

WESTBOROUGH COUNTRY CLUB OPERATING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 3, 2014

Location: Meeting Room, WCC

Convened: 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:50 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Earl Storey, Jim Willwerth, Dave Hall, John Arnold

Other Attendees: Vince Aquilino, Jack Negoshian, Mike Hightower, Jessica Thomas.

Open Forum: There were no requests to address the Committee.

Minutes: Approval of the minutes from 11-19-14 was deferred until the next meeting.

Budget/Membership: Mr. Negoshian brought up age requirements for memberships and felt we should have a cutoff date, such as April 1<sup>st</sup>, that would dictate the type of membership someone qualified for. Mr. Hall made a motion to use April 1<sup>st</sup> as the cutoff date for the membership age requirement and Mr. Storey seconded. VOTED: 4-0-0. Ms. Thomas will add the birth date requirement as of April 1<sup>st</sup> to the membership applications.

Golf Professional: Mr. Negoshian provided the Committee with the 2015 Tournament Schedule. There was discussion over the Member/Guest Tournaments and whether to keep them on the schedule. The consensus from the Committee was to keep the Member/Guest tournaments on the schedule for now and Mr. Negoshian will cancel if no one signs up. Mr. Aquilino suggested speaking with the restaurant about offering something special in conjunction with these tournaments as a way of getting more members to sign up. Mr. Aquilino also had a request from a member to see if there could be a tournament held on a Sunday since they work on Saturdays. The Committee reviewed the schedule and decided to change the date on the ABCD Tournament from Saturday, 9/5, to Sunday, 9/6 to see how it goes. Mr. Negoshian noted the outside tournaments that will be played at the Country Club. The Worcester County Women's Golf Association is scheduled for Thursday, 7/30, the Knights of Columbus are playing on Monday, 8/17, and WASA has their tournament scheduled for Friday, 9/11. Mr. Negoshian pointed out that greens fees were up slightly from last year.

Mr. Willwerth brought up the subject of allowing liquor in the Meeting Room. Since Mr. Negoshian will have a golf simulator in the Meeting Room, he felt it would be more convenient for those using the simulator to be able to bring their drinks in to the Meeting Room area rather than going back and forth to the bar. Mr. Willwerth spoke with Town Counsel, Greg Franks, and he said they would have to modify the current contract as it relates to the existing building. Karen Bain-Morgado in the Selectmen's office can review the contract and explore what needed to be done as far as any addendums to the liquor license. Paula Covino from the Selectmen's office gave Mr. Willwerth a form with a list of the items that need to be completed. Mr. Willwerth asked Mr. Hightower to arrange a meeting with Ms. Bain-Morgado to discuss further. Mr. Hightower said that his liquor license is based on the footprint of the Country Club and right now it states that he cannot use the Meeting Room. Mr. Hightower felt that it would be more difficult to change the liquor license since he would have to go in front of the Selectmen. Mr. Hall brought up restricting access to the Meeting Room, as far as when liquor is allowed in that

area. Mr. Hightower said that would be easier than trying to modify his liquor license. Mr. Hightower felt there should still be a discussion with the Selectmen and Mr. Arnold said he would speak with Selectmen Chair, George Barrette, and Selectmen, Denny Drewry, to get their thoughts. There was discussion about restricting liquor in the Meeting Room to the winter months only and Mr. Willwerth felt it should be allowed year round. Mr. Arnold was concerned that in the summer people may leave the Meeting Room with liquor and head out on to the course where it's not allowed. Mr. Hightower suggested restricting access to the Meeting Room year round - based on the Committee's approval - in case he could use that area for a function. Mr. Storey mentioned that he thought the Chairman should have the discretion of approving functions, rather than waiting until the monthly meeting and asking the Committee, since he felt that was too cumbersome. Mr. Arnold and Mr. Willwerth said they would work on a procedure for allowing liquor in the Meeting Room with CCOC approval, while satisfying Town requirements.

Greens/Superintendent: Mr. Negoshian reported that the course is still open, but Mr. Hightower has started covering some tees. Mr. Hightower used the deep tine machine to punch holes in the greens today and may possibly get to the fairways tomorrow. Mr. Hightower arrived and continued with the report regarding the course. He is doing things a little differently this year by putting heavy top dressing on the greens with the hope of preventing the damage that occurred last winter. Mr. Hightower explained that during the warm up last January, the tees were still under ice. When they uncovered the tees, they found the broken, dormant seed. There was some discussion over whether to cover the tees or leave them uncovered over the winter. Mr. Hightower is aware of what some of the local courses do, but may check to see if they've moved to using permeable covers, which help control temperature fluctuations. Mr. Hightower mentioned that he will cover the tees this winter. If we lose grass this year then he may look at doing something different next year. He noted that the pine trees designated to be taken down have not been removed yet. Mr. Hightower pointed out that he'd like to continue tree work on the course and asked if he could take down the pine tree on 6. Mr. Arnold said he looked at it and agrees it should be taken down. Mr. Hall made a motion to approve the removal of the pine tree between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> tees and Mr. Willwerth seconded. VOTED: 4-0-0.

Old Business:

Mr. Arnold reported that he is working on the wording for the article that will be placed in the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in March 2015.

New Business:

Mr. Willwerth informed the Committee that he has begun working on the Annual Report for 2014. He has spoken with Mr. Negoshian already and will be seeking input from Mr. Hightower. If anyone has anything else to add, please contact Mr. Willwerth.

Adjournment: Having no further business Mr. Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. VOTED: 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

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Jessica Thomas, Administrative Assistant

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John Arnold, Chairman