

Harwich Golf Committee
August 23, 2022
Town Hall Small Conference Room

REVISED PER GUIDELINES OF MASS GEN. LAWS CH. 30A SECTION 22

Meeting called to order at 4:00PM

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

Absent: Paul White

Public: Women's 18 and 9 Hole Ladies Leagues; David Wilson

Motion to move the public comment to the end of the meeting by Ms. Fuller. Seconded by Ms. Duffy. (Unanimous vote 5-0).

New Business:

- Meeting was requested by Ms. Duffy and Ms. Fuller to discuss concerns with the proposed 2022 Mark Mungeam report concerning revised yardages and tee placements at Cranberry Valley.
- Ms. Duffy read a script she wrote regarding the women's long course (current red tees). She cited Mark Mungeam's report from 2017 that recommended a shorter Red Tee course and it was not implemented. The 2022 Mungeam report was cited as using incorrect yardages, not using forward tee boxes (and in some cases fairway tees) and actually made some holes longer, not shorter.
- Ms. Fuller read a script she wrote regarding the women's short course (current green tees). She referenced her and Ms. Duffy reviewing the 2022 Mungeam report. She stated Mr. Greer asked Mr. Mungeam to evaluate the current tees and he did not since his recommendation now has 5 tees on the fairways where none now exist. Ms. Fuller said this is demeaning, insulting and degrading to all women and stated this is a case of gender inequity since the men don't have to play from fairway tees. She wonders why some of the newer forward tee boxes are not being used and why Mr. Mungeam moves the women back on holes 8 and 16.
- Mr. Crook asked Ms. Fuller what she is trying to accomplish with her comments. He referred to the 2017 Mungeam report that looked to shorten the current red tees to approximately 5000 yards and the current green tees to approximately 4500 yards. He mentioned the new plan may have some tee markers in the fairways to achieve this yardage goal. He agrees with the women that fairway tees would be a travesty, but mentioned that they need time to implement the plan ideas including building up the fairway tees.
 - Ms. Fuller commented they were discussing the 2022 Mungeam proposal using the existing red and green tee markers and not the 2017 plan.
- Mr. Smith said the 2017 Mungeam tee plan was going to cost \$250,000, but the Committee prioritized upgrading the irrigation system before following the tee plan.

- Mr. Smith read from an email from Roman Greer to the Committee and summarized the request to Mr. Mungeam. The request was to evaluate all tee boxes for proper yardages.
- A summarized report from Mr. Mungeam was read. He said he was still working on drawings, but had done a proposed scorecard. He mentioned shorter distances, swapping the tee box colors (green to red and red to green) as women gravitate toward red tees and that would become the shortest tee yardage.
- Mr. Connolly tried to interpret Mr. Mungeam's report. He stated the goal was to have a 5000-yard course for the women. The proposed scorecard has the proposed "long" course at 5383 yards and proposed "short" course at 4980 yards. Mr. Connolly's interpretation is the "long" course should be around 5000 yards.
 - Ms. Fuller stated the issue isn't the proposed yardage (though they would like to see a short par 3), the issue is the proposed fairway tee boxes.
- Ms. Duffy and Ms. Fuller reiterated they wanted to express their concerns to both Mr. Greer and Mr. Mungeam and invited them to this special meeting, but neither attended.
 - Ms. Fuller questioned why Mr. Greer didn't put the issues and concerns to the architect in writing and questions whether their concerns were conveyed.
 - Ms. Fuller then read from the 2017 Mungeam report where Mr. Mungeam stated he likes the same par on a hole from all tee boxes, but still has Hole 14 as a par 5 for men and par 4 for women. She states the par 5 yardage doesn't meet USGA standards for a par 5, but it's left that way and the women's par 4 has the tee box moved back to increase the yardage.
- Mr. Smith said he was pleased Mr. Greer was able to get in touch with Mr. Mungeam knowing how busy golf course architects are.
 - Bridgett Hippler questioned how much CV paid Mr. Mungeam (\$1+ mil)? Amount was clarified to be \$1850 per the receipt.
- Mr. Crook said they should revert back to the 2017 report and develop a red tee at 5000 yards.
 - Ms. Fuller stated the current recommendation for the "longer" women's course is fine other than the 164-yard 17th hole. They would like a shorter par 3.
 - Mr. Connolly reiterated that the women would be comfortable with the "longer" course recommendation if hole 17 was shorter and they would be comfortable with the "shorter" course distance, but not with fairway tees. The answer was yes.
- Ms. Fuller commented that if the women's "longer" course was made to 5000 yards, the high swing-speed women's golfers would not find that enjoyable or challenging.
- Mr. Bilotta recommended taking a step back and stop focusing on the two reports and instead come up with high-level goals:
 - Compliant with Mass Golf for a new rating
 - Make it an enjoyable experience for all golfers of all genders and abilities
 - Stay within the confines of the USGA distance requirements, etc.
- He followed up with the information given by Selectperson Howell at the last meeting that the Golf Committee is an advisory committee and can't dictate where tee box

should be, etc. That part is left up to the experts (golf course architects, superintendents, director of golf). It's not up to the Committee or public to question the people who were hired to do their job.

- Mr. Smith followed Mr. Bilotta's comments with the contract is between the Town and the hired architect and not the Golf Committee.
- Mr. Crook believes in the architect and his work and thinks the Committee has all the information it needs between the 2017 and 2022 reports to make a decision to move forward. That may include building new tee boxes if necessary.
 - He concluded that he felt that in his years on the Committee dealing with different Directors of Golf, Mr. Greer is the most detailed and the most follow up of any Director. He feels Mr. Greer has been disrespected at this meeting and Mr. Mungeam has provided a professional report with drawings, etc.
 - Ms. Fuller responded that there is no intent to disrespect Mr. Greer only frustration about the information they are given and no proof in writing that their concerns have been relayed.

Public Comment:

- Mr. Smith called on David Wilson who emailed the Golf Committee a letter and supporting documents before the meeting.
 - He emphasized the thoughts in his email about the need for multiple course options at 5000 yards and less.
- Beverly McCullough said she also sent an email to the Committee. Her solution is to keep the red and green tees where they currently are and have a combo tee marker on hole 17.
- Michelle McMahon had a few points.
 - Respect is earned
 - If she hires an architect to do plans for her house, she expects to give plenty of input and tweak the plan multiple times.
 - She said people teach their kids and grandkids how to golf by dropping a ball in the middle of the fairway. She feels it is demeaning to ask any women to do that as proposed on the plans.
- Unknown male said the forward tee boxes that are already built should be used.
- Sally Tuck said the Director of Golf is responsible for keeping the membership happy. In her experience, the Director of Golf works in conjunction with a greens committee and an architect to make these decisions.
- Richard Ervin asked who makes the final decision.
 - The Director of Golf makes the decisions. He reports to the Town Administrator who reports to the Select Board.
- Gail Hickey inquired if there was a cost associated with the proposed changes vs. cost of creating new tee boxes.

- She also stated the Director of Golf deserves respect, but so do the Committee members that ask for information and should receive answers, etc. in a timely manner.
- Chris Hardy mentioned she emailed Ms. Fuller, Ms. Duffy and Mr. Greer. She plays in the Cape Cod Women's Golf League events and feels Cranberry Valley having two sets of women's tees is a good thing competitively. The differences in yardage accommodates the range of competitive skills.
 - She would like to see CV do a competitive review to see what other courses are doing.
- Karen Doucette is a member, women's league member, Vice Chair of the Harwich Finance Committee and liaison to the Golf Committee.
 - She broke down her thoughts on committee's responsibilities.
 - Mr. Greer's job as Director of Golf is to make recommendations to his superiors on whatever he sees is best for the course and implement those plans when funding is available.
 - Committees are responsible for making recommendations. The Finance Committee makes recommendations to the Town Administrator and Select Board. The Golf Committee makes recommendations to the Director of Golf and his management team.
 - She mentioned it is Mr. Greer's job to take the recommendations, information from all other sources, etc. to formulate a master plan. The architect only makes a recommendation. Once a master plan is made, it's then his job to bring it to the Committee in a public forum to say this is the plan and how/why I came to this recommendation.
 - She noted a sub-committee is way overdoing it at this point.
 - Once there is an approved plan, there needs to be a quote to implement the plan and then create a timeline to carry it out.
- Noreen Millane said all the stakeholders need to be asked their opinion on what they feel is important and then publically disclose what was requested and whether or not it can be done.
 - Mr. Bilotta said the "stakeholders" have had many opportunities to talk about this topic as it's been an agenda item on many Golf Committee meetings, but no one comes.
 - Ms. Millane stated the stakeholders have representatives on the Committee (Mr. Duffy and Ms. Fuller) and it doesn't need to be individuals who show up.
- Mr. Smith read an email from Golf Committee member Paul White. See Attachment G
- Ms. Fuller makes a motion to not approve Mr. Greer's recommendation at endorse the 2022 Mungeam plan. Motion then withdrew.

- Ms. Fuller commented that there have been two recommendations (Mr. Greer and Mr. White) to approve the Mungeam plan and neither were at the meeting to hear what the public had to say.
 - Ms. Doucette said she would hope that Mr. Greer would watch the meeting and come back at the next meeting with a recommendation on what he would do after hearing all these comments.
 - Ms. Fuller said Mr. Greer has heard these comments multiple times from herself and Ms. Duffy. The only people he hasn't heard from is the public. Even saying that, he keeps recommending the plan.
- Ms. Hippler said there is an immediate fix without spending any money right now by creating a combo tee set and having it rated by Mass Golf.
- Mary Louise Kehoe, President of CV Women's 9, said she feels a combo tee on holes 4 and 17 would solve a lot of issues. She said that if a vote were to happen tonight, she is disappointed Mr. Greer wasn't at the meeting to hear what the public had to say.
- Ms. Duffy mentioned holes 4, 14, 16, and 17 as holes that could benefit from combo tees.
- Ms. Fuller made a motion to NOT accept the recommendation approval as presented by Mr. Greer and keep the current green tee course where it is until such time where a funded proposed plan can be developed.
 - Motion amended to NOT accept Mungeam's proposed plan for the current green tee course. Seconded by Ms. Duffy. Vote was three in favor (Mr. Connolly, Ms. Duffy and Ms. Fuller) and three nay (Mr. Bilotta, Mr. Crook and Mr. Smith).
 - Mr. Crook said it should all be tabled until a comprehensive 18-hole plan is developed.
 - Mr. Bilotta wanted Mr. Greer to have time to review the meeting video
- Marge Mello asked if Mass Golf has been scheduled to come rate the course.
- Mr. Bilotta made a motion to make the first agenda item on the next monthly meeting Mr. Greer's recommendation after he views the feedback from this meeting. Seconded by Ms. Duffy. Vote was unanimous (6-0).

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Fuller. Seconded by Mr. Connolly. Vote was unanimous (6-0).

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Serijan, HGC Secretary