



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

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

Golf Advisory Committee Final Minutes February 3, 2020

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport met in Town Hall, Room 309, on Monday, February 3, 2020. The meeting was called to order Chairperson Jane Dally at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Jim Harman, Rich Raphael

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

2. Comments from the Public

There were no public comments

3. Presidents' Reports

- **Longshore Women's 9-Hole League** - Mea Anderson represented the 9-holers. Mea reported that the league has decided to adopt Leaderboard Systems as their tournament management system, following the LWGA. Their opening meeting coffee is scheduled for March. They will share their proposed tournament schedule with Jon Janik and Jennifer Fava for approval.
- **LWGA** - Marie Scott spoke for Winnie Hamilton. The league has adopted a new tournament management system to replace ForeTees, called Leaderboard Systems. The system was developed by a member of the Griff's men's league. The system will calculate tournament scores, track ringers and birdies and convert per hole scores to net double bogey. The league is initiating weekly emails to help members understand the new World Handicap System (WHS). They are planning a 60th Anniversary Member Guest tournament on July 28. Their opening meeting is scheduled for April 7, 6:00 p.m. at the Saugatuck Congregational Church.
- **LMGA** – the men's league did not have a representative at the meeting.

4. Administrative Report

- Jennifer Fava reported that the town has accepted eight charity events to be scheduled for Longshore in the 2020 season. The approved new rates for charity events are \$2,500 for half-day, and \$4,250 for full day (or double shotgun).
- The switch of holes 9 and 14 has been completed.
- The irrigation control replacement proposal is going to the RTM for final appropriations approval and the work for the replacement is currently out to bid.
- Geese Relief has been renewed for the coming season. There were comments of observations of lots of geese on the fairways. This is the time of year when they migrate back and Jennifer Fava will direct Geese Relief to come at different times of the day.
- The site plan RFP has received 8 proposals. Jennifer is going through the process of reviewing and culling down.
- Regarding the concessions (at beach and Longshore), the town has received 5 bids and is reviewing. This needs to be fast tracked because the season begins in April/May.
- Jennifer Fava reported that there will be no increase to greens fees/carts for the 2020 season.

5. **Superintendent Report – Todd Salamone**

Todd reported that he is close to hiring a new assistant, and should have a decision by next week. He has been overhauling the sprayers. Anne Haymon from the 9-holers asked about the toxicity level of the chemical fertilizers and herbicides used on the course. Todd reported that they are widely accepted as safe by the industry and would be happy to share with the 9-holers. Todd shared that the bunkers have held up well in spite of the recent heavy rain. He is working on helping his crew understand the game and etiquette of golf so that they can be sensitive to golfers on the course when they are working. He has purchased a series of videos to help educate his staff.

6. **Golf Professional’s Report**

Jon Janik reported the new ratings for the men’s tees at Longshore:

New Rating for Men’s Tees:

	<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>
Blue:	68.8/122	68.3/121
White:	67.6/120	67.0/117
Yellow:	64.5/114	64.4/111

Overall, Jon said that the new ratings are really not a concern. In general, the course got easier from the White Tees.

Jon is still waiting to have the women’s tees rerated.

7. **GAC Committee Member Comments/Issue**

Judy Domkowski raised a concern over non-residents paying the same greens fees as residents on tournament days. Since 2014, the year the greens failed, the policy of allowing non-residents to pay resident rates was implemented to help the LWGA attract members, since membership was declining. While the policy did allow growth in membership, the LWGA now has more non-residents than resident members. Judy feels this policy is inequitable to residents who have to pay for a golf hand pass each season, while the non-residents do not. This means that non-resident pay substantially less than residents. The 9-hole league presented their case as to why we continue the policy. They believe that their membership numbers would decline dramatically should the policy change. Jennifer Fava said that if the GAC decides to recommend a change to the current policy, it would have to go before Parks and Rec for approval and then to the Board of Selectman for final approval, a process that could take 2-3 months. The LWGA has already sent out their 2020 membership renewal forms and members have begun signing up. Therefore, it is suggested that the GAC discuss this topic at the next meeting and if a proposal is made and presented to the town, that the new play would be implemented in 2021.

For the next meeting, it was agreed that the following items should be on the agenda:

- Discussion on non-resident rates for the LWGA for 2021.

The meeting ended at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Gross
GAC Member