



July 15, 2019

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

Town of Southborough Planning Board
Donald C. Morris, Chair
Southborough Town House
17 Common Street
Southborough, MA 01772

Dear Mr. Morris,

Thank you for taking the time to hear from St. Mark's School regarding our planned project to install lights on our turf field here on campus. We appreciate the entire Planning Board's time and careful consideration around each facet of this project and we wanted to write regarding our plans for moving forward.

Our plan to install lighting was something we had discussed both with our Facilities Committee and with our entire Board of Trustees. Our plan was to allow for increased practice and game time for our students but also for other community groups. This would include the Town's own recreation department as well. Our entire St. Mark's community was excited about this project and we were excited to share our plans with your Board and the Town.

While I was unable to attend the July Planning Board meeting in person, our Director of Facilities was able to attend and represent St. Mark's along with our engineering firm's representative. We listened carefully. We heard the concerns regarding potential impact both aesthetically and environmentally. While we do feel the latest generation of lights are truly more compliant, in terms of light pollution and related spillover, we understand the concerns from the Board around these issues. We also understand the need to ensure we are mitigating any other issues, such as parking and timing of use, especially through the winter months. Therefore, we would like to take the time to properly address each issue and put together a more fully articulated plan for implementation and use and as a result, we are respectfully withdrawing our application at this time.

We want to let you know we heard the Board and others, including the Southborough Historical Society for example, and again, plan to take time over the next couple of years to formulate and further develop additional ideas to mitigate concerns, such as complementing lighting with plantings as screening, for example. We want to thank you and your Board again as well as all others involved in helping us examine this potential project and the time and effort you have assisted us with to date. We hope to be back in touch in the future and please let me know if any other steps are required to formally withdraw our application.

Sincerely,

Robert Kuklewicz, CPA
Chief Financial & Operations Officer

Cc: Zoning Board of Appeals, Mr. Craig Nicholson, Chair
Katie Barry, Principal Assistant to the Zoning Board of Appeals
Conservation Commission, Mr. Mark Possemato, Chair
Karina Quinn, Town Planner
John Warren, St. Mark's School Head of School
Sandra Duran, St. Mark's School Director of Facilities

25 Marlboro Road, Southborough, MA 01772
tel. 508.786.6000 • www.stmarksschool.org

INTENTIONALLY SMALL, **THINKING BIG.**