

**Town of Westport
Golf Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

The Golf Advisory Committee of the Town of Westport met in Town Hall in room #201 on Monday, February 7, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM.

Members present: Fred Hunter, Chairman; Gary Solomon; Scott Smith; Jean Murdock; and Joanna Nicholson.

Absent: Mark Holod and Cliff Ross.

Guest: Stuart McCarthy

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on January 3, 2011, were accepted as submitted.

2. Discussion relative to the 2011/2012 Golf Budget.

Stuart McCarthy took the GAC through a **draft** of the golf portion of the P&R budget. He said that the over-riding issue he is facing with the Board of Finance is relief from severe cuts even though the golf revenue is significant.

Stuart pointed out that he was asked to estimate an increase in the cost of maintaining employee benefits.

Another increase will be for replacing equipment, long overdue. Dan Rackliffe and John Cooper will be able to operate next year with no increase except for the equipment. They must replace a fairway mower and a sprayer.

There was a discussion about possible increases in revenue, particularly by raising hand pass fees.

Scott Smith noted that if increasing revenue is so important, why is there not item for advertising. Fred Hunter will talk to Pat Norton about a proposal.

One other issue for discussion to promote golf was to arrange for reciprocity with Smith Richardson for members to play at each other's clubs at resident rates.

2. Halfway House Update

Kevin Davignon provided (pro bono) an updated estimate of the cost of the HH at the farmhouse location. His updated estimate is between \$250,000- and \$280,000.

The major hurdles going forward:

Resolve the location issue in the next two weeks

- Farmhouse as designed
- Redesign farmhouse to be more cost effective
- Current location, requiring a design

Raise funds

Consider one more option: Cart Service using the current vendor and building new, low cost bathroom facilities. Stuart McCarthy will continue this conversation.

3. New Business

Stuart McCarthy asked about allowing Staples Reunion Groups to use the course on Friday mornings for a guest fee and a cart. That would mean allowing for about an hour and a half of tee times to be allocated to them. The high volume time for members is Friday after noon. Therefore the morning times would not seem to take away too many tee times for members.

4. Old Business

Outsourcing Maintenance: There are upcoming meetings with vendors. Possible savings through outsourcing were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Nicholson, GAC Secretary