

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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August 30, 2019

Dear Neighbor:

In follow up to the letter dated May 28, 2019, informing neighbors of the multiple construction projects taking place at Sprague Field this summer, we wanted to update you on the status of one project in particular – the *Installation of a Practice Wall*. As noted previously, this is a privately-funded project that involves the installation of a 39' long by 16' high prefabricated concrete wall and turfed area for the practice of catching, throwing, and other repetitive hand-eye coordination activities. Here is a brief summary of what has taken place since late May:

- At its meeting on June 4, the School Committee invited public comment on the proposal to install the wall east of the tennis courts at the base of the Calvin Street parking lot. While members of the Committee expressed support for the practice wall concept, in light of the concerns raised by several residents through public comment as well as email messages about the proposed location, the Committee deferred making any decisions until more information could be gathered.
- During the June 18 Committee meeting, representatives from the Playing Fields Task Force shared the diagram found on the next page which identified four potential options for where to install the practice wall. Option 2 was the location referenced in the May 28 letter and proposed on June 4, next to the tennis courts. After discussing the different options, the Committee decided to take Option 2 off the table. Additionally, Option 4 received limited support given its distance from the fields and proximity to the Sprague School. The Committee felt it needed more information before making a decision on the remaining options, so the Task Force representatives were asked to further explore Options 1 and 3 as next steps.

Please note that the Committee plans on revisiting the topic of the practice wall (specifically Options 1 and 3 as shown on the diagram) at its evening meeting on **Tuesday, September 17, at Town Hall** (the agenda and exact location for this meeting will be posted on-line at [WellesleyMa.gov/AgendaCenter](http://WellesleyMa.gov/AgendaCenter) at least 48 hours prior). The Task Force hopes to be able to provide enough information at that time so the Committee will be in a position to decide how to move forward. Plans and background information are available at [wellesleyma.gov/356](http://wellesleyma.gov/356). We appreciate your patience as we work to improve our playing fields. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David A. Cohen".

David Cohen  
Director, Department of Public Works  
[dcohen@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dcohen@wellesleyma.gov)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Chow".

Linda Chow  
School Committee Rep., Playing Fields Task Force  
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