

WESTBOROUGH COUNTRY CLUB OPERATING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 13, 2015

Location: Meeting Room, WCC

Convened: 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 8: 27 p.m.

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

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

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

Old Business: Mr. Blois informed the Committee that he still hasn't met with Heidi Schwarz regarding the transfer of rights for the website. He mentioned that he spoke with the Town's MIS/GIS Director, Mark Stockman, and Mr. Stockman said he could add the Country Club to the Town website, but there needs to be a link from the old website to the new website. Mr. Blois explained that the link cannot be created until Ms. Schwarz signs off on her rights. There was discussion over getting this issue settled with Ms. Schwarz as soon as possible since the website is needed.

Minutes: Mr. Blois made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2015 and Mr. Storey seconded. VOTED: 4-0-1 (abstention: Hall).

Mr. Blois made a motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2015 and Mr. Willwerth seconded. VOTED: 4-0-1 (abstention: Blois).

Budget/Membership: The budget was reviewed and it was noted that membership fees are down slightly from last year at this time. Mr. Blois was concerned with expenses and would like to put a halt to further spending so the available budget is held at about \$20,000 for fiscal year end. There was a discussion about the procedure for creating Purchase Orders and the need for better communication. Pending invoices were reviewed, along with the cost for maintenance related to the pumps, and any additional upcoming expenses between now and the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Hightower estimated the cost of pulling the pumps at about \$1,000. Mr. Hightower also mentioned that he will need to purchase some sod and estimated that cost around \$1,000. In addition, he may need to order some irrigation parts. Mr. Blois asked if Mr. Hightower could wait until the new fiscal year to order the irrigation parts since he'd like to turn some money back in so we don't have an issue with the tax rate.

There was a request for a medical leave of absence from junior member, Matthew Doherty, who had shoulder surgery and is unable to play. A doctor's note was provided. Mr. Blois made a motion to approve the refund request for Matthew Doherty and Mr. Hall seconded. VOTED: 4-0-0 (Mr. Storey wasn't present for this vote).

Greens Superintendent: Mr. Hightower mentioned the electric issue he experienced with the restaurant on Mother's Day. Mr. Blois suggested that he speak with Town Manager, Jim Malloy, about adding another line in to the building and include Buildings & Grounds Director, Frank

Cornine. Mr. Arnold spoke about the parking lot. He informed the Committee that engineering for the parking lot will be done in-house by Town engineers. Mr. Arnold also mentioned the roof and said the Town will fix that as well. He let the Committee know that Fryer Engineering will start on the re-design of the cart paths near the clubhouse next week. It was noted that Mike Johnson already has the contract for work on 4, 5, and 6. Mr. Arnold will contact Mr. Johnson to see when he can start. There was discussion over how Mr. Fryer will get his trucks on the course. Mr. Arnold said they will raise the memorial at Hole 1 and take down a maple tree that is dying. The Committee went outside to view the work that will be done on this project, which includes re-working the cart paths, and also widening the paved area near the clubhouse for additional cart parking. There was continued discussion over the pumps being pulled and cleaned. Mr. Arnold felt it was important to have a pumping station that works. Mr. Hightower recommended pulling the pump located in the pond near the course and cleaning that one out first since it isn't functioning properly. Mr. Blois made a motion to pull the pump in the pond to get it back up to operating order and Mr. Hall seconded. Mr. Arnold asked if that pump was tied in to the whole irrigation system and Mr. Hightower said it was. Mr. Hightower said he would only use the pond if the Mill Road pump was completely down, but it is good to have as a back-up. Mr. Blois pointed out a sprinkler head on 8 that looks like it was damaged. Mr. Hightower will check on that and get it fixed. Mr. Arnold noted that Mr. Fryer will screen loam for re-use on site. Mr. Storey felt that Mr. Fryer should perform the work on the whole project so it gets done all at once rather than splitting the project with Mr. Johnson. There was a vote on Mr. Blois' motion for pulling the pump at the pond. Voted: 5-0-0. There was also a motion by Mr. Hall to have all work done by Fryer Engineering for re-designing the cart paths. Voted: 5-0-0. Mr. Hightower mentioned that he will take down the dying maple tree, aerate the course, and put some sod down.

Golf Professional: Mr. Negoshian reported that greens fees are about the same as last year at this time, though we've been open less days this year. He estimated that total greens fees for May should come in at around \$20,000 since he's already collected about \$9,000 so far. Mr. Negoshian mentioned that there's a ladies league that is going on every Tuesday night and he has 30 ladies, some of whom used to play at Marlborough Country Club. Upcoming events include the ABCD on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and a Couples Tournament on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Arnold shared with the Committee a letter he received from member, Rick Guerard, regarding his frustration at not being able to get on the course when he'd like to play. Mr. Blois pointed out that emails go out about what's going on regarding special events, leagues, and tournaments. Mr. Blois said he would contact Mr. Guerard to follow up with him.

Mr. Arnold asked Mr. Negoshian what tournament fees or league fees he has raised for this year. Mr. Negoshian said the 9-hole league fees, the couple's tournament fees, and fees for the men who play in the tournaments on the weekends. Mr. Blois reviewed Mr. Negoshian's contract and pointed out that those fees are set by the CCOC as stated in the contract. Mr. Blois made a motion to re-set the tournament and league fees back to last year's prices for the remainder of this year. He mentioned that if Mr. Negoshian would like to increase prices, he can bring it to the Committee's attention for next year. Mr. Arnold seconded Mr. Blois' motion. It was noted that no refunds would be given for fees already paid, but that these fees would be lowered going forward. Voted: 3-1-0.

Mr. Negoshian informed the Committee that the Mass Golf Association (MGA) has a program called "Members Now". The program allows golfers to connect to an MGA golf course at no

cost or additional work to the club. He said that there are 23 clubs who have currently joined the Members Now program. Mr. Blois thought the program had more to do with obtaining a handicap. Mr. Negoshian said the program was developed to connect golfers to an MGA course if they are looking to obtain a GHIN handicap, but also for courses to attract potential new members. He said that we would collect the handicap fee if someone were to come here because we are an MGA club. Mr. Negoshian said that golfers would sign up on the MGA website for where they'll turn in their handicap and usually pick the closest MGA club. They would then pay the MGA for the handicap fee and the MGA would send a check to the club for the amount we charge. Mr. Blois felt we should sign up for the program since he doesn't see a downside and we could get additional members or greens fees. Mr. Negoshian noted that each individual club sets their own price for what they charge for the handicap fee and it is indicated on the MGA website. Mr. Negoshian said he would look in to the program further. Mr. Blois made a motion to pursue the Members Now program through the MGA and Mr. Arnold seconded. Voted 4-0-0.

New Business:

There was no new business brought before the Committee.

Adjournment: Having no further business Mr. Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. VOTED: 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

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Jessica Thomas, Administrative Assistant

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John Arnold, Chairman