I urge Glastonbury to support this and other projects that will make our children and our town more successful. I fear the consequences if we cave or cater to anything other than that. One turf field is simply deficient for our town, our children, and our expectations; limited resources contributes to competition and disparate prioritization among our children. The time is now, make the right choice for our student athletes! I have done my research prior to submitting this comment and do not feel, personally, there is any legitimate environmental or health risk to our town our children. To suggest I would a turf field over my children's health is insulting. Respectfully, Paul Bourdoulous</p>

Elizabeth	Mansolillo	225 Bell Street	<p>Members, thank you, as always, for considering public opinion in these important town matters. I am writing in my comments regarding the proposed artificial turf fields. Regarding maintenance: Why do proponents insist that artificial turf is practically maintenance free? Doesn't it have to be cleaned between uses? Doesn't it have to be maintained; parts repaired, replaced, etc. on occasion? How much will this cost our taxpayers? We've also been led to believe that there will be dramatic savings over the maintenance of grass. Unless all of the town's grass fields are replaced, we will be paying for two separate maintenance systems. We already do an admirable job of maintaining our fields as some of the best in the region. I hardly think that buying more maintenance equipment will save us money. Regarding recycling: I've heard that some other countries have had success recycling turf. I'm curious about those same successes in the US. What about replacement costs at that time? When the turf has outlived its usefulness, won't we have to replace it again? Regarding playtime: I have read that our student athletes wait their turn to use the one well lit turf field for practice, often arriving home after 9:00 on a school night. Wouldn't adequate lighting installed over the current grass fields accomplish the same goal of having our children home for dinner? Lastly, if FIFA insists on natural grass for the 2026 World Cup, I would expect the Glastonbury students could manage it as well. In short, I fail to see how ripping up grass and replacing it with a plastic imposter for the bargain price of 3 million dollars really does us any good. Lets prove that Glastonbury can still be held up as an example, by investing in well lit, sustainable, natural playing fields for our outstanding student athletics department. Let's keep additional plastics out of our waterways, off of our bodies, and away from our kids. Thank you for your time.</p>
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John P	Wentland	348 Spring Street Ext	<p>I write in opposition to the use of artificial turf (AT) on the sports fields at Glastonbury High School. Most know that PFAS (pre- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a class of chemicals known to harm human health, causing cancer and other serious medical problems. Many may not know that AT fields are made up of 40,000 pounds of PFAS containing plastic. The plastic in this type of field turf is made from fossil fuels, the fabrication of which contributes to greenhouse gasses. For the sake of the health of our young people and others who use the fields of AT put at risk by playing sports on such artificial turf most parents would not want their children to be exposed to this risk. In addition, environmental considerations militate against such AT fields because they degrade and generate micro-plastic that is released in the environment. Moreover, Using this type of artificial turf is neither economically nor environmentally beneficial. AF fields have a short span of utility of only 8 – 10 years before needing replacement and the fields cannot be recycled. It is fiscally irresponsible to spend 1.5 million dollars per field and high future replacement costs. In conclusion, for health, environmental and economic reasons, I oppose the purchase of AT for the sports fields of Glastonbury High or, for that matter any of our community's sports fields.</p>
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Melissa	Katzman	239 Great Seamp Rd	<p>I am for the Turf proposal. This is an important addition for the kids and sports</p>
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Sarah	Jensen	110 Mai. Street	<p>As a Glastonbury Youth Football and Hartwell Soccer parent, I support adding a turf field. Both of these organizations have donated funds for the one turf field we have and in return get very limited practice/playing time. Especially for football, it's ashame we cannot practice on an actual football field. Instead we practice on a pie shaped portion of the grass field at Academy. Thank you</p>
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Ryan	Kelly	1726 Manchester Rd.	I have two young children in elementary school, both are involved in sports, but one is also heavily involved in science art and all things associated with steam. I fully support the town steam program, the town arts programs as well as the sports programs. It seems to me that adults are busy arguing over what is fair rather than giving kids what they need. We are supposedly the best high school in the state for athletes, but we do not have a weight room and only one turf field. This is completely unacceptable and we need to catch up.
Isabelle	Barreira	59 Marlborough Road, Glastonbury CT, 06033	As a parent of three kids, one currently a sophomore in high school and on the varsity soccer team, the addition of 2 more turf fields would enable them to practice more freely without having to share one field with the football team, field hockey and lacrosse team. Furthermore, adding a weight room would only benefit their mental health as well as their physical health.
Doug	Donovan	217 Tall Timbers Rd	I am a lifelong resident of Glastonbury and I fully support the proposal of the multi-use sports fields development. The student athletes of GHS, along with their families, will greatly benefit from the ability to have several teams training and competing on various fields in the after school hours. Families will benefit, mentally and physically, from time gained post practice/competition. Student athletes will gain valuable time for recovery and for their academic responsibilities.
Brynn	Barbieri	52 elm tree rd	Please support the new artificial turf at the high school. It will benefit both Glastonbury sports and high school sports. Sport teams at GHS won't have to fight for or share the turf with each other. Students will be home and a reasonable time and not have to stress about getting home super late because it was the only available turf time.
kelley anne carey		18 Coach Road	I believe that we should pass the much needed turf fields, weight rooms and additional projects at GHS. This will vastly improve the health and wellness curriculum in our town along with the health and wellness of our KIDS! I have three kids within the system and look forward to the many kids that will come through the school to benefit these upgrades.
Barbara	Budaj	192 Long Hill Drive	Good evening. This statement is in support of efforts to add athletic facilities at Glastonbury High School. As a parent of a former GHS athlete, I have seen both the benefits of strong sports programs and the need for additional fields and fitness equipment at GHS. High school student athletes are typically very successful in college - and life. They learn perseverance, time management skills, how to take criticism and apply it constructively, and how to navigate social situations. Unfortunately, with limited facilities, the athletic climate at GHS becomes exclusive and inaccessible to so many capable young athletes who want to play. There simply is not enough space to give these students valuable experiences on the field - and as an integral part of a team - that set them up for future success. Because of school athletics, our teenagers challenge themselves to improve, push through discomfort, trade excuses for action, avoid unhealthy behaviors and obesity, build on their strengths, and celebrate the successes of others. These experiences build the character that our society so desperately needs. As I stated previously, this is an accessibility issue. Expanding our facilities increases the capacity for more students to play - and grow. These are our students - our children. Let's give them the opportunity they all deserve.

Scott	Martin	455 Cedar Ridge Dr	<p>As a parent of a current GHS student athlete (Varsity Baseball & Varsity Boy's Soccer), it is a challenge each season to "compete" for field time, often getting the athletes home late at night at which time they should be eating, doing school work, family time and getting adequate sleep for their next day at school, but due to the sharing of the fields this is often not possible. Some may argue that the turf fields are not safe for our kids, but several studies have shown just the opposite, including, but not limited to the CT Dept of Public Health which stated that there is no increased health risk associated with playing on turf fields. Local GHS data also shows a decrease in injuries on turf surfaces when compared to that of grass fields. MANY local athletic programs (including professional teams) are switching completely away from grass and embracing the turf surfaces for their athletes (note UCONN's new soccer, baseball, and softball fields all installed in the last 3 years). Our current soccer field is significantly smaller than other schools GHS competes against, which puts our athletes at a disadvantage on the bigger fields. As my son is involved in college recruiting, the fields at the colleges & universities are also much larger, putting my son behind other athletes whom he's competing against for roster spots at various universities. I would like to voice my strong support for adding additional turf fields for our student athletes, as well as to give our programs a chance to compete at a higher level, both in state and beyond the high school level. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Jeanne	England	261 Stanley drive	<p>The injury risk is also low for artificial football fields.</p>
Jason	Squires	85 Woodfield Crossing	<p>I would like to support the vote to allocate money for the structure and building of the new proposed turf fields at GHS. These fields will help provide more space for the high school sport teams to practice as well as recreational sports in town. We pride ourselves on the education we provide to our children, let's put that same pride in our athletic fields and student athletes. Let's compete with the other area towns who have far better fields and less revenue. We are a town that many would like to replicate. Let's continue to be the standard that other towns try to mimic. Support this vote!</p>
Dennis	McBride	263 Spring Street Extension	<p>To quote George Carlin, "Names Matter" When you say, "Main Street" I know what to expect. It will have commerce and be in the center of town. It's right there in the name. "Main Street" When you say "Councilman" I know exactly what it is. It's a person who serves on the council. Again, it's right there in the name. When you say "Chairman" I know exactly what it is. It's a person who is quite fond of sitting. I believe this role should be changed to one with a better name -- 'mayor'. This change should have no changes in powers or responsibilities. This is not an innovative idea, all we have to do is look across the river to Rocky Hill to see this in action. I see three reasons why this is something we should consider - It's descriptive of the important role the chairman plays. When I see an article in the citizen titled "From the Mayor's Desk" I know it's important! When I see an article titled "From the Chairs Desk" I think of furniture with an identity crisis. - Companies and countries are led by committees, but all have a figurehead. It's human nature to want to look at a specific leader, even if they're just there to cut ribbons and write in "The Citizen". It's like having a mascot for the town, only with less fur and more paperwork. - Finally, it provides a target for the tomatoes, reducing splattering to the rest of the council. Even more importantly, it lowers the tomato tossing at the town manager, a non-elected position that needs to handle the important business of ... well, it's right there in the name.</p>

Erik	Nilsen	62 southpond rd , south glastonbury	<p>Dear council. As a 20 year resident of glastonbury I wanted to send this note to provide positive and overwhelmingly support for a new turf field at GHS. With all the health concerns mitigated with envirofill turf, not crumb rubber, studies show that no harm is derived from playing on turf. it's safe and easy to maintain which is important to all of us. It is clear to me that the town needs an additional turf field that is 1) of actual size to play state tournament games. The one built was too narrow we all know. 2) allows for more inclusion of student athletes in town from all levels. freshman, JV, and varsity. So many kids work so hard to have games canceled due to inclement weather due to grass field closure. That can be avoided with another turf field. Both girls and boys soccer would benefit and so would football, lacrosse, and field hockey with more training time and home games. 3) better overall team scheduling and make up opportunities 4). Hartwell and other spring warm Up tournaments are money making and bring people to town all allows for a more consistent schedule that won't need to vary as much due to weather 4) better athlete preparation as most schools have a turf field and learning to play and practice on "game ready" fields is important to student athletes and overall team preparedness. Please support this proposal for another turf field. Thanks so much.</p> <p>Erik Nilsen</p>
Kimberly	Bouthiette	173 Colton rd	<p>Please consider expanding the turf offerings at GHS. Our programs are growing across town and demand is high. I support the investment.</p>
