

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

Golf Advisory Committee
Final Minutes
December 3, 2018

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport met in Town Hall, room 309, on Monday, December 3, 2018. The meeting was called to order by Parks & Rec Commission Chairman Charlie Haberstroh at 7:30 pm.

Members Present: Marie Gross, Jane Dally, Judy Domkowski, Gary Solomon, John Ehli and Jim Harman

Member Absent: Rich Raphael

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the August 6 meeting were approved by a 4-0 vote. There were no minutes for the October meeting, as there was not a quorum.

2. Comments from the Public

Topsy Siderowf reported that the LWGA has discussed and vote positively on changing par for the ladies scorecard from 70-72. Hole #3 to a par 5 adding 54 yards and Hole 5 to par 5 adding 47 yards.

Chairman Haberstroh noted that this topic will be reviewed and discussed at the January GAC meeting

Marie Gross noted that the condition of the portable restrooms on the course are not acceptable. They are not being cleaned regularly.

Chairman Haberstroh noted this and said he would alert Jen Fava.

Peter Kreiger commented that the superintendent and the town need to do a better job of alerting golfers to plans for aeration of the greens/fairways.

Pro Jon Janik noted that all area golf courses have experienced lower play in 2018, likely caused by excessive rain throughout the summer. He said most were down 10%.

Committee member Gary Solomon noted that the number of golf hand pass holders has declined significantly in 2018 to 2500.

Chairman Haberstroh requested this be discussed at the next meeting

3. Presidents' Report

Peter Kreiger of the Men's Association introduced Jon Lieber as the new president of the Association. He noted that their events this summer went well and noted a dramatically better pro shop and pro shop staff. However he also noted a significant loss of members in the LMGA. They are down 25 members from last year and this seems to be a 4-5 year trend.

Topsy Sideroff introduced Winnie Hamilton as the new LWGA President. She noted that membership is at 127 and they have seen no downturn in members.

Chairman Haberstroh also requested that fees/membership be reviewed at the next meeting and he requested that Jon check with area courses to see how they did this year.

4. Proposal to Move Holes 9 & 14

Reviewed/discussed with the committee. Extensive drawings of the proposed change were reviewed. The primary reason for the change is to increase safety, primarily at the tee area for #9 & 14. Also proposed to make access to the halfway house easier and faster for players after hole 9. The change will also enhance the overall golfer experience at Longshore.

Gary Solomon of the Committee noted the need for clear and new signage to be added to both holes to guide players and prevent confusion and mitigate skipping holes around the 14 green.

The proposal will be discussed and perhaps voted on at the January GAC meeting.

5. Superintendent's Report

Todd reported that the course received a record amount of rainfall this summer—upwards of 50 inches. He and his staff have worked on managing the issue but there are 4/5 damage areas being aerated to repair the damage.

Todd also reported he has met with a member of the conservation commission on potential changes to the fairway between the pond and green on Hole 13. Additional details will follow in subsequent meetings

6. Golf Professional's Report

Jon reported on October rounds. YTD the number of rounds is down 3% versus 2017. Total rounds should be around 33,100. The course will officially close on December 9. Jon also reported he is exploring and recommending that the time interval between tee times change from 9 to 10 minutes. Chairman Haberstroh said this would be reviewed at the January meeting.

Chairman Haberstroh asked the Committee to think about funding priorities for course improvements and the golfer experience for 2019, as Parks & Rec director Jen Fava is consider her budget for 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm

Respectfully submitted

Jim Harman