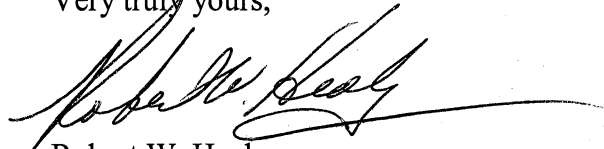


Before any remediation/renovation work can begin, several tasks must be completed. The city's Asbestos Protection Ordinance requires that additional testing take place. A risk assessment and a remediation plan have to be developed to document that the proposed clean-up is protective of public health and DEP approval must be obtained. In addition, a soil management plan including tenting and venting is required under the Asbestos Protection Ordinance and is subject to review and approval by the Public Health Department.

City staff are currently working with neighborhood representatives and consultants on refining the testing plan and developing a risk assessment methodology acceptable to the DEP. Unfortunately, the DEP does not have established standards for asbestos with respect to testing/laboratory protocols or risk assessment methodology. Given that the City is breaking new ground here and developing approaches which we hope DEP will endorse, it is not yet possible to establish a definitive time table for completion of the clean-up and renovation of the field. We hope to conduct the additional required testing this fall depending on the resolution of the many technical and regulatory issues.

Our goal is to have minimal, if any, impact on the fall athletic activities on the field. The scoreboard at Russell Field, which was destroyed during a March storm, will be replaced by a temporary scoreboard for the four CRLS varsity football games at Russell Field this season. The City plans to borrow a portable scoreboard from Lexington High School. Replacing the former scoreboard is currently not feasible, since state building code requires footings that are eight feet deep and four feet in diameter. The necessary excavation work to place the footings would trigger the requirements of the Asbestos Protection Ordinance including additional testing and tenting and venting during excavation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



3,

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

September 10, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-210, regarding report on the planned renovations to Russell Field, Assistant City Manager for Community Development Beth Rubenstein, Public Works Commissioner Lisa Peterson and Chief Public Health Officer Harold Cox, report the following:

As you know, we have identified various amounts of asbestos, PAH compounds, and some metals in the subsurface soil in certain areas of Russell Field. An Imminent Hazard evaluation concluded that it is safe to continue to use the field as no contaminants at elevated levels were found in the surface soil. The Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) requires that the property be cleaned up either before or as part of the renovations. For this type of site, the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would typically require that a 3 foot upper layer of clean soil be established across the field.

The City's consultants have assessed the option of removing the top 3 feet of soil across the entire Russell Field and replacing it with clean soil to expedite a solution. This option is extremely expensive. It would include removal and disposal of approximately 85,000 tons of soil. Our consultants estimate that the cost to complete this work, including tenting and venting required under the Asbestos Protection Ordinance, would be in excess of \$10 million and potentially as high as \$35 million. As an alternative, we are working with our consultants to determine whether it would be feasible to add 3 feet of clean soil to the field. However, because we know there are significant obstacles, such as drainage, this solution does not appear promising. The third option, which we are currently pursuing, is to develop a plan for remediation of those areas that have been found to have contaminated soil. The plan must comply with both the requirements of state environmental regulations and the City's Asbestos Protection Ordinance.



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Consent Agenda #3

Awaiting Report Item Number
01-210, regarding a report on the
planned renovations to Russell
Field.

In City Council September 10, 2001

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