

To: Mark Sideris, President of the Town Council
From: Elodia Thomas & Janet Buck
RE: Citizens Petition for a Public Hearing
Date: May 18, 2021

Dear President Sideris,

In accordance with the Town of Watertown Home Rule Charter, Section 7.8, we, the undersigned request that the Town Council hold a public hearing to reconsider issues raised by the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Watertown and the Buckingham, Browne & Nichols School regarding the development of the property at Grove Street.

Whereas a petition has been circulated with more than 700 signatures objecting to the use of synthetic turf, on the basis of extensive scientific data referenced in the petition, and

Whereas the residents of Watertown have had no opportunity to weigh in on this decision that impacts the health of our residents and our environment, and

Whereas the abovementioned MOU does not specifically refer to the use of synthetic turf, but instead calls for "open green space" defined by the Environmental Protection Agency as "... land that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation). Green space includes parks, community gardens, and cemeteries." We believe that it is appropriate to review the decision which was made in haste and without any opportunity for the residents or Town Councilors to research and respond to the proposal and hereby request a hearing at the earliest possible date.

Attached you will find the petition with a total of 229 voter signatures, 79 more than the 150 voter signatures required. We have highlighted on page 6 one duplicate signature and two signatures without addresses. These signatures have not been included in this count. We understand that all signatures are to be verified by the town.

Attached you will find information regarding BB&N vs. Watertown student enrollment, research resources, and additional articles, videos, and letters for your review. A copy of this letter and this information will also be sent to you via email for Town Council review.

We look forward to hearing from you at the earliest date.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signatures of Elodia Thomas and Janet Buck in blue ink. The signature of Elodia Thomas is on the left and Janet Buck's is on the right, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of her signature.

Elodia Thomas

&

Janet Buck