

# THE NEW W. EDWARD BALMER SCHOOL

## WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 16, 2020



Massachusetts School Building Authority  
Funding Affordable, Sustainable, and Efficient Schools in Partnership with Local Communities





# The Northbridge Public Schools Town of Northbridge

87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 [www.nps.org](http://www.nps.org)

Amy McKinstry, Superintendent  
Gregory Rosenthal, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Jill Healy, Director of Curriculum  
Melissa J. Walker, Director of Finance

June 16, 2020

Kevin Sullivan, Project Manager II  
Massachusetts School Building Authority  
40 Broad Street  
Boston, MA 02109

Re: Northbridge Elementary School – Building Project  
Technology Pre-purchases Request

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Northbridge Public Schools is respectfully requesting the pre-purchase of eleven Chrome Book carts for in-building use by the students of the current Balmer Elementary and Northbridge Elementary Schools (future new NES students) for the 2020-2021 school year.

The basis for this request is so that we can utilize more of our current Chrome Books to distribute to students in the fall, as we expect to be implementing a hybrid learning model that will have all students participating in their course work via a virtual learning environment for at least part of their days/weeks. During the course of this closure, we distributed approximately 300 Chrome Books to students/families in the district for participation in remote learning activities, however, we had almost 600 requests. We expect that if we continue to have a hybrid learning model in the fall, or a model in which only 50% of students can be in a building at a time, we will need to double our distribution to ensure that all students who need devices are able to borrow one so that they may participate in synchronous lessons with their classes on a daily basis.

We currently have 719 Chrome Books in the entire district. If we acquired eleven carts (30 per cart) for NES and Balmer (330 Chrome Books total), eight for Balmer and three for NES, we could utilize the 205 Chrome Books currently at Balmer and the 24 at NES to redistribute to another building (MS or HS) and/or redistribute to students in need for the fall. We would distribute the oldest Chrome Books first and maintain ALL of the new Chrome Books at NES and Balmer, as well as maintain the newest of our current Chrome Books at MS and HS in the buildings, so we would have them available for the students working in the buildings, as well as for MCAS testing in the Spring.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Amy B. McKinstry  
Superintendent

cc: NPS School Committee

*Always More to Learn. Always Striving to Improve.*

It is the policy of the Northbridge Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or homelessness in its educational programs, services, activities, or employment.

# ADVANCED PROCUREMENT OF CHROMEBOOKS

Due to COVID and uncertainty about mode of education in Fall 2020, the District is seeking to pre-purchase 330 Chromebooks on 11 charging carts to supplement a very thin supply of existing Chromebooks.

- To be purchased using the Technology Procurement budget.
- Precedent set for this action in previous projects
- Technology will stay within Balmer and NES for 20-21 year, then move to new NES for 2021 opening – not lent out for home use
- Cost includes 4 year warranty & damage ins and setup services
- Advantageous as it staggers the service and warranty period for this technology
- Balance of technology will be procured on the regular schedule for arrival summer 2021 and installation/ placed in service for F '21

**Total Technology Budget: \$1,854,000**

**Total Cost of this Advance Procurement: \$150,390**





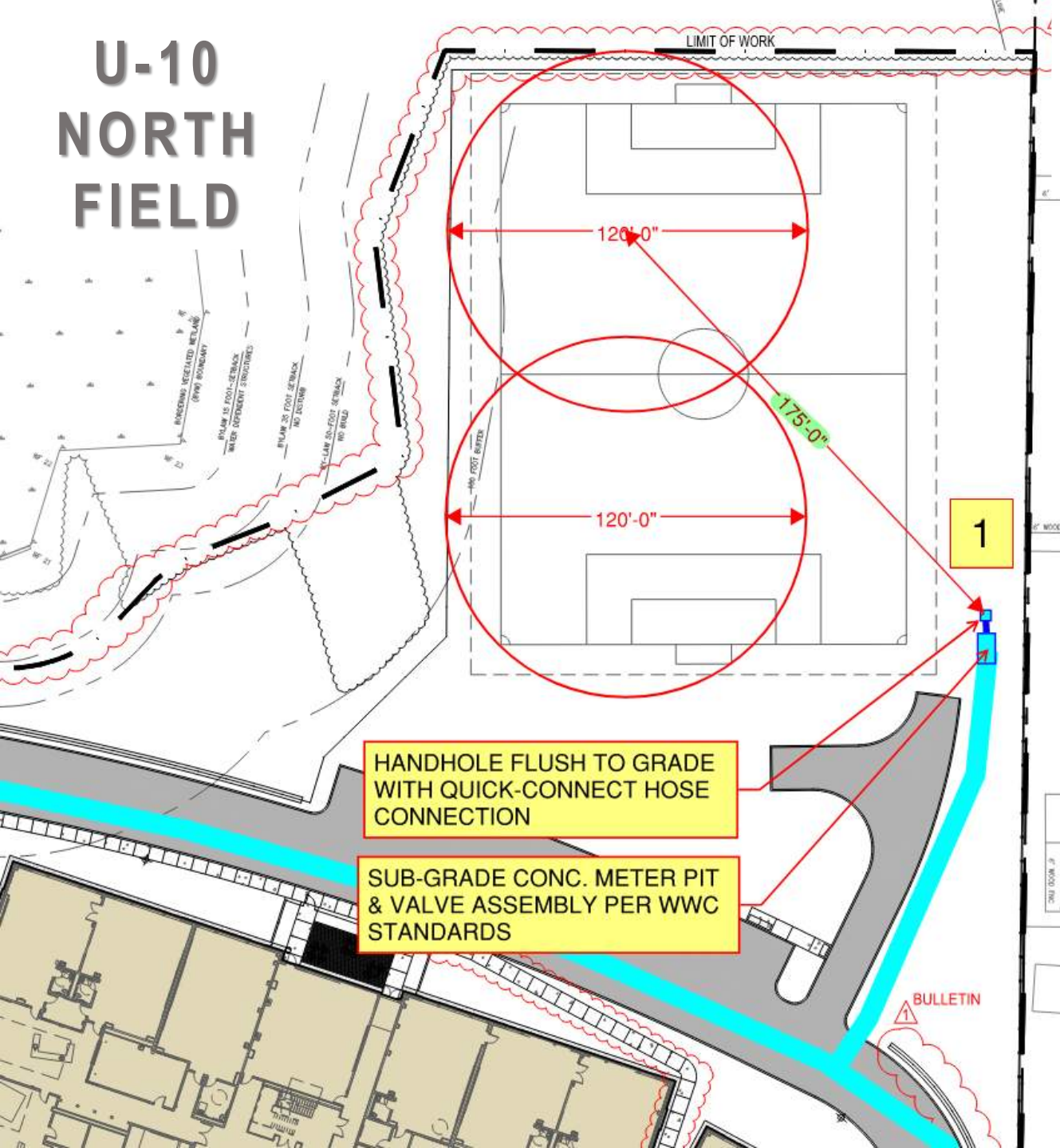
# IRRIGATION FOR SPORT FIELDS

Currently the scope for grass sport fields is hydroseeding, with watering by the Landscape Contractor from a temporary source or via the (5) yard hydrants currently in the project.

Ongoing watering will be by rainwater supplemented by occasional watering from surface sprinklers via the (5) yard hydrants during extended dry periods.

- **What are the impacts of NOT having irrigation?**
- Without irrigation, what are the chances of ending up with a high-quality playfield?
- In your past experience with hydroseeding without irrigation, what have been the results? Upon what variables does success depend?
- Once the seeded fields are established, what is your experience with schools' success maintaining a reasonably high-quality playing surface? What are downsides and liabilities? How have they held up?

# U-10 NORTH FIELD



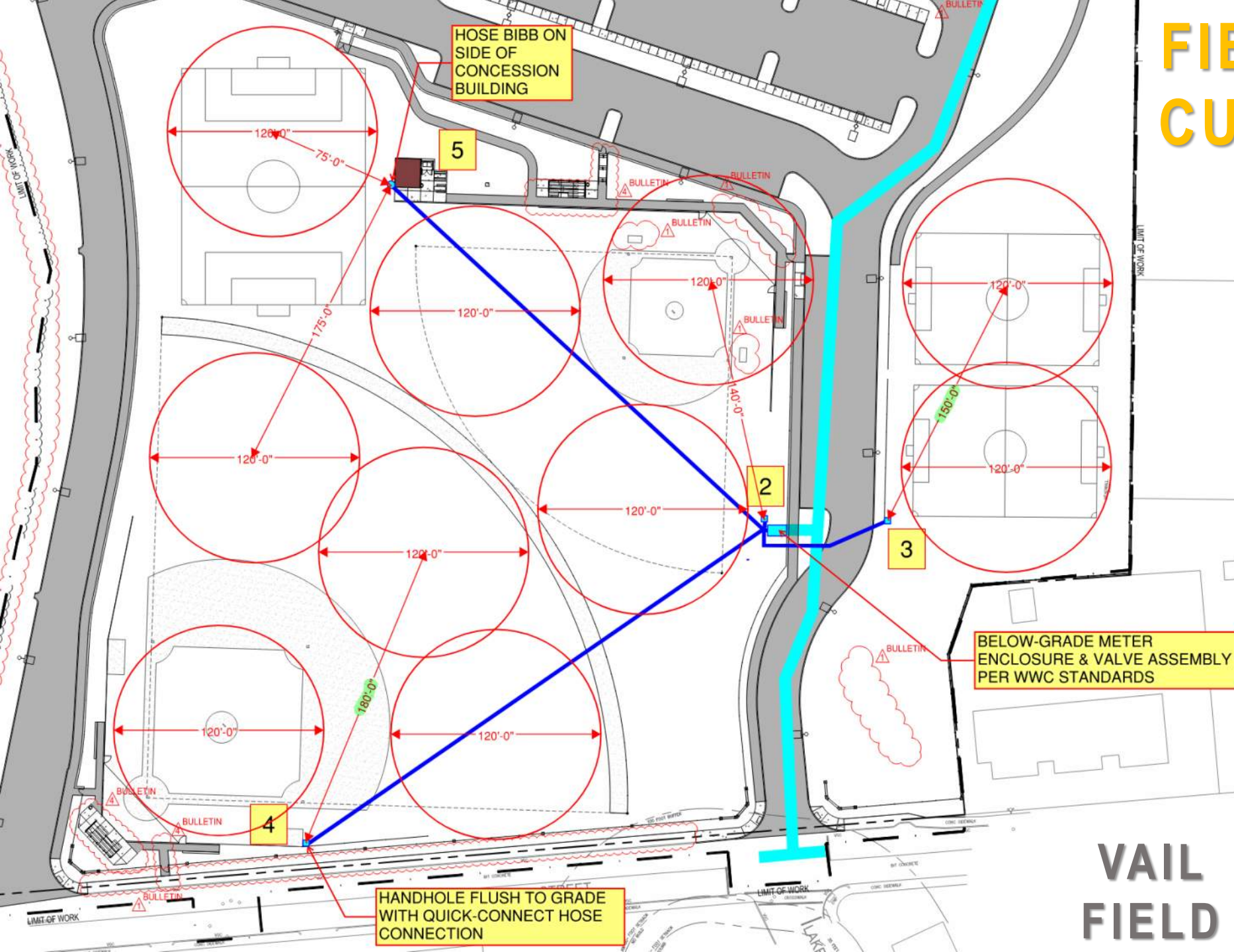
## FIELD WATERING CURRENT SCOPE

- Basic emergency watering
- One yard hydrant hose connection per field; (5) total
- Assumes surface watering using sprinkler cannons and hose
- Assumes a great amount of volunteer labor to move sprinklers around the fields

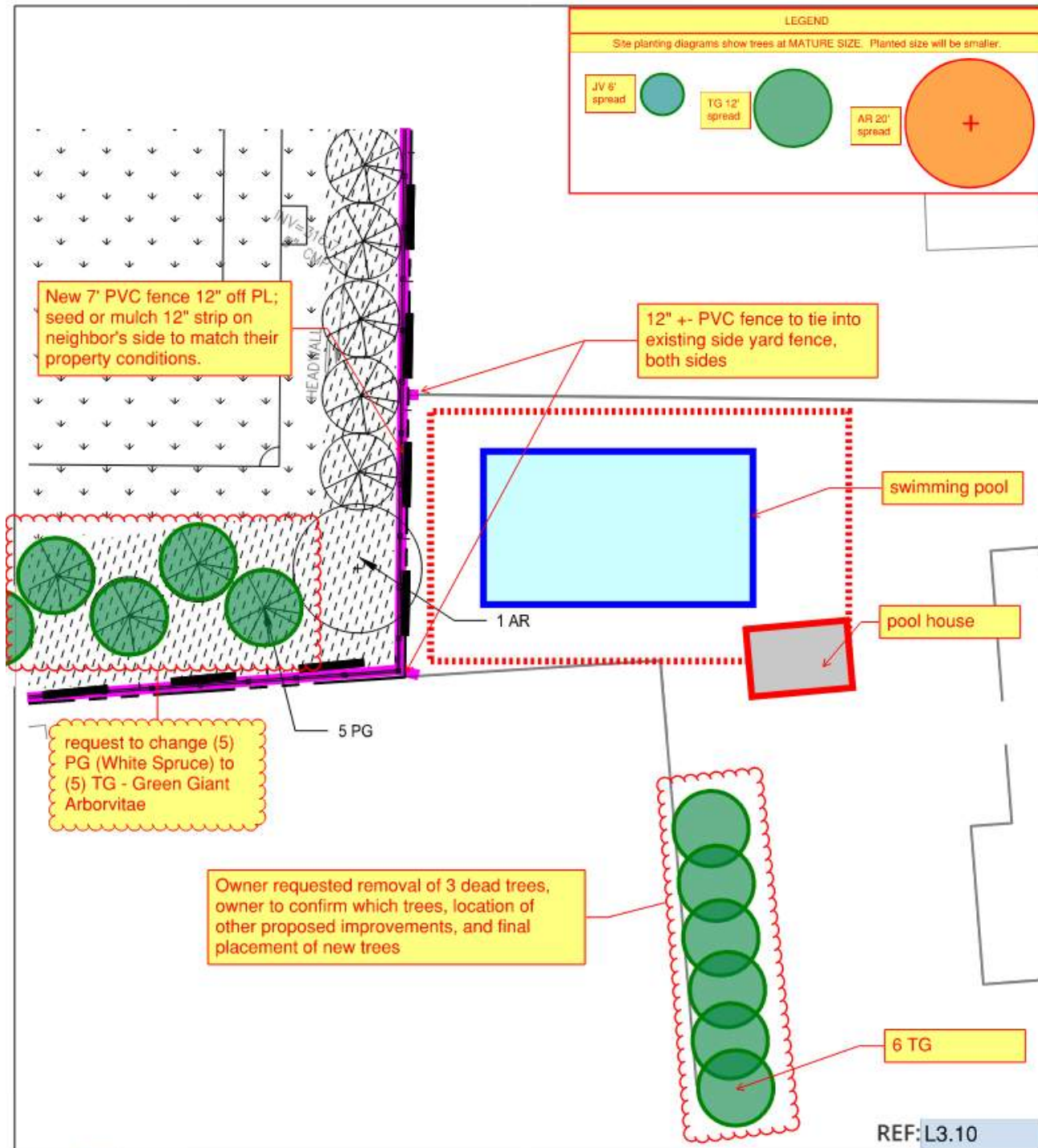


# FIELD WATERING CURRENT SCOPE

- Ongoing cost of potable water purchased from WWC
- Assumes a large amount of volunteer labor to move hoses and sprinklers
- long hoses = friction/pressure loss
- Rec Commission owns no hoses or sprinkler equipment







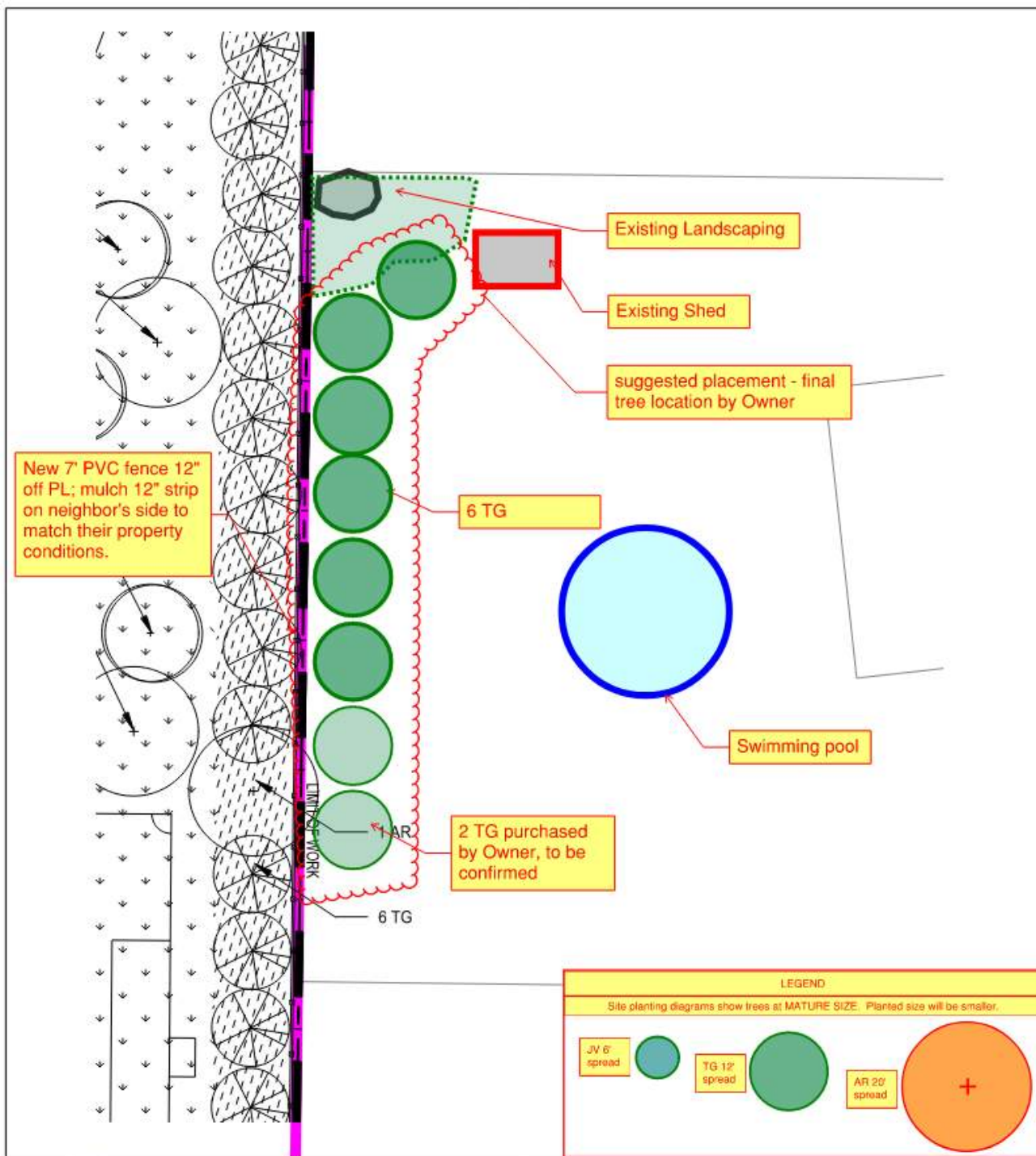
# 292 MASON ROAD

- Owner requests to change (5) trees along south property line from White Spruce (PG) to (5) Green Giant Arborvitae (TG)
- Other requests and adjustments already agreed to



# 266 MASON ROAD

- Owner requests to add (2) Green Giant Arborvitae (TG) to total purchased by Town, for a total of (8) TG



5 TG

6' WOOD FNC

Existing wood fence

Existing Relocated Shed

suggested placement - final tree location by Owner

1 AR

3 TG

Existing Relocated Play Structure

3 TG

Existing Shed

Existing wood fence

LEGEND

Site planting diagrams show trees at MATURE SIZE. Planted size will be smaller.

JV 6' spread

TG 12' spread

AR 20' spread

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**Subject:** Fw: 192 Mason Road - Moving Fence and Shed pnum 17020

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**From:** Keri Bigness <[keribigness@me.com](mailto:keribigness@me.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 8:55 AM

**To:** Joseph Strazzulla <[jstrazzulla@nps.org](mailto:jstrazzulla@nps.org)>

**Cc:** Adam Gaudette <[agaudette@northbridgemass.org](mailto:agaudette@northbridgemass.org)>; Andrew Chagnon -- Vertex <[achagnon@vertexeng.com](mailto:achagnon@vertexeng.com)>; David Fontaine <[djf@fontainebros.com](mailto:djr@fontainebros.com)>; Thomas Hengelsberg <[thengelsberg@doreandwhittier.com](mailto:thengelsberg@doreandwhittier.com)>; Seeley, Joel <[jseeley@smma.com](mailto:jseeley@smma.com)>; Traniello, Sarah <[straniello@smma.com](mailto:straniello@smma.com)>; Lee P. Dore (<[lpdore@doreandwhittier.com](mailto:lpdore@doreandwhittier.com)>) <[lpdore@doreandwhittier.com](mailto:lpdore@doreandwhittier.com)>; Rob Day <[rday@fontainebros.com](mailto:rday@fontainebros.com)>; Dias, Antone <[ADias@smma.com](mailto:ADias@smma.com)>; Project, Mail <[pmail@smma.com](mailto:pmail@smma.com)>

**Subject:** Re: 192 Mason Road - Moving Fence and Shed pnum 17020

To all-

I'll concede that I was mistaken that this was not new information. I believe the original measurement was 1" over our property line and so when I read that below email probably had that number in my head vs the 1'. I am wrong and I admit that I was wrong. However, I believe its the environment in which you Joe (and a few others) have created since last year and still have yet to apologize either privately or publicly that keeps me very "on edge" when I receive notices or view the meetings. I would very much like to not feel as though that at every turn there is another change that will negatively impact our home. We already have a visual and auditorial reminder Mon-Sat 12 hours a day of what we have already lost.

Hearing Mr. Baris speak during the last meeting also hit a nerve; you can hear his frustration and what he who has worked so hard for over 40 years to build a beautiful home has also lost and what inconveniences he will now endure.

Whether the neighbors home is right next to the building or field or not; all of us abutters should be given the choice to select as many privacy trees as THEY see fit along their back property line vs the SBC looking at a Project Slide and determining what is appropriate. You are all discussing spending a potential half a million dollars on irrigation for a non-school related item. I think spending a few extra dollars to show a level of respect for those living here is the very least you could do. Please consider that in your next talks. You may also want to walk the block and literally see what we do. Our viewpoint is not exaggerated when we say we have lost much.

I also want to ask about the School trees being planted along the U10 field. I've noticed that more digging has been done behind my fence. This looks like the trees will be planted at least 6' below our property. Meaning if a newly planted tree is only 10 feet when planted, the tops of the trees won't extend higher than 4' from our ground. Is this accurate and if so, are more mature trees being considered or planned for to provide actual privacy?

Keri Bigness

On May 29, 2020, at 8:05 AM, Joseph Strazzulla <[jstrazzulla@nps.org](mailto:jstrazzulla@nps.org)> wrote:

Keri,

In response to your email yesterday where you wrote:

Let me get this straight....the SBC threatened us legal action for MONTHS and we FINALLY come up with an agreement and NOW I find out that the School Installed fence will be 1 FOOT on the School Property BUT we had to have it placed ON OUR PROPERTY LINE! This is absolutely OBSURD and I am beyond furious! THIS is the type of action that you take that enrages the neighbors. If this is the "NEW RULE" about fence location I want my fence placed in the same location as the school fence.

FYI- many of our fence panels were not installed correctly and are already leaning.

Below is a forwarded email from Adam Gaudette back in February, where he answers many of the questions you had about the fence. Please review.

I will bring up this issue at our next SBC meeting. I will also send you the video call in link when it is generated by the schools administration and we can address any issues through a Neighbor Update agenda item.

Regards,

Joe Strazzulla

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Adam Gaudette** <[agaudette@northbridgemass.org](mailto:agaudette@northbridgemass.org)>

Date: Thu, May 28, 2020 at 12:57 PM

Subject: FW: 192 Mason Road - Moving Fence and Shed pnum 17020

To: Seeley Joel <[jseeley@smma.com](mailto:jseeley@smma.com)>, Joseph Strazzulla ([jstrazzulla@nps.org](mailto:jstrazzulla@nps.org)) <[jstrazzulla@nps.org](mailto:jstrazzulla@nps.org)>, David Fontaine, Jr. <[djf@fontainebros.com](mailto:djr@fontainebros.com)>, Rob Day <[rday@fontainebros.com](mailto:rday@fontainebros.com)>, Dias, Antone <[ADias@smma.com](mailto:ADias@smma.com)>, Project, Mail <[pmail@smma.com](mailto:pmail@smma.com)>

From: Adam Gaudette

Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 4:20 PM

To: Keri Bigness <[keribigness@me.com](mailto:keribigness@me.com)>

Cc: [sbc@nps.org](mailto:sbc@nps.org); David Fontaine, Jr. <[djf@fontainebros.com](mailto:djr@fontainebros.com)>

Subject: FW: 192 Mason Road - Moving Fence and Shed pnum 17020

Dear Keri, thank you for your recent emails. The School Building Committee combined both into one response below. They include them in the agenda for their March 17, 2020 meeting.

## 2/7/20 Email

1. We have decided rather than moving the shed to the right side of our property line to just move the shed up the 2' along the back property line. This option avoids the conduit pipe being moved as well.

*SBC Response: In accordance with the executed Right of Entry and Release Agreement, the shed is to be moved to a location in compliance with the Town's Zoning Bylaws. The property owner is responsible for providing the exact location to move the shed.*

2. Back fence to be moved to the property line.

*SBC Response: Agreed.*

3. We had a question (more for the schools benefit than ours) about the white vinyl fence. B/c we want to keep our fenced in back yard consistent we plan to keep our wood fence but have no objections to the school continuing their white vinyl fence all the way down the Mason Road line. Our thought process is that the school may want to have a consistent view on their side. Either way we have no objections to this option.

- additional thoughts: if we were to sell and the new owner wished to remove the fencing then that would leave a gap along the back line.

- if we already had vinyl fencing our decision would be different but we don't like the idea of the yard having 2 types of fencing.

*SBC Response: No white vinyl fence will be installed by the Town along the 178, 192 and 202 Mason Road property lines.*

4. The option for 4 additional trees on the homeowners property should be made clear as to what location options are available. Meaning will the trees only be offered if placed on the back property line or can they be placed on the rear side property line?

\* Obviously homeowners don't expect to have the option to place these trees in their front yards rather in additional locations in their back yard to help block the view to the school and soccer fields.

Antone, I've already sent you images of where we would like to place these trees.

*SBC Response: The 4 trees can be installed on the side property line.*

5. Our swing set only needs to be adjusted a few feet and kept in the current general location of our yard.

*SBC Response: The swing set is to be moved to a location in compliance with the Town's Zoning Bylaws. The property owner is responsible for providing the exact location to move the swing set.*

6. What is the estimated timeline for this work? Spring 2020, Summer 2020, etc?

*SBC Response: The fence and shed relocations will occur Spring 2020 and the tree plantings will occur in the Fall 2020.*

## **2/15/20 Email**

1. All abutters to the construction site (Crescent St & Mason Rd) should receive consistent and equal accommodations. I.E., Additional trees offered.

1.b. Abutters at the beginning of Mason Rd face the same privacy issues as those at 202/192/178. Though their privacy viewing issues are more "street level" those at 202/192/178 have an

elevated view concern. Especially us at 192 & 178 whose back decks create a view of the entire south facing school building, grounds and u10 soccer field.

1.c. Current offer of 4 trees was discussed and we replied that we wished to have Green Arborvitaes planted on the left side of our back yard. In the SBC Meeting it was discussed that this location may not be possible due to growth circumference.

- Our response is that these trees grow in a way that can create a "tree wall" which can be trimmed on either side of the property line which should reduce the concern about over hang onto the neighboring yard. Currently 202 has a red oak that is planted on their property however its branches extend onto 192s. The proposed location of the 4 green giants would not create such a growth extension issue and so we see no reason why this location can not be agreed upon.

*SBC Response: The amount of trees offered is final. The 4 trees can be installed on the side property line.*

2. Fencing - It was discussed that the abutters at the beginning of Mason Rd up to 202 are receiving the white vinyl fence and that due to the fact that it will be placed 1' in from the property line (is the fence being placed on abutters property or school property/it wasn't clear in the video?) it will be maintained by the school. However those at 202, 192 and 178 will be responsible for their rear property fence as it will be located on the actual property line. Please confirm that this is an accurate review of what was discussed at the 2/12/20 meeting.

*SBC Response: The white vinyl fence is being placed 1' in from the property line on the Town's property. 202 and 192 Mason Road wood fence will be on the property line and owned and maintained by the 202 and 192 Mason Road property owners. 178 Mason Road is an existing wood fence owned by the 178 Mason Road property owner.*

2.b. - It was asked by us at 192 if the SBC preferred and planned to continue the white vinyl fence the entire property line from the crescent/Mason - 178 Mason to keep the school side view consistent. Has this been discussed?

*SBC Response: No white vinyl fence will be installed by the Town along the 178, 192 and 202 Mason Road property lines.*

2.c. - Though we at 192 wish to keep our back yard view consistent with the wood fencing, we have no objections to having 2 lines of fencing.

*SBC Response: No white vinyl fence will be installed by the Town along the 178, 192 and 202 Mason Road property lines.*

2.d. - Changes to fence/shed relocation agreement- Please send for review at your earliest convenience.

*SBC Response: The updated Right of Entry and Release Agreement reflecting relocated fence ownership and maintenance by the 192 Mason Road property owner will be forwarded shortly.*

3. 192 Fence and Shed Relocation - From the SBC 2/12/20 meeting the subject of a potential irrigation system was debated and within that discussion our relocation agreement and timeline was brought up. It looks as though site work needs to be completed and our fence and shed relocated prior to Fall 2020. If so, we would need to confirm and possibly adjust our agreement based on the items discussed in section 1 (Additional Trees/Location).

*SBC Response: The fence and shed relocations will occur Spring 2020 and the tree plantings will occur in the Fall 2020.*

3.b. - If the additional trees are not allowed in the current suggested location, we would then have to review other options which most likely affect changing the location of our side fencing and small shed (not just the rear fencing). If needed, we plan to tear down our smaller shed (we will handle this ourselves) but may have to move all our fencing surrounding the back yard to the property line.

*SBC Response: The 4 trees can be installed on the side property line.*

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Joseph A. Strazzulla II  
Chair - Northbridge Building Committee  
Vice Chair - Northbridge School Committee  
[jstrazzulla@nps.org](mailto:jstrazzulla@nps.org)  
(508) 942 - 9930

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# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



**FONTAINE BROS., INC.**

CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS  
GENERAL CONTRACTORS



# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Drone overview of building site, 5/8/20

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Drone overview of building site, 6/5/20

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Drone overview of building site, 6/5/20

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Drone overview of building site, 6/5/20



# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Drone overview of building site, 6/5/20



# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

An aerial photograph of a large, multi-story building under construction. The building's exterior walls are covered in bright blue insulation panels, and the roof is a flat, grey surface. Numerous windows are visible, some with wooden frames. The construction site is surrounded by a dirt area with various pieces of construction equipment, including a yellow excavator, a red truck, and a white pickup truck. In the background, there are other buildings, a parking lot, and a dense line of green trees.

Drone overview of building site, 6/5/20

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Drone overview of building site, 6/5/20

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Drone overview of building site, 6/5/20

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



6/16/20 – Gymnasium slab being cast  
using laser-guided screed machine

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



6/16/20 – Stage platform raised slab and Cafeteria space



6/9/20 – Masonry progress

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**





# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

6/16/20 – A & C-Wing Light Gage Metal Framing and Sheathing Progress



# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



6/16/20 – A-Wing North Waterproofing Progress





# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

6/16/20 – Ductwork, plumbing, and Electrical progress



# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



6/16/20 –  
Roofing progress:  
A+B Wings  
complete, C-Wing  
west underway



# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



6/16/20 – Mockup  
progress:  
waterproofed and  
windows in



# QUESTION AND ANSWER

