



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

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

Golf Advisory Committee Final Minutes November 2, 2020

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport conducted a Zoom meeting on Monday, November 2, 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 October 5, 2020 meeting were approved as presented and passed by a unanimous vote.

2. Comments from the Public

No public comments.

3. President's Reports

Jon Lieber, president of the LMGA said his membership is wrapping up the season with one more tournament on November 14. Golfers are happy overall and enjoyed the time on the course in this shortened season.

Winnie Hamilton, president of the LWGA spoke about the closing tournament and Zoom party on October 20. Anyone with Pro Shop credit is asked to see Jon and spend the money as it will not be carried over.

The Women's 9 Hole Group was not represented on the call.

4. Administrative Report

Jennifer Fava reported that a new fleet of golf carts has been leased for the 2021 season. These are new carts with lithium ion batteries and will have USB ports. The carts will not have GPS capability.

Jennifer met with architect Doug Smith and the Westport Tree Warden to discuss new plantings and stump grinding. Stakes are out on the course and work should commence soon.

The Geese Removal service has added a 3rd daily visit to flush the geese from the course. This is a year round service.

New speed limit signage will be added behind the 9th green (near the half-way house) to curb the fast driving cars that come through Longshore. A golfer cross walk also will be added as there have been safety concerns.

Golf rounds for October were 3,939. This marked the highest number of daily rounds in the month of October for the past 14 seasons. 78% of the rounds were from Westport residents. Closing day will be determined by the weather but the course will remain open as long as possible.

5. Superintendent's Report

Todd Salamone distributed a detailed report on course maintenance and ongoing upgrades to all GAC members prior to the call.

Todd and his team have had a busy month seeding greens, fairways, and bunker surrounds. New cups and flags have been purchased. Leaves are being cleaned up on a daily basis.

Todd is hand edging the bunkers, repairing bunker liners and planning for fresh sand in many of the bunkers.

The seeding of the fairways is already resulting in fresh growth. Fairways will remain roped off to carts (in many areas) to promote the growth of new grass.

As far as the greens are concerned, Todd 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 17th 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 starting this week, morning tee times begin at 8am, and Twilight rates now begin at 1:00pm. Pro Shop sales are now underway. A Thanksgiving Day Shot Gun is planned again.

Jon may look at other tee time reservation systems for next year but hopefully Chelsea will undergo necessary upgrades. If we are to consider a new tee time reservation the P&R Commission will need to review the plan as well as the Board of Selectman. Modifications to our non-resident policy will give us more options for vendors.

7. GAC Committee Member Comments/Issue

Plans for a new clubhouse are under consideration although there is no appropriation for a building project/Master Plan at this time. Jennifer Fava said her team needs to complete the RFP process and review plans by architects. The Board of Finance will then need to approve the plan and budget.

Discussion took place on replacing the Chelsea Tee Time Reservation System and replacing it with a more user friendly system. (See notes from Golf Professional's report).

The Zoom meeting ended at 8:25pm

Jane Dally
GAC Chairperson