

Harwich Golf Committee

August 18, 2020 Virtual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 4:03 PM

Present: Clem Smith, Steve Bilotta, Jack Connolly, John Crook, Martha Duffy, John Wheeler and Paul White

Absent:

Invited Guest: Roman Greer

Public:

Mr. Greer gives his Director's Report:

- GolfNow contract is on TA's desk for signature
- In the process of getting four quotes for the landscape project
- Mr. Greer is requesting charger grid be installed prior to completion of solar
- League play resumed in Phase III reopening
- Looking for committee feedback on the following items:
 - Cancellation of shotgun tournaments due to Covid restrictions
 - Negotiate rates with Harwich Fire Dept. to do a tee time charity tournament
 - Stop charity rounds for 2020 due to tee time demand by members and guests
 - Bob Miller's request for reduced rent in 2020 and adding three years to contract
- Maintenance update was given:
 - Very challenging conditions this year with limited staffing, high humidity, dry weather, sold out tee sheets each day.
 - Mr. Greer commends Shawn Fernandez, Rob Donovan and their staff for all their hard work.
 - Aeration was moved up to to give the golf course a break.
 - USGA Agronomist coming to CV to review course and give recommendations

Consent Agenda:

- Introduction of Paul White as the newest member of the Golf Committee
- Mr. Greer would like to keep the 10-minute tee time interval for the future.
 - Mr. Greer presented data to show that CV could have more member times, less non-member times, charge a premium for those times, and play 18 holes in less time than at 8-minute intervals.
 - Comparison of 2019 vs. 2020 for first two weeks of July shows average greens fee revenue is up over \$500 per day in 2020 with less non-member times available.

- Mr. Crook made a motion to adopt Mr. Greer's suggestion of 10-minute tee times, no charity events in 2020 other than the Harwich Fire Department (and negotiation with the Monomoy Athletic Boosters) and the request of Bob Miller to pay a reduced rent in 2020.
 - Seconded by Mr. Wheeler. Vote was unanimous (7-0)

New Business:

- There have been numerous complaints sent to the BOS about the relationship between Harwich residents and Chatham residents in regard to membership and tee times at CV
- One individual's complaint states the golf course is running over \$500,000 in debt and that Chatham residents are not paying their share by getting a discounted membership rate
- The Town Finance Director met with the BOS and stated this information is incorrect and that she is comfortable with the golf course's finances.
- The Committee each gave their thoughts regarding the rate difference between Harwich and Chatham residents.
- Ms. Duffy made a motion to respond to this member with a letter stating the Committee is thanking him for his input, has discussed his concerns and will be take it into consideration when making a recommendation to the BOS in the Fall.
 - Motioned seconded by Mr. White. Vote was unanimous (7-0).
- Discussion of budget goals and the implications from Covid
 - The Town instituted a hiring freeze, essential spending guidelines and a 1/12 budget per month until Town Meeting
 - FY20 revenues covered expenses even with the tornado and Covid-19 shutting down the courses at different times.
- Committee reviewed the Mass. Junior Amateur Championship
 - 168 participants and 26 CV volunteers
 - Finances included \$1200 on driving range, \$750 in clubhouse gift certificates, and \$2000 in food and beverage.
 - Great scores in the two days of qualifying including medalists at 6-under and 4-under par
 - Great press coverage.
- The Town's Capital Plan was reviewed
 - The Town wants a 7-year capital plan from each department. Town meeting will only vote to add a new 7th year each year and will require a 2/3 vote to move items on the plan.
 - Items under \$50,000 is not included on the plan.
 - Mr. Greer proposed the Committee prioritize this off season to review and come up with a 7-year plan.
- The Golf Committee is welcome to join the visit by the USGA Agronomist on Friday August 21st.

Old Business:

- Discussion of letter to the BOS Chairman that discusses challenges faced in the absence of a full time Town Administrator.
 - Motion by Mr. Wheeler to accept content of letter. Seconded by Ms. Duffy. Vote was unanimous (7-0).
 - Final draft of letter will be worked on.
- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Crook. Seconded by Mr. White. Vote unanimous (7-0).
- Meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Serijan, #GC Secretary