



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

**Golf Advisory Committee**  
**FINAL Minutes**  
**October 5, 2020**

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport conducted a Zoom meeting on Monday, October 5, 2020. Jennifer Fava made some opening statements and the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jane Dally at 7:00pm.

Members Present: Jane Dally, John Elhi, Marie Gross, Judy Domkowski, Jim Harman, Rich Raphael and Mike Durkin.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the March 2, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

**2. Comments from the Public**

Dave Dwyer, 6 Raymond Place, Westport: commented on the poor course conditions and hoped Todd Salamone was addressing the concerns of the golfers. He said we need a plan of action like other clubs and should stop being reactive. He questioned the need for more financial resources so Todd Salamone has the necessary funding to keep Longshore in top shape.

Ed Cribari, Westport resident: Todd Salamone needs help and questioned the skills of the maintenance staff. Ed Cribari offered to meet with Todd Salamone.

**3. President's Reports**

Jon Lieber, president of the LMGA said his membership is down by almost half but they expected that with the shortened season. LMGA has staged all their major tournaments and have three events left. Jon commented on the poor course conditions and that golfers wanted to see improvements.

Winnie Hamilton, president of the LWGA spoke about the success of the season and that on average 52 women are playing every Tuesday in the LWGA league play. They were able to hold two of the four majors including the Club Championship and the Fall Cup. October 20 will mark the end of the 2020 season. Winter Rules are now in place due to the poor conditions on the course.

Ann Hayman, membership director of the Women's 9 Hole Group spoke on behalf of their league. She cited a drop in membership (187 to 80) and is hoping for a better 2021. She requested a 2 ½ hour block of time on Thursdays to accommodate her members.

**4. Administrative Report**

Jennifer Fava reported that the combination of Covid and the August storm took a toll on Longshore. Not only did the season start late but the course had to close for 8 days following the tornado damage on August 4. While power was out, they were unable to

water the golf course and many fairways suffered turf loss. Jennifer is addressing the issues with Brightview and Todd Salamone. Longshore is in need of a higher caliber staff for next year. Other items include: purchasing a new fairway aerator, speaking with the Brightview agronomist, replanting trees in late October and early November, and rebuilding some damaged bunkers on holes 14 and 17.

The halfway house is now open and serving a limited menu. A table has been set up outside the entrance to accommodate golfers.

Locks on the halfway house bathrooms are being replaced.

Charlie Haberstroh commented that Brightview needs to step up to the plate and tell the Town of Westport what it needs in terms of maintenance equipment and staffing.

Closing day will be determined by the weather but the course will remain open as long as possible.

## **5. Superintendent's Report**

Todd Salamone reported that excess heat and a very dry season took its toll on Longshore. Plus the hurricane/tornado damage shut down the course for over a week preventing Todd Salamone and his staff from properly watering the course. With Covid restrictions, more single rider carts were on the course than in previous years and cart traffic nearly destroyed the fairways. Trees had to be cleared and trucks and tree crews were on the course for several weeks to get the course cleared. All this activity left visible prints on the property and it is just starting to heal.

The native bluegrass in the fairways might be replaced with rye grass for the 2021 season. Rye is a more draught tolerant grass and should do well at Longshore.

Fairways are now being roped off to prevent cart traffic from driving up the middle of the fairways. Fairways are undergoing aeration and overseeding plus weekly fertilization. The overseeding machine is being borrowed from Birchwood since Longshore doesn't own this particular piece of machinery.

Todd Salamone will implement a new plan to renovate all the fairways. Bunkers also are in terrible condition due the fact that rakes were not allowed and therefore the maintenance crew had to hand rake the greenside bunkers daily but run the machines through the fairway bunkers twice a day. The sand is displaced and inconsistent and Todd Salamone will be adding more sand this fall. The bunker liners also are ripping up and will need to be patched and repaired.

Todd Salamone will identify a maintenance staff person to help set up the course and move tee boxes around. This person will need to be golf saavy and understand the game.

Todd Salamone will request new cups, new flagsticks and possible new tee markers for next season.

As far as the greens are concerned, Todd Salamone has aerated the greens and expects healthy grass next season. He would like to find the necessary machinery for verticutting in the fall seasons. Verticutting helps create a better putting surface and healthier greens.

The practice green near the 17<sup>th</sup> tee will be seeded this fall and next year the entire practice bunker will be repaired and filled with fresh sand. This area will be roped off until 2021.

## **6. Golf Professional's Report**

Jon Janik reported that golf rounds played stood at 26,900 and that includes rounds from mid May through September.

Pro shop merchandise is on sale and anyone with gift certificates should visit soon to cash them in for store items.

Parks and Recreation golf instructional classes sold out over the summer, as did all the junior golf programs. All junior golf camps were at 100% capacity.

The daily tee sheet fills out immediately starting at 6:30am. 68 tee times/per day from 7am to 7pm.

Jon may look at other tee time reservation systems for next year.

The re-rating of the women's tees will take place in early 2021 by the MGA. A new point person is in charge and has promised the rating.

Three outings were successfully held at Longshore this summer.

The four year lease on the golf carts is coming up and Jon will be purchasing a new fleet for 2021. Unfortunately, many of the Longshore carts remain outside and unprotected in the winter months.

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

Traffic on the road in front of the halfway house is dangerous and the question was raised about the need for a Golfer's Crossing sign and perhaps a stop sign to help protect the golfers walking or moving in a cart from the 14<sup>th</sup> green to the 15<sup>th</sup> tee, as well as from the 9<sup>th</sup> green to the 10<sup>th</sup> tee.

Golf league play and tee time blocks for 2021 will hopefully return to the pre-Covid schedule. Otherwise, limited blocks of time will remain in effect per the 2020 season.

Marie Gross raised the issue of the golf course maintenance staff understanding when to yield to golfers and that some of the crew members continue to mow or blow near the golfers. Proper on-course etiquette must be taught to the workers. Todd Salamone agreed to speak to his crew (again).

Judy Domkowski remarked on the LWGA and LLNHGA practice of charging non-residents the same greens fees as residents during tournaments and why we can't charge the non-residents a fee or institute a non-resident golf card. Judy feels that non-residents should pay an additional fee since Westport residents are required to purchase a golf handpass. The board of directors for LWGA and LLNHGA strongly oppose changing the membership policy in 2020 but this topic remains alive for the 2021 season and should be discussed again at the November meeting. Judy Domkowski promised to gather benchmarking data from other Fairfield Country leagues to see what is being done.

Judy also mentioned that the general public continues to walk through the golf course treating it like a park. Jennifer Fava acknowledged the issue and will send out reminders to Westport residents to stay off the golf course.

The GAC went on record about the need to plan for a new clubhouse at Longshore. Other towns are moving forward with new construction and Longshore is in dire need of new infrastructure. Jennifer Fava assured us that once she goes through the backlog of documents, a RFP will be prepared and sent out for design and construction bids.

The Zoom meeting ended at 9:00pm

Jane Dally  
GAC Chairperson