

WESTBOROUGH COUNTRY CLUB OPERATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 15, 2015

Location: Meeting Room, WCC

Convened: 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:02 p.m.

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

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

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

Minutes: A vote on the approval of the minutes from 3-18-15 was deferred until the next meeting.

Budget/Membership: The budget was reviewed, along with the capital left for improvements and equipment. Mr. Arnold asked Administrative Assistant, Jessica Thomas, to prepare a breakdown of the articles for the next meeting with what they were designated for and balances remaining. There was a brief discussion about the possible upcoming need for a new rough mower and a spray tank. Mr. Hightower said that the spray tank he currently uses is from 2002. He said he has a back-up tank but would have to replace one if it broke. Mr. Hightower will review equipment for the course and pick out three items that are of top priority for replacement. Leasing versus buying was discussed. Mr. Hightower mentioned that we have done some leases in the past but try to keep the amount between \$25,000 and \$30,000. He spoke about work he'd like to see done on the course such as moving the 2nd tee back, relocating the cart path on 4 and moving it to the other side, and work to the cart path on 5. Mr. Arnold would like the minutes from September, October, and November where work on 4 and 5 was discussed.

Memberships were analyzed and it was noted that we are a little lower this year versus last year at this time. There was a brief discussion about the new Jr. Executive rate.

Greens/Superintendent: Mr. Hightower reported that the course opened last Friday, April 10th. He felt the greens were in adequate shape and mentioned that he had to chip ice off, clear areas that were infested with basil rot, and he rolled and sprayed the greens prior to opening. He is hoping to aerate the course on Monday. He felt the course was in a lot better shape than five days ago, but noted a wet spot on 6. Mr. Arnold suggested putting a drain in from the pond back to 4 and thought that would solve the water problem. Mr. Hightower agreed with putting a drain line in, but they would need to excavate that area because of rocks. There was discussion about the 4th green being wet. Mr. Hightower felt that a drainage system may need to be installed on 4 similar to what was done on 2 and 3. He estimated that the cost may come in around \$8,000 for one green. Mr. Arnold said that he will take a look at that area, along with Mr. Hightower and Earl Storey, to come up with a plan as to what they'd like to do. He noted that they'd be looking to get this project done in the fall. Mr. Arnold also mentioned that he spoke with Town Manager, Jim Malloy, about issues with the parking lot. He is going to have an engineer come in to shoot some grades and then bring the plan to the next Town Meeting. There was continued discussion about the parking lot. Mr. Hightower said there is a catch basin near the swamp area that needs to be repaired. Mr. Arnold said he would take a look at it.

Golf Professional: Mr. Negoshian reported on the course opening. He had 150 players this past Sunday and collected almost \$1,000 in greens fees. Today he had about 100 players. Mr. Negoshian noted that he moved Saturday's tournament back a week, and following that will be a couple's tournament. He pointed out that his staff will be starting back over the next week or two. Mr. Arnold asked Mr. Negoshian why he increased the price for the couple's tournament by \$5.00. Mr. Negoshian said that his expenses have gone up and mentioned minimum wage increasing by \$1/hr. Since the handicap fee for members was lowered, he felt he needed to increase some of the tournament fees. It was noted that the fee for the couple's tournament was \$10 and it is now \$15. Mr. Arnold pointed out that the tournament is now averaging 20 couples, which is better than the 7 couples they used to get. Mr. Arnold said he understood Mr. Negoshian was trying to run a business but he wanted to provide his opinion about the increase.

Old Business:

There was no old business brought before the Committee.

New Business:

Mr. Arnold wanted to discuss the maintenance building. He felt the gutters should be cleaned and they should paint the trim since the building is looking a little worn. Mr. Hightower mentioned that he has gone through the building over the last few days and cleaned it up. Mr. Arnold said he'd look in to hiring a painter for the trim. Mr. Arnold also asked about the condition of the pump station. Mr. Hightower said that he has removed vines and painted but he'd like to put in louvres and a fan. Mr. Hightower didn't think the pump station was in the best shape and mentioned pipe rotting from inside out. He noted that the pump station was built in 1985-1986. Mr. Arnold asked about the roof and whether there were leaks. Mr. Hightower said the roof was fine but the base is rotting. He said that the pump on Mill Road is loud and vibrating and that may cause the motor to fail, but he doesn't use that pump due to its limited water supply. Mr. Arnold asked if you can reverse the pump and blow it out. Mr. Hightower wasn't sure but felt the pump on 7 was of more importance. He mentioned that the Committee may want to look at spending money on the pumps by pulling them out and cleaning.

Adjournment: Having no further business Mr. Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. VOTED: 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Jessica Thomas, Administrative Assistant

John Arnold, Chairman