

WESTBOROUGH COUNTRY CLUB OPERATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 14, 2015

Location: Meeting Room, WCC

Convened: 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:31 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Dexter Blois, Dave Hall, Earl Storey.

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 September 9, 2015 and Mr. Hall seconded. VOTED: 3-0-0.

Budget/Membership: The budget was reviewed, along with the monthly membership report. There was one request for a refund due to medical issues from George D'Angelo Sr. Mr. Blois made a motion to refund George D'Angelo a prorated amount as of October 1st and Mr. Storey seconded. Voted 3-0-0.

Mr. Blois provided a handout to the Committee regarding the budget for FY2016-2017 that he has been working on with Mr. Hall and Mr. Hightower. He noted that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was up a quarter of a percent and this would affect both Mr. Hightower's and Mr. Negoshian's contracts for next year. Mr. Blois reviewed the cost of Mr. Negoshian's contract for FY16, which also includes 10% of all greens fees collected. Mr. Blois pointed out that the only major changes in the budget are for the Fertilizer/Chemical/Seed line item, and also an increase to Parts and Supplies since the machines are getting older. He mentioned that he decreased the cost for fuel since prices are down, and he reduced the amount for electricity based on the last two years actual annual costs, and noted that the Town is also receiving credits from the solar farms. Mr. Blois discussed the Charter cable bill and pointed out that we are spending \$3,297 annually between the Pro Shop and the garage. He checked with Town Manager, Jim Malloy, to see if we qualified for a free drop and is waiting to hear back. Mr. Blois had some question as to why Charter was charging us as a business since we are a municipality. He mentioned that there are a couple of minor adjustments that need to be done to the budget, which he will make once he gets the final numbers. Mr. Blois asked if the Committee wanted to vote on the budget for FY2016-2017 now. Mr. Storey wanted to vote on the budget since both Mr. Blois and Mr. Hall were comfortable with what was presented. Mr. Hall made a motion to accept the FY2016-2017 budget pending minor adjustments to be received. Voted: 3-0-0.

Mr. Blois also had a handout regarding membership rates for 2016. He pointed out the pending purchase of a new rough mower and using \$40,000 out of our reserves. Mr. Blois wanted to propose a percentage increase to membership rates for next year. There was a discussion about raising the junior membership rate to \$149 and then a slight increase to the other membership types. Mr. Storey asked Mr. Blois what he recommends and he suggested a 10% increase. Mr. Storey felt that all CCOC members should be present to vote on an increase to membership rates. Mr. Blois noted that he is gone next month. He will send his file to CCOC Administrative

Assistant, Jessica Thomas, to print off copies for Mr. Arnold and Mr. Willwerth for next month's meeting. Mr. Blois reiterated that he felt the junior membership should be raised from \$125 to \$149 for next year. Further discussion about raising membership rates was postponed until next month.

Mr. Blois wanted to share a golf etiquette sheet he came across from the United States Golf Association (USGA). He thought it would be a good idea to send it out with the membership renewals in January. Mr. Hall pointed out that he added to the flyer that junior members are required to read the golf etiquette sheet, and sign it, before they are able to play. Mr. Negoshian suggested having both the junior member and their parent(s) sign it so parents are aware of the rules. Mr. Guerard asked who monitors the behavior of the juniors on the course and Mr. Negoshian explained that it is usually the Pro Shop staff since they are the ones that get complaints and phone calls from other members. Mr. Hall noted that he will change the wording and include a signature from a parent. Mr. Blois made a motion to include the amended copy of the Golf Etiquette 101 flyer with the mailing for membership renewals and Mr. Storey seconded. Voted: 3-0-0. Mr. Blois mentioned that he emailed the USGA to make sure they had permission to use the flyer since it was copyrighted.

Mr. Blois informed the Committee that the Country Club website is up and running. He mentioned that Ms. Schwarz finally dropped off a CD with the files on it. Mr. Blois said he had the site operating as of October 5th and pointed out that there were 227 total hits in the first week. Mr. Blois said that Mr. Negoshian used to send tournament results to Ms. Schwarz for posting with the previous website. He didn't feel that was the appropriate place to inform members and preferred having Mr. Negoshian emailing tournament results to the membership base instead. Mr. Blois felt that only general information such as rates, pictures, directions, and contact information should be on the website. Mr. Blois was not in favor of posting tournament results on the website, and Mr. Negoshian pointed out that most of the members do read the emails. Mr. Blois mentioned that the website can be accessed through either westboroughcountryclub.com or westborocountryclub.com, and there's also a link through the Town website. Mr. Negoshian mentioned that he would like to see times noted on the website as to when the course is closed. Mr. Blois said he could post that information if Mr. Negoshian lets him know in advance. Mr. Negoshian added that he would like the tournament schedule posted as well. Mr. Blois said that he would rather post general information such as the course is closed for maintenance or a tournament, but didn't want to get in to specifics.

Greens Superintendent: Mr. Hightower reported on recent updates to the course. He has planted greens on 1 and 7 that he will cover when the weather gets colder. Mr. Hightower mentioned that he plans on using the mower to mulch up the fairways in mid-November. He is also looking to add some sod on the bunkers and a few other spots. Mr. Blois asked if he could evaluate the bunkers next year and add more sand to those that need it. He thought 7 may need some extra work. Mr. Hightower pointed out that he was asked to generate an equipment list and note the current state of each piece. He said he will type something up for the next meeting but he wanted to review the list. Mr. Hightower mentioned that the spray tank is rotted and in its 14th year of service. He said that it has about 1,750 hard hours on the unit. Mr. Hightower said that a new one would be about \$60,000 with all of the bells and whistles. He mentioned that our tank is 160 gallons and they are having trouble with the traction on the vehicle that the tank is mounted on. They are also looking at having a cab so they're not exposed to chemicals. Mr. Hightower obtained pricing on mounting a 225 gallon tank on the Cushman vehicle. Mr. Storey felt that it

wouldn't be feasible to mount the tank and then take it off when they wanted to use the Cushman. Mr. Hightower agreed – but noted that there's only 793 hours on the Cushman since they purchased it 5 years ago and he didn't think we were maximizing use on that vehicle. He said it would be \$12,500 to add a tank to the Cushman versus \$60,000 to purchase a whole new unit and vehicle. Mr. Storey asked if we need to replace the Cushman and Mr. Hightower mentioned that we may down the line, but we don't currently use it for large jobs since most of that is done by outside contractors. Mr. Hightower wasn't sure how the Cushman would work with a tank on it but pointed out that it has good traction. He felt this idea had potential and will gather more information over the next few months to present at a future meeting. Mr. Blois asked Mr. Hightower to get numbers so they can discuss all options. Mr. Hightower also mentioned that the fairway mower is getting close to the end of its use.

Golf Professional: Mr. Negoshian informed the Committee about upcoming tournaments and events. He said that there's an ABCD this Saturday with 48 participants already registered. On November 7th they are holding the Gerry Carey 18 Hole Scramble and WASA will serve chowder on the 5th tee. Mr. Negoshian mentioned that on November 21st Dan Congdon will have his Fall Classic.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Mr. Blois noted that he will present the article in the warrant at Special Town Meeting for the transfer of \$40,000 from the Country Club's retained earnings for the purchase of the new rough mower.

Mr. Storey wanted to introduce an idea for a brick walkway or patio that could be installed near 7 so people could purchase a brick to remember loved ones that have passed away. He felt it would be a nice way to honor members who are no longer with us. Mr. Storey wanted to propose this idea to the Committee for their consideration but didn't need a vote tonight. He mentioned they could also build a retaining wall and set the engraved bricks in to the wall. Mr. Storey felt there were different ways to go about the design and that it would be an affordable way for people to remember loved ones that were past members. He said that he could look in to finding someone to install a walkway, wall, or patio depending on what is eventually decided by the Committee.

Adjournment: Having no further business, Mr. Blois made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. and Mr. Hall seconded. VOTED: 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Thomas, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

John Arnold, Chairman