Town of Westport Golf Advisory Committee Minutes December 7, 2015

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport met in Town Hall in Room #201 on Monday, December 7, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Hunter at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: John Ehli, Jim Harman, Fred Hunter, Jean Murdoch, Lura Paschal, and Steve Silver. Gary Solomon was absent.

1. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes from October 5, 2015 and November 2, 2015 meeting were approved.

2. Rounds Report

The 2015 rounds outperformed 2014 by 12% in November due to strong course conditions and playability.

3. Superintendent's Report

After eight months of steady play, the course is now closed due to impact of ice and frost which is reported to be one of the greatest threats to the greens.

4. Golf Association Presidents' Reports

The Men's league has named Peter Krieger its new President. The Ladies Ninehole League has named Angela Ethier as its new Co-President.

5. Golf Professional's Report

John Cooper accepted a one-year extension of his previous contract that will now expire in November of 2016 coterminous with the contract of Valley Crest.

6. Update of Fee Schedule and Charity Event Fee Schedule Park and Recreation

A comprehensive fee schedule and comparative analysis was presented by the Park & Recreation Department to the Advisory Committee for their review and comments. Based on the dialogue of the Committee and those in the audience, two motions were made:

A First Motion was made to amend the fee proposal, which was tiered, to a flat rate, \$3.00 per round increase. The motion passed with four votes in acceptance, one vote in rejection and one vote in abstention.

A Second Motion was made to approve the amended fee proposal increase of \$3.00 per round. The motion passed with four votes in acceptance, one vote in rejection and one vote in abstention.

A proposal was also submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department regarding an increase in the use of the course for Charity Events. The current rate in 2015 is \$1,000 for a half day and \$2,000 for a double shotgun would increase in the 2016 season to \$2,000 for a half day and \$3,500 for a double shotgun. By way of comparison, these fees were \$3,000 and \$5,000 in 2013 and were discounted significantly due to course condition.

7. Update – Bunker project

Based on a public RFP process initiated by the Park & Recreation Department, the following RFP submissions were received from the following groups:

Duensberry Golf Course Design – Shorewood, WI Stein Golf Design – Port Chester, NY Timothy Liddy Associates – Middletown, CT Love and Kington – Baltimore, MD Proper Golf – Jersey City, NJ Raymond Hearn Golf Course Designs – Holland, MI John Harvey Golf Course Design – Long Valley, NJ

Gardner & Gerrish – Providence, RI Golf Design Unlimited – Norwalk, CT

The RFP's are under review and will be addressed at upcoming GAC meetings in 2016.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Ehli GAC Secretary