

WESTPORT CONNECTICUT
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
LONGSHORE CLUB PARK
260 SOUTH COMPO ROAD, WESTPORT, CT 06880

FINAL

Town of Westport Golf Advisory Committee Minutes June 4, 2018

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport met in Town Hall, Room 309, on Monday, June 4, 2018. The meeting was called to order by Parks & Rec Commission Chairman Charlie Haberstroh at 7:30 pm.

Members present: Marie Gross, Jim Harman, Jane Daly, Gary Solomon, Rich Raphael and Judy Domkowski. John Elhi was not present.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on March 5 were reviewed and approved, unanimously, by the committee, by a 6-0 vote.

2. Comments from the Public

Topsy Sideroff and Committee member Judy Domkowski asked about the drop areas (for balls hit into the ponds) on # 12 & 13, and could they be marked better. Superintendent Todd noted the difficulty of mowing those areas after the spring growing season. He will review the situation and mark as appropriate.

3. Rounds Report

Rounds summary chart was distributed by Jen Fava. Total rounds for April and May stand at 6,791, 198 rounds ahead of last year at this point.

4. Bunker Project Update

Jen Fava provided an update. The project is nearing completion. Weather permitting the construction phase will be completed by June 8. There will be areas marked out of play as sod continues to take hold. The entire project will be completed by the end of June. At that time the discounted greens fees will be discontinued. Also the practice bunker and green adjacent to the 17th tee is complete.

5. Presidents' Reports

Peter Kreiger of the Men's association noted that their opening tournament went well. Many of the members have very positive reactions to the course renovations, especially the heavy rough, as it balances some of the easier bunker play resulting from the renovation.

Men's Association membership is flat versus last year.

Their Member/Member tournament is scheduled for June, followed by their Member/Guest tournament.

Peter noted the cooperation and help from John and his staff on Men's Association events.

Mia Anderson of the Ladies 9 Hole group noted their membership is at 119 members.

Topsy Sideroff of the Ladies 18 Hole group complimented the bunker renovation project. They are currently oversubscribed for play on June 6. They have added 27 new members for a new record. They are also integrating rules information on the upcoming new/revised rules of golf with their members

6. Superintendent Report

The goose abatement program is approved and the supplier contract will be approved shortly for both Longshore and Compo Beach. Anticipate starting the program July 1. Discussion of the stagnant water of the ponds on the 12/13 holes. Environment considers may make a improvement challenging. Plan to top-dress the greens before the end of June—minimal impact to golfers.

7. Golf Professional Report

Rounds up from last year. At the completion of the bunker project and other improvements the course will be surveyed to ensure proper out of bounds markers. A representative from each Association group will accompany Jon on the survey. The course will also be rerated for yardage/scoring and handicaps in the fall. Jon also gave a report on pace of play at other municipal courses in our area. Longshore pace of play time is one of the lowest at just over 4 hours. The entire group discussed various ways to inform golfers of the need to keep an appropriate pace for a reasonable overall pace of play.

8. Halfway House

The current vendor has agreed to continue operating the House through the 2018 season. An RFP for a new vendor will be ready in the fall for a start in the spring of 2019

9. Cell Service

Jen reported that P&R has met with Verizon regarding improving cell service on the course. They are awaiting a response and proposal from Verizon on a coverage plan.

10. Course Alterations

Peter Kreiger of the Men's Association put forward a proposal to alter the current course layout—to switch the 9th and 14th holes (which parallel each other). Kregier explained that in a period of reassessing the course (post bunker renovation) this may be a good time to explore this for better playability and better access to the halfway house, and potentially to increase the speed of play. There was considerable discussion which led to the Committee agreed to take up the proposal in July or August. Peter agreed to prepare a visual representation of the switch and the changes necessary and present that at the July or August Golf Advisory meeting

A motion was made by Chairman Haberstroh, to adjourn the meeting was passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Harman
Golf Advisory Committee