

Westport Golf Advisory Committee
Final Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2023

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport conducted a Zoom meeting on Monday, May 8, 2023. The meeting was called to order by GAC chairperson, Jane Dally at 7:00p.m.

Members Present: Jane Dally, Mike Durkin, Rich Raphael and Corey Miller. Missing from the meeting was John Ehli and Irla Landry.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the March 6 GAC meeting were approved.

Public Comments:

Jay Walshon - commented about need to start discussion about the future clubhouse appearance, design and functionality. This discussion will impact many variables in the process of building the clubhouse. What do we want in the building? Urged GAC to start discussions by making an agenda item at a future meeting.

President Reports

9 Holers - Anne Haymon - Closed their membership drive with 121 members. First event was May 4th – “Cinco de Mayo” theme. Day was cold but fun. Jon Janik hosted a clinic for members today and it went very well. The Member Guest will be played June 15th followed by a luncheon at the Inn.

LWGA 18 holers - Cynthia Carpenter presented. - Membership is at 116 members, with 17 new members. Opening Day tournament was April 25th - another cold tournament! Held first member lunch at La Plage. Preparing for upcoming tournaments on the schedule. Commented that members are pleased with overall condition of the course and appreciated the fast greens.

LMGA – notes from Ryan Smith: 345 Total Members as of May 8; Successfully ran 3 events to date, including the season opening Gilardi Kickoff Scramble, and the last 2 events were completely full fields; Opened up our 2 season long events (Healy Cup & Calandriello) in early April, both fields filled in under a week. Tournament draws were made and they will both start in May (bracket tournaments, schedule your own matches with opponents), and next Board Meeting will focus on continued Member engagement as well as preliminary planning for our flagship events; the Pape Member Guest in mid July and the Member-Member in late June.

Administrator Report

April rounds were 3,422 which is slightly ahead of last year, despite two rainy weekends. USGA has inspected the course and will provide feedback as well as benchmark the course conditions. Want to ensure that BrightView is getting the superintendent what he needs to maintain the best possible conditions at Longshore.

Assessing condition of the irrigation system to ensure proper watering of the course.

Superintendent Report

Golf course is healthy now and they are preparing the upcoming challenges of summer weather.

Training new staff on equipment, systems and procedures.

Fairway aeration will be completed next week.

Dr. Todd Bunnell, BrightView's agronomist, visited last week and benchmarked condition of the course ahead of the summer season.

Preparing to implement sod planting in several key areas on the front nine.

Developing plans for how to move forward and improve course conditions instead of continually having to fix/repair maintenance problems.

Bare spots on the putting greens are the result of irrigation issues which have been identified and corrected. Awaiting increase in temperature so grass will grow and fill in the bare spots on the greens. Have established a turf nursery on 12th hole so patches can be used where necessary on the course.

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Golf Pro Report

April rounds and activity were on a par with last year which is very good because two weekends were lost to rainy days.

Receiving positive feedback from players about the condition of the golf course.

Pro Shop inventory is in with a big selection of apparel, balls, etc.

ClubCar replaced the throttle sensors on all carts prior to start of season.

The first outing (Southern Connecticut Golf Association) was hosted today with 80 players participating.

Junior Golf classes started this past weekend and all programs are filled for the season.

With regard to concern about having to putt through bare spots on the putting greens, the ruling should be play it as it lies.

Jon will investigate and suggest ruling for the damaged area by the pond on the 13th hole. Do we play this as "Ground Under Repair" and either white line the area or put a sign?

GAC Comments

We want to begin discussions on the clubhouse design and selection of an architect, etc. Jen Fava said it is much too early to begin these talks since the clubhouse is 3 years away. The Town of Westport website will have the Long Range plans and timelines. Future public meetings will be scheduled.

The Zoom meeting ended at 7:44p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Dally

GAC Chairperson