



**Town of Arlington**  
**Office of the Town Manager**

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**To:** Members of the Arlington High School Building Committee

**From:** Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager

**RE:** Peirce Practice Field and Future Field Potential

**Date:** December 4, 2018

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As you may be aware, there has been concern raised by several field user groups regarding planned impacts to the Peirce Practice Field. In response to these understandable concerns, I'd like to offer the following:

- 1) Use of a portion of the Peirce Practice Field as part of the DPW renovation is critical to the long term sustainability of the DPW operations within the Town. The lower portion of the DPW site is regularly flooded when the Mill Brook crests and it is imperative that the Town move critical DPW infrastructure out of that flood zone. That is the driving reason for impacting the Peirce Practice Field. Additionally, with the DPW planning to use the Peirce Practice Field for parking, it became apparent to the AHS project team that locating parking for AHS adjacent to the DPW parking made sense from a site layout perspective.
- 2) We have discussed alternative locations for the DPW site, but there are no other sites in Town large enough to accommodate the DPW operation. Just as we examined multiple sites in Town for the AHS project, we did the same for the DPW project. That examination demonstrated that there were no sites in Town with adequate space and it also demonstrated that even if any new site were to be available it would be challenging to locate a DPW operation in a neighborhood that didn't previously have the DPW as a neighbor.
- 3) We appreciate and understand the impact of the loss of the Peirce Practice Field on the programming and field time available to these two clubs. We also understand that there needs to be a larger discussion in Town regarding field space allocation across all fields in Town. Both the Recreation Director and the Parks and Recreation Commission are prepared to begin that discussion.

4) In understanding the impact of the loss of the Peirce Practice Field, we are committed to identifying space in Town to replicate this field space. To that end, we will be pursuing the following possibilities:

a. Redistributing parking to other areas of the High School site so that the planned parking lot behind the new school can instead be planned as a practice field for soccer and lacrosse.

b. Exploring potential use of the Town owned parcel on Ryder Street (currently rented to Lalicata Landscaping) as a soccer/lacrosse field.

c. Exploring acquisition of the vacant site adjacent to Poet's Corner (owned by St. Camilus) for potential use as a soccer/lacrosse field.

d. As part of the larger discussion regarding field space allocation across Town, give consideration to shifting more field space to be available for use by soccer and lacrosse.