

**Yarmouth Golf Enterprise Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**June 10, 2020**

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

**Attending from the Golf Operations Department:** Scott Gilmore, Becky White, Keith MacArthur

**Attending from the Public:** Betty Lou Mitchell, Susan Christiansen, Michael Berry, Sean D'Acci Jerry Garnick, Jay Fraprie, Jim Samsung, Mike Serijan, Jim Seymour, Ted Karras, Richard Simonds, Richard Donovan, Paul McDonough, Peter Pratt, William Farrow, Diane Duffy, and other anonymous attendees.

The virtual Zoom Meeting was called to order shortly after 7:00 PM by Vice Chairperson Ellen Chapman due to early technical difficulties adding Chairperson Ted Deckel.

1. As required by state open meeting law, a roll call vote was conducted to authorize use of the online meeting method. A quorum of attending GEC members voted in the affirmative.
2. The meeting was opened with about 75 minutes of public comments. The adverse impact of state mandated COVID tee time intervals (15 minutes through June 7, 12 minutes currently) on member tee sheet access was the predominate topic. Several of the attending public had voiced their concerns previously at the June 2 BOS meeting.

Mike Berry (resident annual member since 2001) noted this was a perennial issue before COVID and lamented the significant decline resident members in the past two decades; a trend he thought could worsen with the current situation. Diane Duffy remarked on her inability to get a weekend tee time with friends even though she had zero Chelsea points. Other members cited specific issues with the settings that have been implemented on Chelsea that impact booking tee times (e.g. prime weekend morning play or twilight weekday play have the same Chelsea points, inconsistent online open tee times viewing).

Multiple members expressed concern the town's mandate that golf operations achieve financial break-even necessitates high levels of non-member revenue in the prime three months (Jul-Sep) and urged the mandate be revisited in light of COVID. Several members claimed front line golf staff has indicated member tee time access would be limited during holiday periods like Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> due to high demand by non-members exacerbated by reduced Cape-wide capacity because of state golf guidelines. Some members voiced feeling as 'second class citizens' compared to daily fee players even after supporting a significant increase in annual fee rates. After no additional public comments were offered, the GEC proceeded to its remaining agenda.

3. Approval of the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes was moved and adopted by roll call vote (Kristen Seymour abstaining).
4. Prior to the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Board of Selectman (BOS) meeting, the town had received a number of written complaints/suggestions from the public regarding access to tee times, especially during the Memorial Day weekend. The GEC was provided with copies of the May 27<sup>th</sup> memo sent from Director Gilmore to the town manager in advance of the BOS meeting as well as copies of documents received from the public. The May 27<sup>th</sup> memo summarized the challenge created for the golf department and annual fee players by state mandated COVID guidelines, but noted high levels of actual play by both those who wrote to the BOS as well as the general membership. Michael Serijan had provided a detailed analysis/proposal to use tee sheet 'block times' as an option to improve member satisfaction while meeting financial goals.

At their June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Selectmen reiterated the need for the golf department to be a self-funded operation.

The extended public comments at this GEC meeting reflect the continuing challenge of the golf department to adapt quickly during these unprecedented times - counting on the goodwill and understanding of golfers that this difficult period should be temporary. The GEC shares the public concerns, but has confidence the golf department will do everything in its power to make the best of the current situation.

5. The discussion as to whether to expand and define in more detail what an annual pass provides was brief. There was consensus the existing level of detail was sufficiently clear for most situations and adding more detail at this time could be counter-productive.
6. The golf department developed a plan to resume league play under current restrictions. Discussion of the plan was tabled for a future workshop scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.
7. Current golf department practice is to add 25 Chelsea points to any member who cancels a tee time on the day of play or is a no show. Adverse weather conditions are only a factor if the course is closed in which case the 25 points are not added to a player Chelsea point total. These points roll-off after 30 days. The intent of this practice is to maximize the opportunity to golf for the most members. No change in this practice was supported by the GEC at this time.
8. The Directors report was not discussed in detail due to the length of the public comment period. No additional committee comments were offered.

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved by roll call vote at 10 PM.