

**Town of Westport
Golf Advisory Committee
Minutes
February 6, 2017**

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport met in the auditorium at Town Hall on Monday, February 6, 2017. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Hunter at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Fred Hunter, Jane Dally, and Gary Solomon. Absent were John Ehli and Rich Raphael.

1. Comments from the Audience

Was golf course maintenance and the head golf pro job ever put out as a combination bid? Fred passed on this subject as it was not on the agenda.

Someone wanted to discuss starting times. When does the course open and should we discuss opening earlier in the morning like Sterling Farms? Fred passed on this subject as it was not on the agenda.

2. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes from December 5, 2016 meeting were approved.

3. Presidents' Report

April 11 will be the season opening member meeting for the women's 18th holers and it will be held at the Saugatuck Congregational Church in Westport beginning at 6pm. Open play will take place through April and then the official starting date for LWGA will be Tuesday, May 2. Regina Masterson did not comment about 2016 rounds.

The 9-hole league reports that 2016 rounds were up by 884 rounds. They are increasing membership and will hold a membership drive event on March 16. Peter Krieger mentioned that the first meeting for LMGA would be held on February 13. They booked the Inn at Longshore for the season opener (Saturday, April 22). He wanted to review the bunker plan and the golf pro situation. He said there was much uncertainty in the community and people want to know what is going on.

Peter Krieger suggested the Golf Advisory Committee send out agendas to all memberships so golfers know what it going on at the meetings.

4. Rounds Report

Longshore was down by 600 rounds last year. Weekends still bring in the highest percentage of rounds, followed by Twilight golf, 18 hole weekday and 9 hole weekday. Junior rounds were down and at the lowest point in club history.

Audience questions included: Can we track unique individuals on the course? Let's find out who is playing. The Chelsea System can track this. What about seasonal play? Golf rates could be an issue with late season play and we may need to look at that in order to bring in more play in the shoulder season.

Jimmy Izzo asked how much the Chelsea System cost. Someone responded that it costs \$15,000.

5. Superintendent's Report

Mike Golden left Longshore to go to Sterling Farms. Bright View is hiring a new superintendent for Longshore. Nine interviews have taken place and a candidate will be announced soon. The Bright View contract was renewed for an additional three years and the superintendent is paid by Bright View.

6. Golf Professional's Report

John Cooper turned down the offer from Parks & Rec to remain as head golf professional. A new RFP was created and sent out to regional golf associations. Nine golf pros responded to the new RFP. Interviews took place in early February. A decision must be made before March 1.

Under the new structure, the town of Westport will handle the golf carts and range balls. The town will get the revenue from carts and the practice area.

Several members of the audience wanted to know how much money John Cooper made? Other questions concerned the website and what the process is moving forward. Cooper owned the website and the golfers want continuity.

7. Presentation of Revised Bunker Design

Fred Hunter explained that there will be minor changes to the approved master plan to holes, 7, 8 and 12 specifically. Overall, Longshore will have 12-14 fewer bunkers when the work is complete. Some of the current bunkers will be combined to form one large bunker and some bunkers will be removed entirely.

Architect Doug Smith (not present) is now interviewing contractors for sod, sand, etc. Golf Design Unlimited did not have a representative at the meeting.

Tentative start date for the bunker renovation project is August 15. All golf associations should plan to have their "major" tournaments prior to August 15. Phase I will include holes 12-13 because of their location. July 1, 2018 is the estimated finish date.

8. Other

It was announced that LWGA member, Marie Gross would be joining the GAC in March.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Dally
GAC member