

**Public Hearing on Rates and Fees
Town of Harwich for 2015
and
Special meeting of the HGC to recommend Rates and Fees for 2015
Wednesday November 12, 2014**

Meeting called to order at 4:00pm

Present: Clem Smith, Tom Johnson, Jeff Williams, John Crook,
Bob Kingsbury

Absent: Martha Duffy, John Moretti

Clem Smith informs the public audience if anyone would like to address the committee to please write their names down and that they will then be called on in that order.

Public speakers comment:

Bill Given – would like to reserve comments until after recommendations are made on fees for 2015

Pete Wahl – Has concerns with Chatham residents not having to pay taxes that help the course but still get the same membership fees as Harwich residents that do pay the taxes. He would like to see this taken into consideration when fees are set for 2015.

Ed McCarthy – would also like to reserve comments until after recommendations are made on fees for 2015

Clem Smith asks for a motion to close public forum. Tom Johnson motions, Jeff Williams second, vote 5-0

Mr. Smith then convenes the special meeting of the HGC to vote on rates and fees for 2015 at @ 4: 25 pm.

Dennis Hoye is then asked for his fee recommendations for 2015.

Recommendation would be to not change the membership fees for 2015. Would propose to change a few other things however.

Changes proposed would be:

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- Change the time of the mid day rate from 1-4 to 1-3
- The rate would remain the same as in 2014
- State the twilight rate at 3:30pm instead of 4pm
- Make starting times from 3pm to 3:30pm for members only
- Make starting times from 3:30pm to 4pm non members only
- Change the age for membership and outside play for Juniors to 7 years old
- Practice area use to 5 years old but still must be accompanied by a parent/guardian

Jeff Williams says he would support these changes with the provision that there is some sort of skills assessment to be done with having children so young on the course so it does not slow the pace of play. Dennis Hoye agrees and says he will come up with something.

Sori Belz wonders if it is correct that there is no 9 hole greens fee. Dennis Hoye says yes that is correct. She wonders why there is a 9 hole cart fee then. He reminds her that some people like to ride nine and walk nine. She also wonders if there was any consideration given to the fact that Chatham residents don't pay taxes and still get the same membership fee as Harwich residents. Dennis Hoye said he did consider it but feels as

though with the amount of members from Chatham that helps keep the membership fee substantially less for all Harwich residents. It was not a good idea to change it.

Pete Wahl would like to see if there could be some acknowledgment to have Chatham pay even a little more that would make Harwich residents feel better about it.

Tom Johnson makes a motion to accept rates as proposed by Dennis Hoyer with the amendment of having the option to do something on Veterans Day for them either free carts or slightly lower greens fees. Also, a \$23.00 fee to add to Chatham residents in lieu of taxes being paid by Harwich residents. Bob Kingsbury seconds for discussion.

Discussion:

Clem Smith feels to represent the entire town properly this is not a necessary thing to do. The amount of people Chatham brings to the over all membership helps keep the membership fee down and that is looking out for the Harwich residents properly.

John Crook agrees

Jeff Williams has been in support of Chatham paying extra all along.

Vote on the Johnson motion recorded 3-2 in favor

Note: the final motion excluded the language related to Veteran's since Dennis Hoyer has the authority to do this already. When appropriate, Mr. Hoyer will bring his considerations to the committee.

Public Comment

Fran Rys – Has had great interaction with the Chatham women that have joined and wonders why Chatham gets the same rate as Harwich residents and not Orleans and Eastham, is it because of the schools being regionalized? Clem Smith answers yes the selectmen embraced this along with other initiatives that are underway with the town of Harwich working with the town of Chatham.

Mr. Connolly – feels it is a very one sided relationship with Chatham and Harwich. Chatham gets a golf membership at the same rate but what are the Harwich residents getting in return? Clem Smith says hopefully in the future that will change.

Bill Ottis – It is my understanding that the golf course is self sufficient in that it pays for itself so in reality the taxes that Harwich residents pay really doesn't go to the course per say.

Bob Kingsbury says that it is a complicated figure. Every towns person pays something toward the course. Clem Smith says this is a good question to peruse with Dave Ryan's office because he would be able to explain it properly rather than anything the committee would be able to talk about.

Connie Mahady questions the fee of the practice area. Thought that members got it for ½ price. Dennis Hoye said last year it was changed to everyone paying the same amount of \$300. The over all membership was down due to the price increase but the revenue increased. Made \$8000 two years ago and last year they made almost \$16,000, with less impact on the range.

Bill Given – has been a member for 20 years and wonders if the committee has given any consideration for members that can not

physically play 18 holes anymore due to medical reasons but still want to get out for 9. Chatham has a twilight membership and wonders why Cranberry Valley doesn't come up with something similar to that. Where the member can only come out and play after 3:30 or so and play what ever they are capable of playing.

Jeff Williams informs the audience that there has been work done on demographic research, punch card, super Sr. membership, frequent player card, twilight rate. With the new membership application this year it will help give a better look at these things if people are willing to give the information that is being asked for on the application. Bill Given asks that if for example a twilight membership is being considered to take the age factor out of it and say the person can only play after a certain time of the day. Dennis Hoyer said years ago there was a daily resident membership and it was not utilized. It was after 2:00 pm and it had reduced greens fee and an upfront fee. After a few years it was just not used anymore by many people.

Motion to adjourn by Tom Johnson, Second by John Crook vote 5-0 at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenn Heath, HGC Sec.