

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
GOLF SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Monday, June 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Rivers, Jon Colman, Mark Jacobs, Mark Mansur, Kevin Laing and Ciaran Carr

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

Guest: Steve DiBattisto

Absent were: Councilors Seldon and Merritt, Jerry Long, Brad Klein and Ryan Phelps

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no quorum present to approve minutes of the last meeting held on June 3, 2015.

STATUS OF PROPERTY

May 2015 Monthly Review

Mr. Ciaran Carr, General Manager of Wintonbury Hills Golf Course gave a brief financial review for May 2015. The month of May 2015 was the strongest on record since the course opening. Currently, revenues are higher than budgeted, and rounds were above budget. Overall, the course is slightly ahead of last year revenue in green fees. The APR has increased by \$6.00 due to more double tees during weekend hours, which gives more opportunity to maximize tee sheets for prime time rack sales.

At the end of May 2015, the operating cash reserve was approximately \$256,471.

The Net Ordinary Income is \$60,000. The golf shop inventory is fully stocked and valued at \$70,000. The labor expenses are under budget \$7,000 from prior year, \$33,000 behind in income prior year and \$22,000 in Cost of Goods adjustments year to date.

Course Maintenance

Mr. Mark Mansur, Superintendent reported that greens and turf repair conditions have improved greatly due to warmer temperatures and rains.

The Audubon Sanctuary Program reported a total of 17 blue bird nesting boxes. Mr. Mansur and the assistance of Public Works department installed a raptor pole on the 8th tee to attract more rare species of birds.

Mr. Mansur also stated that the irrigation system is in good shape and this year's staffing for the maintenance division is awesome.

Marketing

Mr. Carr stated that June 2015 is forecasted to be the strongest ever at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course. After review of several courses in the region, Wintonbury Hills exceeds revenue and increased play.

The outlook for June 2015 includes an increase in the following areas: special events and outings, normal play and food and beverages sales over \$10,000.

In regards to marketing of the course, Mr. Carr presented the following updates:

- An email blast was distributed to golfers entitled "Beat the Heat" and "Wounded Warriors Charitable event"
- To maximize tee sheet, management is exploring the option to sell nine hole rounds on Wednesdays and Thursdays
- It was noted that Wintonbury Hills was ranked fifth as the best municipal course in the United States

OTHER BUSINESS

Carmen Arace Middle School Golf Team

Mr. Carr received interested from 14 students that would like to join the Junior High Golf Team. A meet and greet will be scheduled with the parents and students to review basic golf course rules, transportation and team expectations.

In addition, it was noted that Duncaster Foundation donated \$5700.00 to support the Junior High School team with equipment and programmatic needs.

Issues with Tee Times

An e-mail received from a resident with concerns regarding split tees times. This resident is an avid golfer and purchased an annual membership with Wintonbury Hills. It was noted that there is a two hour block between 7 a.m. – 9 a.m. on the weekends to accommodate more players during prime time.

There was brief discussion of subcommittee members regarding this e-mail. It was decided to send a general notification to all pass holders explaining split tee times. Mr. Carr will follow up with this resident and discuss some possible solutions.

Mr. Mark Jacobs inquired about cart path repairs and the sale of nine holes rounds. Mr. Mansur stated that he was informed by the Public Works department that they are unable to assist with repair of the cart paths. Wintonbury Hills currently does not have the staff to repair at this time. However, Mr. Mansur has consulted with an outside contractor for repair cost. There was some brief discussion of the subcommittee regarding the maintenance agreement with the golf course and town.

Mr. Jacobs also stated that is a great idea on the cost for nine holes, however he recommended to only book during non-prime times of Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Mr. Steve DiBattisto inquired about the development of a golf caddy program with Bloomfield High School Golf Team. There were several of concerns regarding insurance regulations with the State of Connecticut, wage law and workers compensation.

It was suggested to look into the caddy program in Hamden for possible opportunities to volunteer and tip policies. The Men's Club has expressed interest in sponsoring this program.

Mr. DiBattisto also inquired about issues with score cards for the Topstone vs. Wintonbury Hills outing. Mr. DiBattisto recommended Mr. Carr and Mr. Kevin Laing to alternate play for the 2 days and resolve issues with score cards to be done properly – not done correct this year

During outing it was also recommended to have starters remind golfers about divot repairs and ball marks on the greens.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.