

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

GOLF SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Rivers and Seldon, Jon Colman, Byron Lester, Brad Klein, Ryan Phelps, Mark Mansur and Ciaran Carr

Also present were: David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Abraham Ford

Guests: Bill Starkie, Mark Lovejoy, Dollie Hunt and Jeff Gertz

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. **Jeff Gertz, 11 Old Orchard Road,** addressed concerns regarding senior rates, weekday passes and late aeration of greens.

Mr. Cieran Carr, General Manager indicated that seven full day or twilight passes are sold. There are no weekday passes available for non-seniors.

Mr. Mark Mansur stated that greens are aerated in late October and done once a year. There is very limited poa growing and not germinating during this timeframe. Mr. Mansur also indicated that aerated the greens in the spring would delay opening for the season due to cold weather and soil temps.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 2, 2016.

STATUS OF PROPERTY

Mr. Ciaran Carr, General Manager of Wintonbury Hills Golf Course gave a brief review for the month of January 2016. The course is on budget with no outstanding issues. At the end of January 2016, the operating cash reserve was approximately \$194,000. The course is well ahead against prior year.

The course opened on March 12, 2016, which is the earliest open in the 7th season. The committee reviewed financials through the end of February 2016, with anticipated expenditures for payroll and marketing.

The Tap Inn Restaurant will hosted a French Wine dinner was very successful with 40 individuals on the waitlist.

Marketing

Golf Management sent marketing e-mails for events to golfers such as the CT Golf Show, Men's Club, St. Patrick's Day, Golf Digest online article featuring layout design and pub atmosphere.

Wintonbury Hills Golf Course received the Billy Casper Facility of the Year Award for 2015.

An event calendar for Wintonbury Hills will be e-mailed to pass holders with dates and number of guests attending each event. This communication will further ensure transparency with other golfers and the effects of play.

Course Maintenance

Mr. Mansur stated that two quotes were submitted from Executive Turf Products and Breaking Ground Construction for driving range mat replacement. He was not successful in obtaining the third quote for the range mat. However, Mr. Mansur is recommending Breaking Ground Construction to complete the replacement for approximately \$17,525 including installation.

Councilor Seldon suggested reducing the initial quote and inquired if this particular vendor is worth the additional money for repairs.

It was moved by Councilor Seldon, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously not to exceed \$17,000 to replace driving range mats, excavate and base new concrete areas.

Mr. Mansur also updated the committee regarding the range shed. Management will delay complete replacement of the shed at this time due to cost and budget expense. The essential repairs will be completed internally due to some significant mold issues.

It was noted that all of the cupolas need to be replaced. The estimated cost for each cupola is approximately \$500 – \$1000. Most of the cupolas all total prefab and management will contract a vendor to perform the repairs.

Mr. Klein inquired about the impact of competition from the reopening of Keney Park & Gillette Ridge golf courses respectively.

A portion of golfers that left Keney Park will return, however it did not open in good shape and there may be some price competition.

Gillette Ridge Golf Course had some infrastructure changes. It is scheduled to open on Memorial Day and will have an impact on the local golf market. The goal of management for Wintonbury Hills is to market effectively, have pristine conditions and pricing/maintaining outings and events.

Thus far, it was noted that five outings didn't renew their contracts with Wintonbury Hills and are now scheduled with Gillette Ridge.

The Goodwin Park Golf Course renovations are not going to happen this season, based on the budget crisis in Hartford.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.