

WESTBOROUGH COUNTRY CLUB OPERATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 11, 2015

Location: Meeting Room, WCC

Convened: 7:19 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:51 p.m.

Committee Members Present: John Arnold, Dave Hall, Jim Willwerth, Dexter Blois (via Skype).

Other Attendees: Jack Negoshian, Gibbs Mitchell, Jessica Thomas.

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

Minutes: Mr. Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of October 14, 2015 and Mr. Willwerth seconded. VOTED: 2-0-2 (abstention: Arnold, Willwerth).

Budget/Membership: Greens fees collected to date were reviewed. It was noted that greens fees were up by about \$4,000 this month compared to last year, bringing the total collected for the year to around \$162,000. Mr. Negoshian mentioned that the weather has been good so that has helped with continued play on the course.

Regarding membership, the monthly report was discussed along with raising rates. It was mentioned that the last rate increase took place in 2010 when rates went up by 3%, except the Husband/Wife category increased from 1.6 times the single rate to 1.7 times the single rate, and nothing has been done since then. Mr. Blois asked Mr. Hall for his calculations if rates had increased each year, and Mr. Hall said we would be charging more if that had happened than the increase being proposed for next year. The Committee felt it wasn't unreasonable to think about a 10% increase in membership dues. Mr. Blois felt we should note in the cover letter that goes out with the renewals as to why a rate increase was necessary. Mr. Mitchell suggested having the rates increase over the next two years by 5%. Mr. Willwerth agreed with staggering the increase. Mr. Blois thought that was reasonable but was concerned with taking any more funds out of the Enterprise account for this year. Mr. Arnold noted upcoming equipment needs and the cost of a new spray tank. Mr. Mitchell felt these costs should be mentioned in the cover letter to the membership base as to why dues need to go up, as well as the fact that dues didn't increase for the last several years even though operating costs have grown over that time. Mr. Blois made a motion to increase membership dues by 5% for 2016 and by 5% for 2017, with the exception of the Junior and Junior Executive categories, and Mr. Hall seconded. VOTED: 4-0-0. Mr. Blois proposed increasing the junior membership from \$125/year to \$149/year. There was a discussion about this increase and what other courses charge. The Committee felt the junior membership cost, even with the increase, was still reasonable. Mr. Blois made a motion to increase the cost of the junior membership from \$125 per year to \$149 per year and Mr. Hall seconded. VOTED: 4-0-0. Mr. Blois also made a motion to increase the Junior Executive rate from \$400 per year to \$439 per year and Mr. Hall seconded. It was noted that the Junior Executive membership affects the 19 to 30 year old age group. VOTED: 4-0-0.

Mr. Blois mentioned that he submitted next year's budget already and FY2017 comes in about \$10 less than what was presented for FY2016. Mr. Blois noted that there was no increase in the

contracts for the Greens Superintendent or Golf Professional since the Consumer Price Index (CPI) remains flat. He pointed out that Mr. Negoshian receives 10% of the greens fees collected as a handling charge. There was discussion about putting an article in the warrant for Annual Town Meeting in March for a new spray tank, which could cost about \$30,000. Committee members referred to a prior meeting where Mr. Hightower spoke about mounting a spray tank on to the Cushman utility vehicle. Mr. Blois said he would submit an article to Town Manager, Jim Malloy, as a placeholder in case we need it. The Committee will meet next month on Wednesday, December 9th. It was noted that the equipment list from Mr. Hightower will be reviewed at that time to determine upcoming needs. Mr. Arnold will remind Mr. Hightower that his equipment inventory will be analyzed at the next meeting.

Greens Superintendent: Mr. Hightower wasn't present. Mr. Arnold discussed what was remaining for projects. He mentioned that he will contact Mr. Fryer to finish the cart path job.

Golf Professional: Mr. Negoshian pointed out that the Dan Congdon tournament is taking place on Saturday, November 21st. He mentioned that he will work on next year's tournament schedule. Mr. Negoshian noted that he will eliminate all member/guest tournaments for 2016 since he hasn't had any interest over the past few years.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

Adjournment: Having no further business, Mr. Willwerth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. and Mr. Hall seconded. VOTED: 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Thomas, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

John Arnold, Chairman