

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, May 5, 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: David Levin, Patty Kondub, Mike Durkin, John Cooper, Ellen Ehli and Eileen Hart

1. **Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of April 7, 2014 were accepted as submitted.

2. **Rounds Report**

April rounds were down 50% from last April. Weather related.

3. **Superintendent's Report – Ryan Segrue**

April was cold and made the course way behind where Ryan wanted to be. They aerated Monday, April 28th. Will be fertilizing on May 6th.

The bunkers are a big burden. Native areas haven't been done in a while - will take a lot of work. Steps may be called for in #5, made from sod. Ryan said we should keep rakes out of bunkers.

Someone asked about benches for the Blue tee boxes. Ryan has not seen any benches in his storage.

Hand carts are not allowed between sand and green. It was recommended that handicapped follow the rule as well. When handicap flag is given out, it should be accompanied by rules.

Net has gone up on practice area.

Leveling the tee boxes is a long term project. Can't do them right now.

Working on drop areas on 12 and 13.

We are 5 or 6 weeks out from good greens.

Ryan said course etiquette is missing by many golfers. No one seems to rake bunkers or replace divots. Some discussion and suggestions were given by the audience. John and rangers often get abuse when they speak to players. John also said he would instruct the rangers to tell new players the etiquette expected. The associations were asked to take more accountability for members' etiquette. Charles Carey said that even bikers riding by insult golfers.

4. **Golf Professional's Report**

April 19 – 30 has been higher than last year. There is good energy on the “come back” trail. John wants to give seniors Friday at day rate, \$19 vs. \$26.

John's website home page should show the schedule for the major events for the year. Also the weather hyper link is useful and should return. The phone number for tee times is not listed: (203) 341-1833

5. **Golf Association Presidents' Reports**

Women in both groups are positive. Their seasons have not started yet, so they have no report at this time.

6. **Review of ValleyCrest Meeting**

The meeting showed the resources that Ryan Segroe can draw on. Jim Marpe's commitment to plow savings back into the course was noted.

7. **Discussion of Family Golf Program**

Mike Durkin was asked by Fred to talk about his ideas for Family Golf. He is willing to put the time and effort into building a family golf program. He wants to get kids in clinics on the golf course. One way is Family Golf Night – every Tuesday, for example. An hour's worth of tee times, 5:30 pm to 6:30pm. Another idea is a 10 minute golf lesson on the range. John Cooper is also interested in promoting Family Golf.

Mike Durkin and John Cooper will continue to talk about this and come up with ideas the GAC can help with.

8. **Old Business**

Trucks parked behind the rowing club are gone on Friday evening as requested. The smell from Longshore Inn garbage is back again. Stuart McCarthy will be informed.

There was a request that preprogrammed maintenance plans such as aeration of greens be posted on website.

Site plan for Longshore is on the calendar for September/October.

Dirt/Divot bottles on carts is being discussed. There is no agreement about this issue.

Pole signs are not going to happen this year unless we get a benefactor. Now cart paths will be done.

9. **New Business**

Suggestion was made to have a shelf and paper towels in the bathrooms.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Nicholson
GAC Secretary