

**Golf Advisory Board
Town of Groton
Parks & Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Sept. 9, 2013**

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tim Castleberry at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees

Tim Castleberry, Chris Conley, Margaret Hirsch, Tom Kiely, Jim Kamercia, Brian McCallen, Duncan Olding

Staff: Mark Berry, Todd Goodhue, Eric Morrison

Absent: Cindy Lathrop, Ralph Little and Jim Streeter

Minutes of June 3, 2013

Motion to accept minutes made by Margaret, seconded by Tom.

Correspondence from GAB Members

Duncan said he got a letter from the Connecticut State Golf Association (CSGA) about hosting its annual one-day Champions event the day after Columbus Day, 2014. This prestigious event attracts over 80 players statewide and has an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Tim made a motion to host event in 2014. Seconded by Duncan.

Tim reported numerous player complaints with golf carts, which have proven to be unreliable and prone to on-course breakdowns, angering players and leading to tow-ins. Todd said SGC is currently in the fifth year of its six-year lease with Club Car, a lease that will be renegotiated. Eric said SGC will likely accept delivery of Club Car's "budget cart," a more basic model known to be more reliable and less expensive than the current model, which was installed with a faulty starter part. SGC is seeking a complete fleet swap-out with 70 new carts along with a five-year lease. (The yearly golf cart lease is roughly \$40,000). Todd noted that while E-Z-GO, a competitor, came in with a good bid last time, Club Car, a sponsor of the Connecticut Senior Open, slashed its bid to retain the SGC account. Club Car is incentivized to renegotiate its lease contract with SGC.

Chris said that were complaints about the Porta Potties. Eric said they're cleaned once a week, on Tuesdays, and said complaints from women would increase if that date were changed based on their playing patterns. Eric said he'd check with contractor to see if the cleaning date can be changed in advance of high-volume weekends.

Tom noted that SGC needs to amend its local rules on No. 8 indicating a free drop on right, no penalty, away from imbedded rocks in rough.

Review of Monthly Revenue Report

Todd said the numbers to date are very similar to last year's. Over 5,100 rounds were recorded for August, a very healthy number and an indicator the course was running at maximum capacity. SGC is \$13,000 ahead in its fiscal year but slightly behind in its calendar year. The revenue differential reflects bad weather (cold, snowy and/or rainy) over the past winter and spring. Todd added that Season Pass play is very similar to last year's total. SGC is pulling play from Elmridge (spotty condition), Exeter (closed), Richmond (several closed greens), and others. At present, the greens at SGC are in excellent condition. Because of high demand, SGC is not considering discounting rounds at present.

Old Business

Tom said the "Adopt a Hole" proposal, whereby each foursome or group "adopts" a hole for the day to repair ball marks, rake bunkers and replace divots, is still on the table. Tom reported that Portland GC does the "Adopt a Hole" program successfully, and that he'd make a trip to club to check out their procedures.

To satisfy demand for pre-11 a.m. refreshments (prior to arrival of golf cart girls), Todd says he stocks bottled water in shop.

New Business

The 10th hole CIP plans were discussed in detail. Eric showed a draft plan to restore three bunkers on left side of green; remove the front right bunker; and fill in the bunker behind green, which was added in the 1960's and is not original. The approach area will be regraded to enable average golfers to play run-up shots onto the green. Because the budget for the job was cut from \$50,000 to \$25,000, SGC will phase in the bunkers next year, expand the fairway to left, and also enlarge the right greenside bunker. In addition, the ramp from

the 10th green to the 11th tee will be formalized and built up. Work will begin after Columbus Day, with a temporary green to be built in fairway.

Jim said he'd like to see recognition for premier events held at SGC (like the Connecticut Senior Open), possibly on banners near the scoreboard. The idea of soliciting patrons for individual pavers in this area was also discussed.

Eric reported that the clubhouse foundation work will start Sept. 10. Mark pointed out the repair work ties in nicely with the upcoming 100th anniversary of clubhouse, which opened in 1914.

Todd said many golfers have inquired about \$400 off-season membership, which typically runs post-Labor Day through April 1. In 2012, this seasonal promotional membership pulled in ~~21~~³ members, with an upside of over ~~\$8,000~~^{\$1,200.00}. In addition, this off-season program proved to be a segue to full membership for over half the participants. Tim made a motion that the off-season membership, to be promoted in the golf shop and on the website, be offered again. Duncan seconded.

Next Meeting Date

Oct. 7, 2013

Adjournment

Time – 8:30 p.m. Tom motioned to adjourn, seconded by Brian.

Brian McCallen
Secretary, GAB

Minutes have been approved and accepted. *AS AMENDED. JF*



Signature

10/7/13

Date