

**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, Nov. 3, 2014. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Hunter at 7:35 pm.

Members present: Fred Hunter, Jean Murdoch, Gary Solomon, Mark Holod, Lura Paschal, Jim Harman and Scott Smith

Chairman Hunter welcomed two new members to the Committee: Lura Paschal, who is a member of the Ladies 9-Hole Golf Association, and Jim Harman, an avid golfer who has a long relationship with Longshore.

1. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of Oct. 6, 2014 were approved with the following change: Mark Holod was present at the meeting; Scott Smith was absent.

2. Rounds Report

Hunter distributed Rounds Report through October, noting the positive uptick in rounds played in October, continuing a strong trend in monthly year-over-year increases, due to improved conditions and twilight rate play. Overall rounds up 10% year to date; "best since 2008" noted Holod.

3. Superintendent's Report

Ryan Segrue noted that assistant superintendent Brian Sepot has resigned to take another position. He thanked Brian for his service.

Aeration of tees will take place this week, with fairways to be aerated based on available manpower. The irrigation system is scheduled to be "blown out" on Nov. 4.

Leaf cleanup going well. Projects ahead: Drainage trenches to be installed on No. 2 and No. 6 greens, a process that involves removing 4-6 inch strips of surface and trenching down 4 ft. or more to lay in pipes. Work to be done by Fla.-based firm that invented process. "Works great," said Segrue. Another winter project: Painting red ball washers black.

4. Golf Professional's Report

Good comments on course conditions from golfers. "Best I've ever seen," said Westport native Cooper. Rounds being up are especially impressive, given late start to the season. Junior clinics in fall had good turnout. Has suggested to Stuart McCarthy that twilight times be moved to 1 pm, given Daylight Savings Time.

5. Golf Association Presidents' Report

Season's events are finished. "It's all good," reported LMGA president Michael Fox.

6. 2015 Charity Events

Discussion of 5 scheduled local golf fundraisers (maximum is 8). Hunter noted that the LMGA had asked for a Friday afternoon in late September, an effort to spur participation. Motion to approve such a date was approved by unanimous vote. Also approved by unanimous vote: a motion that the fee for these charity events be kept at the current rate of \$500 for 2015.

7. Discussion: 2015 Fees

Noting that the basic handpass is down 30% over 5 years, and the golf handpass is down 25%, Hunter suggested lowering some fees “to show that the Town is supportive of Longshore and its golfers.” He added the need is to increase play on weekdays and recognize that weekends are “prime time.” Proposal to lower some weekday fees was voted down. Holod noted that keeping rates the same next year is a net decrease given inflation and expectations that greens fees usually rise year over year. New motion: Keep rates same as annual 2014, with the exception of nonresident twilight rates, to be raised \$2; also a reduction of \$10 to the senior golf handpass. Motion approved unanimously. Further motion: To allow Seniors to pay weekday Senior rates on Friday as a walk-up only. Approved unanimously.

8. Old Business.

None discussed

9. New Business

None discussed

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Smith
Acting GAC Secretary