



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
LONGSHORE CLUB PARK
260 SOUTH COMPO ROAD, WESTPORT, CT 06880
(203) 341-5090

Golf Advisory Committee
Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Golf Advisory Committee will hold a public meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00pm. It will be held electronically. Meeting materials will be available on the Meeting List & Calendar page of the Town website at westportct.gov, along with the meeting notice.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88190832841?pwd=cFo2ZWFWZERnWEdKcFN4dENHc1Y2QT09>

Meeting ID: 881 9083 2841

Passcode: 345653

Phone: +1 646 931 3860 US

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes from January 8, 2024
2. Public Comments
3. President's Reports
4. Administrative Report
 - a. Announce hiring of new golf course superintendent
5. Golf Professional's Report
6. GAC Committee Member Comments/Issues

Jane Dally, Chairperson, Golf Advisory Committee

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Westport Golf Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport conducted a Zoom meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024. The meeting was called to order by GAC chairperson, Jane Dally at 7:00p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 6 GAC meeting were approved with the exception of a small edit by Anne Haymon, president of the women's 9-hole league. She wanted the minutes to reflect the fact that members of the 9-hole league are not all Westport residents. The minutes were edited to reflect that change.

Public Comments

No public comments.

President Reports

9 Holers - Anne Haymon reported they will hold their first board meeting on January 17. Signing up of veteran members will begin on February 1 followed by sign up for all new golfers. The league will hold a membership coffee on March 15.

LWGA 18 holers – president Sue Roberts reported that the new 2024 schedule and budget is being worked on and she hopes to have that finalized by the end of January. Registration for membership will begin in Early February.

LMGA – No Report.

Administrator Report

Rounds for the 2023 season were 37,105. That reflects 419 more rounds than in 2022. Rain washed out a lot of weekend play during the summer and fall which affected overall golf revenue.

Green Fees and cart fees will remain the same for the 2024 season.

The tee box project will be pushed to the Fall. The decision was based on interference with golfers in the spring and also the time for seed to grow and turf to heal. Bids are about to go out.

Superintendent Report

No report.

Golf Pro Report

No report.

GAC Comments

Questions about who will operate the golf half-way house this year and if service will improve. Golfers want a better experience and better service.

A request for a shoe scraper or shoe brush somewhere near the 18th green has been requested. Golfers want to clean off their golf shoes before getting in their cars to go home.

The Zoom meeting ended at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Jane Dally
GAC Chairperson

Sean William Charles

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

Profile

Loyal and dedicated Golf Course Superintendent, I have over a decade of experience in the golf course management profession. Energetic, hard-working professional capable of working under pressure, I bring exceptional value through a core agronomic background. I am an effective communicator who will inspire confidence in any employer with my written and verbal interactions. As a genuine team leader with an unparalleled initiative, I strive to combine my passion and knowledge for the game of golf along with the desire, confidence, and motivation to be the most successful Golf Course Superintendent.

Golf Course Superintendent - Green Brook Country Club, North Caldwell - NJ October 2020-Present

Private country club located in Essex County, NJ

- A strong passion for the game of golf and its rich history with a proven ability to assess course conditions rapidly and develop tailored solutions to optimize playability and aesthetic appeal from a player's perspective.
- Effectively managed an operating budget of over \$1.4 million which includes Golf Course Maintenance, Landscape Maintenance, and Snow Removal.
- Work closely with a team of professionals including the General Manager, Director of Golf/Assistant General Manager, and club house staff to provide an exceptional environment for members and their guests.
- Orchestrated the recruitment, hiring, training, and motivation of a largely Spanish speaking seasonal staff to manage and maintain over 170 acres of turfgrass and clubhouse grounds.
- Spearheaded all aspects of fertilizer and plant protectant applications, overseeing material procurement, mandatory annual government filings, and maintenance of state and local permits.
- Monitored and managed irrigations systems to achieve visually pleasing turf and establish firm, fast playing conditions. Undertook comprehensive in-house upgrades to a 30-year-old irrigations system, encompassing valve replacements, main-line repairs, pump house overhauls and more.
- Led an in-house renovation for the practice facility including bunker reshaping, chipping area expansion, green expansion and regrassing of playing surfaces to accommodate a growing membership.
- Introduced an extensive program of diverse cultural practices targeting thatch reduction on all playing surfaces resulting in improved turf health and playability.
- Implemented a comprehensive rough overseeding program to introduce drought tolerant turf varieties in unirrigated locations.
- Initiated strategic initiatives for the addition of new bunker lining, enhancing overall bunker playability by adding new bunker sand.
- Developed innovative ways to reduce water usage while still maintaining the highest standards of playing conditions.
- Committed to staying informed on environmental issues, including best practices in water conservation, soil erosion control, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, and methods for minimizing pesticide usage.

1st Assistant Superintendent - Round Hill Club, Greenwich - CT Jan 2014-Oct 2020

High-end private course located in Fairfield County, Connecticut

- Co-Managed a \$1.4 million bunker and green surround restoration. The intent of the project was to re-establish the original Walter Travis design. This included restoring and reshaping all green surrounds, bunker shaping and placement, as well as expanding fairways back to original dimensions.
- Personally managed and carried out the re-installation of all irrigation removed throughout the aforementioned restoration project.
- Intimately involved in the formation and implementation of our operating and capital budgets. Frequently discussed budgetary decisions with the superintendent in order to fully understand how the budget is allocated and why.
- Organized and executed several in-house projects with responsibilities including controlling, calculating, and purchasing of materials, coordinating labor, and documenting changes.
- Maintained an aggressive agronomic program designed to maintain A-4 Bentgrass greens with USGA greens mix and improve the overall turf quality to the entire facility.
- An integral part of an Environmental Master Plan, designed to set both long and short-term goals, focused on achieving meaningful improvements in the areas of human health, environmental habitat, and resource conservation.
- Spearheaded the establishment of one acre of naturalized area designed to cater to pollinators as well as the Monarch Butterfly, in coordination with the Audubon and Monarchs in the Rough to help promote more biodiversity on the golf course through the planting of regionally specific wildflowers and milkweed.
- Assumed responsibility of preparing the necessary documents to recertify the club as a *Cooperative Sanctuary* through *Audubon International*; as well as hosting local community members in on-site visits pertaining to this recertification process.
- Set up, monitored and managed daily and nightly irrigation requirements, evaluated playing conditions, scouted the property and helped the Superintendent exceed membership's expectations.
- Kept accurate and detailed records of both chemical inventory and applications that were useful in controlling and purchasing of inventory. These documents were not only a positive influence in planning future chemical control strategies, but helpful for preparing the club's annual pesticide usage reports.
- Helped campaign a successful tree management program designed to remove all unsafe and undesirable specimen trees while replanting indigenous species.
- Alleviated many administrative responsibilities from the Superintendent including bi-annual employee evaluations, recruiting and hiring, equipment and chemical inventory, employee development, payroll and record keeping.
- Accompanied and aided Superintendent in all appointments pertaining to our operation and helped facilitate the production and presentation of a majority of the materials presented to the Membership.

2nd Assistant/Intern - Oak Hill Country Club, Pittsford - NY May 2010- Dec 2013

Host of the 2013 PGA Championship; the course is annually ranked in Golf Digest Top 100 courses in the US

- Assisted Manager of Grounds and Superintendents on a disciplined agronomic plan designed to get the playing conditions to coincide with the PGA's expectations for their Major Championship.
- Participated in an accelerated restoration process following the PGA Championship designed to restore tees, fairways, and rough from damage incurred during tournament infrastructure removal, spectator traffic, removal of temporary access roads, and media disruptions.
- Helped facilitate the completion of several large projects including additional tee construction to lengthen the golf course, green surround reshaping and regrassing to create run-off areas into Allen's Creek, and bunker refinishing prior to the PGA Championship.
- Trained and assisted with the development of new turf employees on safe and proper pesticide handling and storage, calibration, and record keeping.
- Mastered two different water management strategies while working on the two courses on Oak Hill property.
- Established on-site nurseries, consisting of Poa Annua and Creeping Bentgrass found on the East and West course. Using plant tissue removed during one of the aerification processes provided us the security of readily available, equally consistent turf on the property.
- Completed annual drainage projects to help decrease wet conditions to improve playability and limit disease pressure during the warmer months.

Assistant - Van Patten Golf Club, Clifton Park - NY May 2007 – Nov 2010

27 Hole Public Golf Course in southern Saratoga County

- Assisted Golf Course Superintendent in all aspects.
- Introduction to Turfgrass Maintenance industry.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Turfgrass Management	SUNY Cobleskill	Cobleskill, NY
Bachelor of Science in Economics	St. Lawrence University	Canton, NY

Tournament Experience

- 2013 PGA Championship (Oak Hill Country Club)
- 2014-2019 United States Seniors Golf Association Tournament (Round Hill Club)
- 2016 US Open (Oakmont Country Club) - Volunteer
- 2015 Players Championship (TPC Sawgrass) – Volunteer
- 2014 United Leasing & Finance Championship (Victoria National Golf Club) - Volunteer
- 2013 Memorial Tournament (Muirfield Village Golf Club)-Volunteer

Professional Affiliation and Skills

- Obtained pesticide licensures with *New York DEC, New Jersey DEP and Connecticut DEP*
- Member of *GCSAA, GCSANJ, and MetGCSA*
- Successfully completed the objectives and skills evaluations for the *American Heart Association's: Heartsaver AED* program