



IPSWICH RIVER
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

The Voice of the River

P.O. Box 576
Ipswich, MA 01938

January 5, 2023

Town of Hamilton Planning Board
Town Hall
577 Bay Road
PO Box 429
Hamilton, MA 01936
preffet@hamiltonma.gov

By Email: Re: Hamilton Wenham School District Athletic Field Project on Bay Road

To Chair Crouch and the Hamilton Planning Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed artificial turf field project at the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School. After further research and consideration, we are writing to provide an updated recommendation related to the project.

We specifically recommend that the Planning Board require the project to provide third-party total fluorine testing to ensure the final product is PFAS free. While targeted testing methods can measure a subset of certain PFAS chemicals, total fluorine testing measures either total organic fluorine or total fluorine and is an effective screening tool to determine if PFAS is present. Total fluorine testing is also used as a required certification system for PFAS-free firefighting foams and PFAS-free food packaging.

While we understand that PFAS testing is an evolving science, our goal is to ensure that the Ipswich River watershed – and in this case, the Miles River and its surrounding environment – provides clean, safe drinking water to our communities and supports healthy natural habitats.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Wayne Castonguay
Executive Director
wcastonguay@ipswichriver.org