



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 6, 2020

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport met in Town Hall, Room 201, on Monday, January 6, 2020. In the absence of GAC Chairman Jane Dally, the meeting was called to order by Marie Gross at 7:06 p.m.

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

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 7, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

2. Comments from the Public

There were no public comments

3. Presidents' Reports

- LWGA - Marie Scott spoke for Winnie Hamilton. A 60th Anniversary Open Invitational is being planned for July 2020. LWGA will be using Leaderboard for reservations rather than Foretees in 2020.
- LMGA – Jon Lieber. The association closed the 2019 season just short of their goal of 400 members of which 100 play regularly. Members were happy with the new events during the year and more are being considered for 2020 including, among others, a parent/child tournament, more twilight events and speed golf. The LMGA member-guest had 7 flights in 2019 (8 in 2018), is liked by attendees but is a financial challenge. (\$500 for a twosome that includes 3-nine-hole rounds on Friday, 18 holes on Saturday and includes golf fees, carts, food).

A discussion occurred about the challenges of implementing the new World Golf Handicap System that was recently put in place.

4. Administrative Report

In Jen Fava's absence, Marie Gross reported Briteview was again awarded the contract for course maintenance. One other proposal had been obtained but it did not meet our specifications. Jen will be seeking approval from the Town for \$120,000 to fund the upgrade of the central controls for the irrigation system.

5. Superintendent Report – Todd Salamone

Todd's assistant (Dave) resigned. Todd is looking for his replacement and was already positive on one candidate. As to overall staffing, in February people start conveying their intentions for the upcoming season and by April Todd has a handle on who is returning. Local staff starts coming back in March and by the first week in May everyone is back on the job. A personal goal of Todd's is to lessen the disconnect between the workers and golf. Many of the workers have never played the game and do not appreciate what makes our golf course so special to Westporters. Possible ways to bridge this disconnect to be explored include some interaction with golfers and/or playing a round of golf (but not displacing paying customers).

The work on switching holes 9 and 14 has been completed.

About 30 tons of sand were added to the bunkers in the fall and another 25-30 tons will be added in April. Adding sand to the bunkers needs to be an annual event. In the fall of 2020, funds will be needed from the town for green drainage and the leveling of the tee boxes. John Elhi pointed out that many of our tee boxes are huge. The reality is tee boxes are moved around in a relatively small area begging the question, can the tee boxes be made smaller. It was suggested Todd develop a plan to coordinate the tee boxes and pin placements to be more creative and generate different yardages.

Todd noted basic "Maintenance" of the course is paid from a monthly fee given to the golf course. Approval for "Capital" outlays, which usually exceed \$10,000, must be approved by the town.

Concern was voiced about the return of the geese. Todd will contact and keep on the provider of this service. The geese abatement program is under a town-wide contract.

6. Golf Professional's Report

In the absence of Jon Janik, Marie Gross reported the last round for the year was played on December 15th. All proshop credits have been redeemed. Total rounds played during 2019 are 34,100 with a YTD increase of 7.22%.

7. GAC Committee Member Comments/Issue

There was discussion on the observation by members that more geese seem to be congregating on the fairways. It was requested that Geese Relief be directed to visit the course on a regular basis throughout the winter.

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

- Update on the RFP for submitting a plan to oversee the design and implementation of the entire Longshore Park property
- Rates for 2020 including fees for individuals, league play as well as for corporate and charity outings
- Update on the Geese Abatement program

The meeting was brought to a close at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Domkowski, GAC Member