

Harwich Golf Committee
October 17, 2022
Town Hall Griffin Conference Room

Meeting called to order at 4:00PM

Present: Steve Bilotta, John Crook, Martha Duffy, Carol Fuller and Paul White

Absent: Clem Smith, Jack Connolly

Invited Guests: Roman Greer (Director of Golf)

Public: Selectperson Don Howell, Finance Committee Liaison Karen Doucette, Martha Spence, Judy Russo, Deb Heffernan, Mary Sullivan, and Members of the golfing community

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Ms. Fuller wanted to amend the August Special Meeting minutes to state purpose of meeting and not have attachments be the first thing read.
- Mr. Howell made reference to the rules for attachments being used in minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Mr. Greer recognized the retirement of Rain Ryder for his 43 years of service to Cranberry Valley.
- He also recognized all the seasonal staff on both the maintenance and pro shop/outside staff for their hard work this year.
- Maintenance seasonal workers will work until the end of October.
- Procurements: two bids that will be going to the Select Board for contract approval. One is for the driving range/tee/bunker renovation. Other is for the short course/putting complex.
- Facility maintenance will be replacing the stairs and railings on all the decks and the soffits at the pro shop this winter.
- Dick Fagan and two members of the ladies association have been meeting with vendors to start ordering merchandise for the 2023 season. They will be attending the vendor trade show in Hyannis this week.
- Monomoy Athletic Boosters (76 players) and Harwich Chamber of Commerce (56 players) held events in October. Nauset Hockey has an event scheduled this week.
- Jake's at Cranberry Valley will close for the season on November 8th.
- Mr. White also praised the seasonal staff and the crew at Jake's for a good season.
 - Mr. Crook asked what kind of year Jake's had.
 - Ms. Fuller asked if Jake's plans to extend hours of operation next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ms. Duffy praised Mr. Greer's thoroughness in his recommendation report.
 - Mr. White agreed with Ms. Duffy's comments. He brought up concerns about non-resident fees and increase in cart cost that was presented by Mr. Connolly who was not at the meeting. Mr. Connolly feels the non-resident rate is too low.
 - Mr. Greer mentioned the rates are following the three-year plan that was planned and approved by the Golf Committee to get to a Harwich Resident rate and all others.
- Mr. Bilotta proposed reducing the cost of a member cart based on the energy savings that the solar project has provided.
 - Ms. Fuller agrees with lowering the cart fee for members
- Public Comment:
 - Karen Doucette – Based on reports she read, feels course can lower fee for member carts and still have plenty of revenue
 - Bob Connor – Doesn't believe financial reports are accurate (course is losing money). Wants to raise Chatham rates higher than the proposed \$100 increase.
- Ms. Duffy asked if Mr. Greer has considered limiting the age (19-24) and increasing cost of the Young Adult membership stating that young adults make a lot of money.
 - Ms. Fuller wants to increase the cost of Young Adult membership
 - Mr. Bilotta said the Young Adult population is the future of golf and must be encouraged to play to help the revenue stream as the older population ages out of golf.
- Mr. Greer mentioned the contract with the cart company is a revenue share and was based on the current rates.
- Ms. Duffy requested that Mr. Greer take all the pros and cons of the rates and fees discussion into consideration when he makes his final recommendation.
- Mr. Bilotta expressed he doesn't want to increase rates just because it's on an every other year schedule. He mentioned the rates should cover all expenses for the golf course (direct and indirect), but if that is covered by current rates then there is no need to increase.
- Karen Doucette asked about how the infrastructure fund and golf improvement fund are funded.
 - Mr. Greer mentioned the infrastructure fund gets \$20 from every adult membership sold and \$4 from each greens fee sold.
- Mr. Bilotta would like to increase the maintenance budget by the same percentage as the increase in utilization (rounds played vs. previous year).

OLD BUSINESS:

- The USGA report will not be provided as the agronomist who came out to the course ceased his employment shortly thereafter. The USGA refunded CV the fee and will come back out in 2023 to survey and produce a new report.
- Ms. Fuller discussed facility and process improvements at the golf course. Areas of discussion included the driving range (help stop balls at back of range), cart return area (painted lines or signage for returning carts) and short game/chipping area (need for procedures signage).
 - The clubhouse was mentioned as a potential capital project if it deemed necessary for a new structure in the coming years.
 - Restaurant expansion is tied into size of septic system.

Motion to adjourn at 5:22pm by Mr. White. Seconded by Mr. Bilotta. (Unanimous vote).

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Serijan, HGC Secretary