

Yarmouth Golf Enterprise Committee
Minutes of Meeting
September 16, 2020

Attending Committee Members: Chris Hansen, Ellen Chapman, Ted Deckel, Andy Martin, Beverly Arnett, Richard Simon

Attending from the Golf Operations Department: Scott Gilmore, Dennis Hoye

Attending from the Public: Jay Fraprie

The meeting was called to order shortly after 7:00 PM at the Bayberry Hills Grill.

1. The meeting opened with a call for public comments. Jay expressed his appreciation of the golf department's and GEC efforts and his concern in the decline in resident members, partially due to increased annual fees and he referenced the three tier fee structure that was in effect about 20 years ago. Ted Deckel provided context for the current fee structure and referenced the low fee Links option for golfers looking for a great golf value.
2. The revision of the draft minutes of the prior meeting (Aug 10th) was requested and will be resubmitted for approval at the next GEC meeting.
3. DPW Director Jeff Colby and David Young from CDM Smith attended the GEC meeting to provide an update on the current plan for use of the Bass River Golf course as one of the potential recharge sites for Yarmouth highly treated wastewater (2 million gallons per day) including 3 options for course restoration prepared in conjunction with Tim Gerrish (Gardner+Gerrish LLC golf course architects). Copies of a July 10th memo sent to Director Colby from CDM Smith plus annotated aerial photos of the course were provided to the GEC. At the conclusion of the presentation of the data, Colby asked the GEC for their feedback on the 3 options for course restoration:
 - a. Restore the current layout,
 - b. Modify the current layout modestly to address long standing issues of golfer safety, pace of play, errant golf balls striking cars along Highbank Rd and residential noise abatement requirements.
 - c. Create a new course layout.

None of the options factored in any change to the clubhouse. Director Gilmore said the second option (aka the 'Master Plan') provided the best value for the town, and based on the information that was presented, the GEC concurred. Director Colby noted the GEC feedback will help the project team refine the myriad of issues that still need to be fleshed out including project timing (several years before the dirt flies), financial impacts and the role/rights golf operations would have in on-going operations of the wastewater system.

4. In advance of his annual Selectmen presentation of proposed changes to golf course fees, Director Gilmore shared them with the GEC for their feedback. With few exceptions, proposed fees would increase by 5%, the maximum allowed. It was noted the proposed daily fee increases would provide a not-to-exceed cap, and that actual rates could be lowered to reflect the market demand and competitive offerings. Key exceptions to the 5% increase include the regular annual fee (\$1,150 to \$1,195 or 3.9%), and Links (\$315 to \$500). The later would require town meeting approval. Scott said his proposal to increase the Links fee to \$500 would establish a not-to-exceed cap that would provide the golf department with the flexibility to adjust the fee to market demand (est. \$400 for 2021) and lessen impact (extended debate) on future town meetings.

The NGF report had recommended raising fees charged for member gas cart rental to be comparable to other Cape municipal golf courses. This was not proposed at this time.

After discussion, primarily about the Links annual fee, a motion to endorse the fee structure proposed by the Golf Department was approved.

5. The Director's Report was a highlight reel of accomplishments that everyone sees every day. Demand remains incredibly strong which boosts revenues (without discounting), course conditions are superb (despite a drought), new gas carts are getting raves, new computer systems/websites are coming online, leagues and legacy tournaments are back (despite Covid restrictions) so the GEC tips its collective cap to Director Gilmore and everyone in the Golf Department.

A motion to adjourn was accepted with unanimous consent at 9:50 PM.