

Harwich Golf Committee
September 13, 2022
Town Hall Small Conference Room

Meeting called to order at 4:00PM

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

Absent:

Invited Guests: Town Administrator Joe Powers (TA), Select Board Member Don Howell;

Public: Members of the golfing community

Due to a conflict with Town Meeting, Mr. Smith asked if the Committee would move the next scheduled Golf Committee meeting to Monday October 17th. Committee agreed.

Mr. Smith noted a change in the agenda whereas public comment, the Director of Golf report, and new business would all be suspended for this meeting to give Town Administrator Powers and Selectperson Howell the opportunity to speak on various topics.

Mr. Powers:

- He directed the Director of Golf Roman Greer not to attend today's meeting.
- The Town has made a decision to pause the Tee Plan item. The TA will come back to the Committee with a well-defined process of next steps at an appropriate time.
- There will be no discussion on the short-course/putting complex as this is an ongoing procurement process by the Town.

Mr. Howell:

- He doesn't speak for the entire Select Board, however he is the liaison to the Golf Committee and he won't tell the Committee how to vote on anything.
- He reiterated that the Golf Committee (GC) is advisory to the Select Board. The GC has purview over policy matters.
- The Committee can't email Roman. The GC are not involved in the day-to-day activities of the golf course.
- The GC cannot go to Mr. Greer to have discussions unless it's at the Committee meetings. The GC Chair can go to discuss agenda items only.
- The "stakeholders" are the citizens of the Town of Harwich. All stakeholders should be heard on matters of where the course is going to be in 3-5 years, etc.
- It's the GC's obligation to hear those opinions and come up with an a recommendation that accommodates all sides.

- In the future, a sub-committee must be voted on. If they meet, there must be a posted agenda. After the meeting, there must be minutes of that meeting.
- Each Committee member serves for the good of the Town and not individual agendas.
- The Director of Golf and Golf Superintendent don't answer to the GC.
- The Select Board sets the policy and passes it to the TA who, in turn, directs his employees (Director of Golf/Golf Superintendent) to carry out those policies.

Mr. Crook asked Mr. Howell what did the Committee do that wasn't under the guidelines the Select Board wanted.

- Mr. Howell was disappointed in that one-topic meeting, a person who could have best answered the questions of the Committee and public was not there.

Mr. Bilotta mentioned the Golf Committee meeting are the same Tuesday every month and virtually no one from the public, and the liaison to the GC, don't attend. What should the GC do to get more people to the meetings?

- Mr. Howell replied the reason they don't see the liaison at the meetings is because he treats them as adults who know what they are doing. The liaison shows up if there is a question or if things are not going right.
 - Since most public meetings have little participation, when there is a meeting with large participation that meeting should be paid attention to at greater detail.
 - Try advertising on Ch. 18, newsletters, etc. to get the word out about public meetings.

Ms. Fuller asked Mr. Howell if the Committee can make requests and get more information.

- Mr. Howell stated the individuals on the Committee can't email or go visit Mr. Greer at his office.
- They need to go through the Committee Chair and the Chair needs to make it an agenda item at the next public meeting.

Mr. Powers stated that Mr. Greer used appropriate procedure to seek procurement under \$10000 so he could be advised for future projects by hiring the architect that has previous been used at Cranberry Valley. The tee plan has been tabled for now. It will be brought back in front of the Committee after such time more people are heard from.

Mr. Bilotta asked if Committee members are afforded the same ability to be heard as "stakeholders" outside of the committee.

- Mr. Powers clarified. As an appointed committee member, one cannot speak contrary to what the Committee has voted on as majority rules.

Mr. White made a motion to table agenda items 2 (USGA report) and 4 (Facility discussion of safety and concerns) to the October meeting and indefinitely postpone agenda items 1 (tee plan) and 3 (short course/putting complex) until such time Town Administration deems appropriate to bring back in front of the Committee. Seconded by Mr. Connolly. (Motion passes 6-0. Ms. Fuller abstains).

Motion to adjourn by Mr. White. Seconded by Mr. Crook. (Motion passes).

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Serijan, HGC Secretary