



TOWN OF WAYLAND

Board of Health

41 COCHITUATE ROAD
WAYLAND, MASSACHUSETTS 01778

Julia Junghanns R.S.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
TEL. (508) 358-3617
www.wayland.ma.us

Memorandum

To: The Recreation Commission
Town Administrator, Fred Turkington

From: The Board of Health

Date: December 12, 2011

Subject: Middle School Athletic Fields Feasibility Study

This memorandum is to advise you that the Board of Health staff has been contacted by the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the Middle School Athletic Fields Feasibility Study that is being considered by the town.

DEP has provided advice that soil testing should be conducted in the area of the proposed athletic fields **prior to** any excavation occurring and that conducting soil testing is in the best interests of the town. This advice is based on the proximity of the old burn dump that was located near the Highway Garage and the concern that ash, or smoke from the burn dump could have gotten into the adjacent land area where the athletic fields are being considered. The concern is for possible heavy metals or dioxins associated with combustion that could be present in the soils and if excavating or disturbance of the soils were to occur and these materials were present then there could be a problem with toxic dust becoming airborne and creating a Public Health Hazard to adjacent abutters.

DEP has indicated that they will work with us and provide guidance as to what types of testing would need to be done.

The Board of Health supports DEP's advice and feels that soil testing should be a requirement for this project, if it is approved to go forward, to protect Public Health. We look forward to further communication with you on this project regarding the feasibility study, and if it is approved to go forward further discussions regarding the soil testing.