

Yarmouth Golf Enterprise Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 18, 2020

Attending Committee Members: Kristen Seymour, Ellen Chapman, Ted Deckel, Andy Martin, Beverly Arnett, Richard Simon

Attending from the Golf Operations Department: Scott Gilmore.

Attending from the Public: Betty Lou Mitchell

The virtual Zoom Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 PM.

1. As required by state open meeting law, a roll call vote was conducted to authorize use of the online meeting method. All attending GEC members voted in the affirmative.
2. The minutes of the March 9th meeting were moved and adopted by unanimous roll call vote.
3. During the state mandated course closure, a few members had inquired if there would be any adjustment/refund of annual pass fees. Since the course reopened, this has not been reported as a concern. It was also noted that during the closure, many days were unplayable due to weather conditions. The following motion was made and approved by unanimous roll call vote: "The GEC does not recommend nor support any adjustments or refund of annual fees paid prior to the state mandated closure of Yarmouth Golf courses from March 17, 2020 to May 7, 2020."

The preferred method for payment of golf memberships is by phone. The pro shops should be called to expedite the processing of memberships. A membership can also be purchased by visiting either pro shop or a check can be mailed to the course.

4. The golf department has provided the town's administrator, Board of Health and Selectmen with detailed policies to reopen the town's courses safely, consistent with state guidelines. As the health of both employees and golfers is paramount, there will be zero-tolerance for violations of the guidelines, including immediate removal from the course without refund (or suspension of playing privileges for members). Since the course reopened, golfers have embraced the need for the policies and there have been no reported issues.
5. The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce has improved its website to feature local golf, including links that make it easier for visitors to book a tee time. Since many local courses have eliminated or significantly restricted tee times for daily fee play, Yarmouth Golf hopes to benefit from this change.

6. The golf department remains involved in planning related to use of the Bass River course as part of the town's wastewater treatment solution. Public approval of enabling town warrants has been deferred to fall 2020 and as previously communicated, will not affect either the 2020 or 2021 golf season.
7. The Directors report focused on actions undertaken or planned to operate the courses safely at half capacity. Golfers will notice Bass River improvements completed during the closure, including wider fairways and removal of many damaged or diseased trees as well as improvement at the 15th hole at Bayberry Hills. With 15 minute intervals between tee times, pace of play has been very good. Golf carts are not mandatory at either course, so single golfer gas carts (to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines) are available for anyone who needs a cart.

At this time restaurants are not being operated by the golf department with a goal to reopen with scaled down operations by June 8th. Non-contact options are also being explored for sale of Pro Shop merchandise. The RFP for a POS system to replace Chelsea was released April 30th with a goal to install the new system by the end of June.

In the near term, member golf leagues and tournaments had to be suspended pending relaxation of current state guidelines. Two USGA qualifying tournaments scheduled for early summer have been cancelled leaving only the MGA Public Links Qualifier at Bass River on June 25th.

Thanks to a strong start of fiscal year revenues and rigorous expense management, the golf department finances are still ahead of last year despite the negative impact of the course closure. Annual fee receipts have rebounded nicely since the course reopened. A summary of the number of active members will be forwarded to the GEC in a few days.

Maintaining a balance of daily and annual fee play will be essential in the months ahead. Yarmouth Golf may be one of the few available options for visiting golfers. As is always the case during summer months, weekend morning tee times will be over-subscribed but equitability allocated.

8. The GEC applauded the selection of Scott as the permanent Director, praised the entire golf department staff for their role in making Yarmouth Golf outstanding and urged the department to increase the frequency of member communications.
9. There were no public comments

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved by roll call vote at 8:20 PM.