

Town of Westport
Golf Advisory Committee
Minutes

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport met in Town Hall in Room #201 on Monday, February 10, 2014. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Fred Hunter, at 7:30 PM.

Members Present: Fred Hunter, Joanna Nicholson, Gary Solomon, Scott, Smith, Mark Holod, and Jean Murdoch

Others Present: Ryan Segrue, Golf Superintendent; Ellen Ely and Eileen Hart, 9 Holes Women's Group; Patty Kondub, LWGA President; Michael Fox, LMGA President; Charles Haberstroh, P&R Commission; Sean Doyle and Mike Durkin

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of Jan. 6, 2014, were approved as submitted.

2. Rounds Report

Fred showed a 5 year comparison of rounds per year of competitive courses, showing Longshore lost the most rounds over those years, particularly the last two years.

3. Approval of 2014 Golf Charity Events

The GAC recommends the P&RC approve the following charity golf and tennis events at Longshore Club Park for the 2014 season subject to dates being approved by the Director of the P&RD.

- Westport Professional Firefighter's Association
- VFW Post 399
- Westport Rotary Club
- Westport Police Athletic League
- Staples High School Gridiron Club

The Director of the P&RD is encouraged to review with the Superintendent the requested dates and allowing some flexibility in recognition of anticipated early season course conditions.

This motion was approved unanimously by the GAC.

- LMGA Event

The GAC recommends the P&RC approve the LMGA event based on the following:

- Specific date to be determined with approval of the Director of P&RD.
- Single afternoon shotgun event.
- Proceeds of the event to be retained in a Friends of Parks and Recreation 501©3 account to be used for future improvements to Longshore. Proposed projects by the LMGA must be approved by the GAC, the P&RD and the P&RC.
- The event will pay the appropriate half day charity fee for the use of the course.

This motion was approved by 5 members of the GAC and one abstention.

The request by the LWGA to allow guests to pay resident rates for the Play for the Pink charity event on June 2, 2014 was not approved by the P&R Director.

4. Superintendent's Report

Ryan Segrue will attend all GA meetings. He has been on site for a month: Cleaning up, covering 5 greens, taking soil samples of 18 greens. Deep aerification will take place in March/April, something that has not been done recently. Then he will top dress, fertilize, and "spray."

He will start bringing back staff in March. Not sure when the course will be open for play, probably not until mid April, depending on the weather.

VC is responsible for trees 15 feet from the ground. Any higher, goes to Stuart McCarthy and the Tree Warden. VC is responsible for grass areas of the practice area and the golf pro area.

5. Golf Associations' Reports

Each group reported on concerns with the course:

9 Hole Ladies – Ellen Ely and Eileen Hart

1. Walkways and exit paths
2. Goose droppings
3. Tee boxes in poor conditions (Ryan said he will work on them, but it will be hard after years of poor care)
4. Communication about temporary greens (will be part of the improvement of the web site)

LWGA Patty Kondub

1. Drop zones on 12 and 13.
2. Maintenance of fescue (Ryan said it will take a while to weed it out. Maybe scale back some areas.)
3. Yellow signs blocking the greens (Ryan says they will be removed.)

LMGA – Michael Fox

1. Fescue is part of the design. How can it be dealt with?
2. Consistency of the sand – not the same on all holes
3. Marking hazards is not consistently done.
4. Rough around the greens is not grass.
5. More and better rakes.
6. Opening earlier in the morning in the summer.

Ryan Segrue concluded with the statement the VC is looking at the course completely differently from previous administrations.

6. Old Business

Policy Changes the GAC approved last meeting were also approved by P&RC.

1. Up to 3 guests are allowed
2. Non residents play resident rates in Tuesday tee times and major events for LWGA
3. Call in the day of play allowed for residents and non residents.

Tabled for future consideration:

1. Frequent player card (through Chelsea)
2. Fees published in master schedule on web site – changes in spring and fall.

By next meeting, Stuart should have the estimates on repairs to the Club House.

Stuart has bids on cart paths 14,15,16,9.

Stuart, John P&R will give marketing bid for web site, etc.

Golf course markings (signage) have been worked on by Jean Murdoch who will give the ideas to John and Stuart. They will be high markers, with the hole number and yardage. Also there will be new tee markers.

Gary Solomon said there will be 3 defibrillators: Pro shop, Cliff's Place, and Ranger's cart. Cell phone service is required, but details not available yet.

7. New Business

1. Possibility of closing golf course Monday mornings for 4 hours for maintenance.
2. How to attract more charity events – we have only five arranged; could accommodate eight.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Nicholson
GAC Secretary