Golf Advisory Committee Final Meeting Minutes as Amended February 1, 2021

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport conducted a Zoom meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021. The meeting was called to order by GAC chairperson, Jane Dally, at 7:00pm.

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

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting were approved as presented and passed by a unanimous vote.

2. Comments from the Public

Sean Doyle was the only member from the public to join the call. There were no comments from the public.

3. President's Reports

LMGA: Jon Lieber presented that the 2020 season ended on a high note and a membership meeting is scheduled for early February and registration will begin shortly. Lieber expects another busy season.

LWGA: Cynthia Carpenter reported that membership forms have gone out and the board is preparing the 2021 handbook. The league is not offering GHIN only memberships this season and will refer those wanting this to the CSGA. Planning a delayed celebration of organization's 60th anniversary. The opening meeting is on April 6 via Zoom.

LLNHGA: Anne Haymon arrived late and missed this report.

4. Administrative Report

Jen Fava reported that Turco came out to look at the 17th practice green. It will take approximately 10 days to repair in time for the season. All tree work is done. The deer are eating some of the new trees and this situation is being monitored.

New golf carts arrive by April 1.

Proposals for the Longshore Park 5-year site plan are still being reviewed. This will be a priority over the next two months. GAC will be asked for input moving forward.

A new restaurant in the Inn should be operational by the summer. Details to follow.

5. Superintendent's Report

Todd Salamone reported a new assistant has been hired. His name is Jeremy and he was previously at Mill River. Todd reviewed a detailed maintenance plan for February through April with the GAC. He will provide another report later this spring with plans from May and beyond.

Feb. 15 is the tentative returning date for the maintenance crew. Staff will be returning and a new spring Covid orientation will take place.

A new aeration machine was purchased.

Todd will discuss with Brightview a disaster plan for Longshore in case of another big storm that might shut down power and prevent watering the course.

Todd agreed to update the Superintendent page on Longshore's website.

6. Golf Professional's Report

Jon Janik attended the virtual PGA Show. He believes demand for tee times will once again be very high.

Women's Tee re-rating will probably take place in the spring.

All golf league schedules should be submitted to Jon as soon as possible.

The Chelsea tee time system is no longer state of the art and many high demand features are not working. Jennifer Fava suggested creating a sub-committee of two or three people to look research possibilities and work with Jon Janik to make recommendations to the GAC.

7. Fee Increases at Longshore

Jen Fava reports that Longshore is not meeting its expenses and we need to be competitive in the marketplace. Longshore has the lowest prices among the competition in Fairfield County. The proposed golf fee increases were reviewed and includes higher cart fees as well. The GAC agreed to the increased fees and now Jen will take this to the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and the Board of Selectman for a final decision.

8. GAC Committee Member Comments/Issue

Tee box leveling and drainage of the greens needs to be addressed. Geese are still an issue on the course but particularly on holes 9 and 14. Requested that Todd remove geese droppings from the fairways on a regular basis, even late in the season. Jen will check back with Geese Relief and see how service can be improved.

The Zoom meeting ended at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Dally, GAC Chairperson