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JAN 12 2017

**PLANNING BOARD
GRAFTON, MA**

Michael Scully
Chairman
Town of Grafton Planning Board
30 Providence Road
Grafton, MA 01519

Dear Chairman Scully,

Grafton Little League is proposing to raise the height of the backstop on the exiting little league field at Norcross Park, North Street, as shown on Grafton Assessor's Map 65, Lot 145. This request is due to a safety concern for the young athletes using the field as the sun sets. The sun sets directly behind the backstop and blinds the fielders, especially the pitcher which is a major safety concern. Over the years there have been several close calls of baseballs hit by the pitcher's head where they don't even see it. Raising the backstop approximately 12 feet would allow for a temporary installation of a sun screen, on the upper 10 feet, during the baseball season to block the sun. This has been a major concern of the Grafton Little League Board of Directors for many years now, but we have lacked the funds to fix the issue. The Board received a generous donation specifically earmarked for this project and would like to have it installed before the start of the 2017 little league season.

Norcross Park was built under a Special Permit and Site Plan approval (2002-3) from your board back in 2002, with a modification approved in 2004. Grafton Little League would like to request that the Planning Board, per section IV.13 Decision and Conditions of the Site Plan Approval, make a determination as to whether the proposed increase in backstop height is substantially different than the presented materials that the original decision was made on. After reviewing the initial permit submittal, including plans, details and testimony nothing was found that specifically called out the height of the backstop. Seeing how we are only increasing the height of the backstop and keeping the original footprint, we do not feel that this is a substantial modification to the original approved site plan, nor was it something that was considered during the original approval. I would also like to note the proposed height is still under the maximum for the current Zoning Code. With that, we respectfully request that this not trigger a Special Permit/ Site Plan Modification.

Attached are some pictures of the existing backstop and aerial of the field layout for the boards reference.

Backstop Renovation Project: Miner Complex – 18 North Street, Grafton, MA



Grafton Little League, Grafton, MA, Established in 1953. District 5 MA Champions- 1998, 2011, 2012, 2014

Backstop Renovation Project: Miner Complex – 18 North Street, Grafton, MA



Thank you for your time and consideration into this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregg Burnett". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Gregg Burnett, Fields Director

