

WESTPORT CONNECTICUT
Parks and Recreation Department
Longshore Club Park
260 South Compo Road, Westport, Ct. 06880

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
Golf Advisory Committee
Final Minutes
January 7, 2019**

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport met in Town Hall, Room 309, on Monday, January 7, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Parks & Rec Commission Chairman Charlie Haberstroh at 7:30 p.m.

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

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 3, 2018 meeting were approved with one change. There was no quorum at the October meeting.

2. Comments from the Public

- Jennifer Fava, Director of Parks & Recreation, stated the Geese Abatement Program is continuing during the winter.
- Jennifer Fava also had no comment on the status of a new vendor for the ½ way house.

3. Presidents' Reports

- LMGA – John Lieber noted work on a new web site.
- LWGA – Winnie Hamilton said the handbook is being revised to incorporate the new golf rules. Regina Masterson (LWGA Rules Committee Chairman) brought up the importance of all three leagues using the same local rules. Jon Janik will coordinate.

4. Proposal to Switch Holes #9 and #14 – Jennifer Fava and Peter Kreiger (former Chairman LMGA)

- Reviewed the proposed changes, as presented in the December meeting. The changes were unanimously approved as presented. It was noted the changes will also allow for the cleanup around the new 9th hole and around the ½ way house.
- No formal bids have been solicited and will not be until the changes are approved at the February 27th Park & Rec Meeting. Three bids will be obtained. Based on preliminary discussions with a few vendors, Jennifer Fava felt the project could be funded in the operating budget for \$30,000, including funds left over from the FYE 6/30/2018.
- The change will not require approval from the Conservation Committee. There have been preliminary discussions with the P&Z.
- The importance of signage was discussed. In addition to the leagues, Charlie Haberstroh noted the Friends of Park & Recreation Association, a 501 c (3), may be potential source of funds for the signage. Instructions on the hole changes will be handed out by the starter. Bushnell and Garmen will need to be notified.

- The rerating of the course was delayed due to the rainy Fall and will hopefully occur this Spring. Jennifer Fava commented printing new scorecards will not be an issue and that ad revenues are not significant.

5. LWGA proposal to change the par ranking on holes #3 and #18

- Both holes would become par 5s. The yardage on the 3rd hole would be 385 yards; the 18th – 395 yards. The total yardage would increase from 5,034 to 5,135. Par would go from 70 to 72.
- GAC voiced no objections but since the 9 Hole League had not discussed it with their board/members, a vote was postponed until the February 4th GAC meeting.

6. Administrative Report – Review of proposed Capital and Operating Projects - Jennifer Fava

- Presented the “Improvements Proposed Plan” covering FY 2018 / 2019 to FY 2023 / 2024. It has not been approved by either the RTM or the Board of Finance.
- The 2019 / 2020 projects are already in the Capital Plan of the Town as is the 2021 / 2022 project for Golf Pro Shop Design.
- There is no cost for upgrading the driving range because it is not certain if top soil and/or sod will be used or could a synthetic carpet be put down that would be redeployed from other town facilities.
- The 2021 / 2023 Golf Pro Shop project is a concept only. It will need to be part of the overall site plan for the Park.

7. Superintendent’s Report – Todd Salamone

- Having benefited from so much rain, the course is healthy. General maintenance is on-going including cleaning up the fescue and spraying herbicides. An attempt will be made to add sand to the greens because of so much rain related run-off. The diseased 160-year-old copper beach tree will be coming down.
- A discussion occurred about the fact that several area courses capitalized on our mild winter and stayed open. (Tim Romano asked why we were closed.) These courses will be surveyed about their winter rounds to see if we should keep Longshore open next winter.
- Another item discussed was that the poor quality of the maintenance help being provided by Valley Crest. (Raised by Tim Romano.) Todd was asked to remind Valley Crest their contract was coming up for renewal in a year.

8. Golf Professional’s Report – Jon Janik

- Presented the Tee Time Reservation Policy of neighboring courses. Sterling Farms uses Chelsea with tee times only booked on-line. Given the problems people had calling in for tee times last year at Longshore and the fact that Chelsea is not supporting their call-in tee time service, it begs the question should we convert to booking on-line tee times only. A brief discussion took place but no vote was taken.
- In response to the GAC concern about rising tee time cancellations (need more details on the numbers) and our ability to collect cancellation fees, Jon reported Chelsea does not hold credit cards; it is done by Tsys. More information needs to be developed about what the town does (uses Heartland) and decide if we want to start collecting cancellation fees and how it will be implemented. Area courses vary on collecting cancellation fees.
- Discussed changing tee-off time intervals. Holes 3, 4, and 5 are the worst backup holes. An option is to have people tee off every 8 minutes until 9 or 10 a.m. when it would increase to every 9 or 10 minutes. A vote was postponed until the February meeting.

9. Proposed Meeting Dates for the GAC Feb 2019 – Jan 2020

The committee approved the meeting dates for next year, as presented, with one exception. The July meeting will be held on July 8th due to the 4th of July Holiday.

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Domkowski
GAC Member