

WESTBOROUGH COUNTRY CLUB OPERATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 8, 2015

Location: Meeting Room, WCC

Convened: 7:03 p.m.

Adjourned: 8: 02 p.m.

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

Other Attendees: Jack Negoshian, Mike Hightower, Jessica Thomas, Gibbs Mitchell, Rick Guerard.

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

Minutes: Mr. Blois made a motion to approve the minutes of June 10, 2015 and Mr. Storey seconded. VOTED: 4-0-1 (abstention: Hall).

Budget/Membership: The budget was discussed. Mr. Arnold noted that all work completed in redoing the cart paths near 1 and 9 has been paid to date. The Committee reviewed what was left in open articles for golf course improvements. Mr. Storey asked about the cart paths near 4 and 5 and when they might be fixed. Mr. Arnold pointed out that the current project for redesigning the cart paths near 1 and 9 was a big project that never could have been completed without help from Fryer Excavating and the Town's DPW department in helping to keep costs down. The Committee agreed that the next project will be redesigning part of the cart path near 5. There was a brief discussion regarding member's suggestions about what needs to be done on the course. Mr. Arnold felt that members weren't aware of the budget constraints and should attend CCOC meetings to voice any concerns. Mr. Hightower mentioned what might be next for improvements and pointed out having an architect redesign the bunkers. He thought that the cost may be expensive but it has a real impact on the golf course in cleaning it up. Mr. Storey pointed out the parking lot and it was noted that redoing the lot would be a Town project. Mr. Arnold mentioned that the recent work done on the cart paths won't be affected if the parking lot is redone. Mr. Arnold felt that if we do another large project that we get a quote first so we have an idea of the cost. Mr. Arnold thought that it should be another few days for Fryer Excavating to fill in the edges and finish the cart paths at an estimate of another \$7,000-\$8,000. Mr. Arnold noted that Fryer suggested going through the winter and then coming back in the spring to roll and hot top the cart paths. Mr. Arnold also mentioned that Fryer hauled the excess loam to the DPW and traded it for screened loam that was used on this project. Mr. Blois thought that the Mill Road area looked nice now that it was cleaned up and in good shape. He instructed Mr. Hightower to keep that gate closed and locked so there's no illegal dumping.

The membership numbers were discussed. The number of junior members versus adults was noted.

Greens Superintendent: Mr. Hightower informed the Committee about recent course enhancements. He took down the dead tree near 3. Mr. Blois pointed out a dead birch tree on 6 that needs to be taken down too. Mr. Hightower will work on taking down dead trees over the summer months when he has more help. Mr. Blois mentioned that the fairway mower isn't

cutting evenly. Mr. Hightower said that he adjusted it. Mr. Hightower noted that he has been having equipment problems lately. The pump went on the spray tank today and needs to be repaired. He estimated the cost to replace the pump at about \$1,600. He also said that the price to repair the rough mower came in at about \$1,400. Mr. Hightower mentioned that if the rough mower is repaired that we could sell it at auction and then purchase a new mower. He said that the auctioneer typically charges 10% of the selling price and then we would receive the other 90% toward the cost of a new one. Mr. Storey suggested using the municipal auction website since that's what the DPW uses. He will put Mr. Hightower in touch with appropriate personnel at the DPW for more specifics. Mr. Blois wanted to repair the rough mower for now and the Committee agreed. Mr. Hightower estimated that we could possibly get \$3,000 to \$5,000 at auction for the old mower. He passed out a proposal for purchasing a new rough mower for the Committee's review and presented the costs if we leased it for comparison. He noted that there's a discount of approximately 25% since this is a municipal contract. Mr. Blois asked Mr. Hightower if he could find out what the cost would be if they broke it out in to five annual payments. Mr. Hightower pointed out that we will need to look at purchasing a new spray tank and a fairway mower within the next 1 to 2 years. Mr. Arnold asked for thoughts from the Committee regarding purchasing a new rough mower. Mr. Blois wanted to wait to see how this year ends and Mr. Storey agreed since there's not much left of the season. Mr. Hightower mentioned that the price will go up if we wait. Mr. Blois suggested purchasing the mower in October and taking delivery in the spring as an option. He also pointed out that the sand traps need fluffing and additional sand. Mr. Hightower said he will take a look at the sand traps.

Golf Professional: Mr. Negoshian mentioned upcoming tournaments for the month of July. He has a small junior tournament tomorrow, club championships this weekend and next weekend, and then the ladies championships. He noted that the ladies member/guest does not have many sign ups. On the last Thursday in July, he has the Worcester County Ladies League coming in. Mr. Arnold pointed out that over the last few years the member/guest event hasn't been held due to lack of interest. He felt this event should be taken off the schedule so the course can be opened up to the public. Mr. Negoshian mentioned that it has been difficult to get enough members. Mr. Arnold asked Mr. Negoshian if there's been any interruption in play due to the recent construction and he said there has not and they have worked around it. He noted that Mr. Fryer lets him know each day what will be occurring. Mr. Storey pointed out the good line of communication with Mr. Fryer and his employees.

Mr. Hightower brought up junior members on the course and the lack of etiquette displayed by some. He felt the junior members needed to be reminded about the basic rules on getting around the course safely so no one gets hurt. Mr. Negoshian mentioned that he sent out an email and also has an etiquette sheet for the junior members.

Old Business: Mr. Blois informed the Committee that he is still having difficulty with the website since he's trying to get the password to the old site from the previous administrator, Heidi Schwarz. The Town's MIS/GIS Director, Mark Stockman, has everything ready to go with the Town website but needs the files from Ms. Schwarz so the site will look the same and we can just go in and edit. Ms. Schwarz had said that she would put the files on a disk or flash drive so Mr. Stockman can download to the Town website. Mr. Blois said they are still waiting for the files and he will follow up again with Ms. Schwarz.

New Business: There was mention about the two tee signs that are up for sale. Committee members gave suggestions on contacts for local businesses that may be interested in purchasing a tee sign.

Adjournment: Having no further business Mr. Willwerth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. and Mr. Blois seconded. VOTED: 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Jessica Thomas, Administrative Assistant

John Arnold, Chairman