

# Your Town

Weather | traffic | transit

search  [GO](#)

NEWTON

Text size [-](#) [+](#)

## Deal reached on stalled Newton South field

Posted October 16, 2009 06:34 PM

[E-mail](#) | [Link](#) | [Comments \(4\)](#)

By Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

Opponents of synthetic turf and city officials reached a tentative settlement Friday that would allow construction of a new track and field, delayed for five months, to resume at Newton South High School.

The petitioners, led by activist Guive Mirfendereski, halted completion of a synthetic turf track and field at the high school when they filed an appeal in June through the state environmental department, based on its proximity to wetlands.

The Department of Environmental Protection was scheduled to hold a hearing on the project on Oct. 27, but now the city, the petitioners and the state are expected to officially sign Friday's agreement early next week.

The agreement outlines a series of conditions the city must follow to ensure the field's synthetic surface does not become a hazard to the wetlands — including regularly conducting tests and inspections, removing any accumulation of rubber granules, and not using pest- or weed-killing chemicals within 100 feet of the wetland buffer zone.

"It's not the best thing in the world for the petitioners, but it's still something," said Mirfendereski. "We're happy."

City spokesman Jeremy Solomon said, "it appears both sides have reached an agreement, but until the documents have been signed, I'll withhold comment."

There are two fields at the high school, one of which is in full use now. The other field, which was under appeal, is currently used by the football team, but construction was not far enough along for soccer or track team members to use during the delay.

Mirfendereski said once the settlement is officially signed, the city will be able to resume work on the field and he expects everything would be complete by spring.

"This little delay was regrettable for the track and soccer players, but I think it was a small price to pay for an ecologically responsible outcome," said Mirfendereski, who runs a website, [www.SynTurf.org](http://www.SynTurf.org), which chronicles the potential problems with fake grass.

The Newton Conservation Commission approved the project with conditions, but Mirfendereski and several other residents appealed that decision last spring.

The city had done its own testing and said previously that it did not agree that there is any environmental hazard.

"I'm relieved that this may be coming to an end," said Ted Tye, who founded the advocacy group Newturf to bring artificial field to Newton South. "It has been a long, painful and unnecessary chapter. It shouldn't have happened; but it did, and I'm glad it's over."

### THINGS TO DO IN NEWTON »

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### BROWSE

- Arts & Crafts
- Community
- Food & Dining
- Performing Arts
- Shopping
- Sports & Outdoors

ADVERTISEMENT



#### BOSTON.COM TWITTER ACCOUNTS »



Waiting for twitter.com to feed in the latest...

[Follow other Boston.com Tweets](#) | [What is Twitter?](#)

Tye said it is "questionable" whether the field will be ready for the start of the spring track season, but he hopes it will be done by the end of the spring at the latest

*Lisa Kocian of the Globe staff contributed to this report.*

[Comment](#) [Permalink](#) [E-mail](#)

[← Previous entry](#)

[Next entry →](#)

---

#### 4 COMMENTS SO FAR...

1. I take it that Ted Tye is not friendly to the environment. He sounds like one of those self-important, I'm-never-wrong sort of guys who hates anyone interfering with anything he's for, and finds it hard to accept any sort of compromise with those who have other ideas.

Posted by Concerned October 16, 09 10:01 PM

2. Dear Concerned, What is it that you are Concerned about? Is it that some profoundly generous Newton parent would be helping HUNDREDS of Newton children to have the same track and field access that most other local kids have?  
And what part makes you think that he is self-important? and an I'm-never-wrong sort of guy? Is it that he's relieved that this may be coming to an end?! that it has been a long, painful, and unnecessary chapter?! One should be careful not to defame peoples' character based on complete distortion.

Posted by danajim October 17, 09 03:06 PM

3. Let's not forget that Guive Mirfendereski is running for alderman at large in less than three weeks. Every voter has the opportunity to vote for Guive. Let's hope that those voters so most affected by his actions will weigh in on Nov. 3rd.

Posted by schlockenhammer October 17, 09 07:01 PM

4. I feel like Mirfendereski and Co. have at least as much of an agenda here as Tye; the only thing they effectively held up construction on was the track, which has no effect on the wetland anyways. They simply made a stink because they could.

Posted by CB October 18, 09 09:41 AM

---

#### ADD YOUR COMMENT

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS \* (WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED)

YOUR NAME \*

ENTER YOUR COMMENTS HERE:

Type your comment here...

Type your comment here...

This blogger might want to review your comment before posting it.

[Preview](#)

[Submit](#)



Fields marked with an \* are required.

**DO NOT HIT THE SUBMIT BUTTON MORE THAN ONCE!**

What do we do with this information? [Read our Privacy Policy here.](#)