



TOWN OF HAMDEN OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Media Release

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Hamden High School Baseball & New Multi-Purpose Field Renovations Moving Forward with Safety Enhancements

HAMDEN – Mayor Curt Balzano Leng, Legislative Council President Jim Pascarella, and Hamden Board of Education Chairman Adam Sendroff, are very pleased to announce that the Town is recommending a proposal to the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding the Hamden High School Baseball and Multi-purpose Field Renovation Project. The recommendation includes significant safety, playability and comfort enhancements for the project.

The Town plans to move forward with converting the current natural grass baseball field, which has drainage problems and can't be safely/practically used for multiple sports, into newly renovated artificial turf baseball field and new multi-purpose field. This project was funded in 2015 and approved earlier this year.

Recommended project enhancement highlights include the following:

- Installation of a “shock pad”, which will be installed directly underneath the turf installation and will improve the field’s impact absorption capabilities and concussion prevention rating. The shock pad comes with a 25-year warranty;

- Use of an alternate turf infill product, “GeoFill”, which is an entirely organic artificial turf infill system, creating the most natural playability possible next to grass;
- This infill choice also stays much cooler than other infill choices, allowing for safer and more comfortable playing surface conditions even in hot weather;
- “GeoFill” artificial turf has been in-use for over 10 years, and has more installations across the world than any other organic alternative infill system currently available. GeoFill infill is a 100% natural product, comprised of various organic and sand materials, including coconut husk and cork;
- Use of the fully organic infill option eliminates any concerns expressed regarding different chemicals inherently associated with all other fill products, for what we hope will be a more universally acceptable alternative to natural grass for students, parents, coaches and residents.

The installation of the “GeoFill” material alternative is subject to the review and approval of the Hamden Planning and Zoning Commission, which has been requested to review this alternative.

Commenting on the decision to move forward with the fall safety enhanced shock pad and the natural GeoFill system, Mayor Curt Balzano Leng noted, “The quality of our fields, the safety of our athletes, and the health of our community are the most important factors in determining how Hamden proceeds with just about any improvements project. Given the opportunity to provide better fall protection, a more natural feel to the field of play and near elimination of the chemicals inherent in all other infill choices – this system and design is the best option for this field, at this time”.

Legislative Council President Jim Pascarella said, “I am very pleased with the decision to move forward with the proposal and GeoFill system. Overall playability and

safety has always been my priority in advocating the renovation of these fields. This will be a top quality turf field for Hamden's athletes and will allow for more outdoor play for multiple different sports teams."

"As Hamden Soccer Association President, I am very pleased with the decision to move forward with an environmentally safe field for our children. Geofill is a good alternative, which still provides the feeling and support of a natural grass field without the expensive daily maintenance. This will also allow our community fields in our Town parks to avoid overuse that sometimes occurs when they are heavily played on by youth and adult recreational leagues and the high school teams. It's a great victory for the athletes of Hamden," added Chris Ruggiero, Hamden Soccer Association President.

"We applaud Mayor Leng and the Town for choosing safe, natural materials," said Louis Burch of Citizens Campaign for the Environment. "Reducing exposure to toxic chemicals for children should be everyone's top priority. This is a significant victory for Hamden families, and we call on neighboring communities to follow suit."

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