

Dennis Golf Advisory Committee meeting
Monday, April 13, 2015
Dennis Highlands Golf Course
4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Oman, Members Fenton, Mikkila, Fiske, Scibeck and Richard

STAFF: Golf Director Cummings, Office Manager Fabiano-Stowe Mike

Agenda

1. Renovation Project Update

Mr. Cummings stated he and Jim Horvath have visited the back 9 project and it looks excellent. There are probably 4-5 items that need completing, which should be done by the end of the week. The Cart Path on the 18th hole should be done by Wednesday, April 15th.

Mr. Cummings updated the committee as to the course's (Pines) conditions.

The architect is coming on April 15th to look at everything and go over the new front 9 project. We are hoping the bid will be set to go by the end of May. Mr. Cummings added he personally felt that membership and guests will love the final product.

Member Bill Allard was present and asked about the goose problem that still exists at the Pines. Mr. Cummings addressed Mr. Allard's question by stating we are no longer going to be using the dogs as a means to eradicate, as it is just wasting money. The Golf Department has purchased a drone to try and scare them out of there.

Wallace Hornsby, Dune Dogs Par and Grille, was present and stated he would be happy to allow his dog to come on and chase the geese off. Mr. Cummings stated that would be fine, provided we receive no complaints.

Ms. Mikkila asked how scores would be posted with the new tees at the Pines. Mr. Cummings stated the yardages had been sent to the MGA this morning.

2. Tournament Schedule

Mr. Oman asked if there were any questions pertaining to the Tournament Schedule. There were no issues, and it was approved in January. No further action was required.

3. USGA Senior Open Qualifier

Mr. Cummings stated he had been approached by the USGA about hosting a US Senior Open qualifier at Dennis Pines in 2016 because of the renovations and the difficulty of the golf course. Mr. Cummings stated it would be a benefit to both the USGA and the Town with showcasing the recent improvements. Jim Horvath is one of the conduits. Mr. Cummings stated he felt it appropriate to bring the request before the committee, and felt the best day would be to have it on June 25, 2016.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if we had any idea how much revenue would be lost. Mr. Cummings addressed Mr. Fitzpatrick's question.

MOTION:

Mr. Fenton moved to recommend hosting the USGA Open qualifier.

Ms. Fiske seconded the motion. The Committee voted 5-0-0.

4. Dune Dogs Par and Grille- Beverage Cart

Wallace Hornsby was present and stated he is looking to take what is in the snack shack, beverage wise and snack wise, and putting it on wheels.

Mr. Cummings asked if the snack shack would still be open. Mr. Hornsby stated it would. Mr. Hornsby explained he does not yet have a cart, but is looking into purchasing one with a trailer on the back so that he may have coolers. Mr. Hornsby further indicated he intends to lock the cart below the restaurant with a chain.

Mr. Oman stated this would need Board of Selectman approval and recommendation would need to come from the Golf Advisory Committee.

Mr. Scibeck asked if this would also be applicable to the Highlands.

Mr. Cummings stated it would need to be reflected in the liquor license of the vendor. If the Highlands wishes to have the same type of service, they would need to make a presentation as well. The leases would also need to be modified.

Ms. Richard asked if there were any problems with alcohol on the course. Mr. Cummings stated there were no issues with the snack shack sales of alcohol. Mr. Cummings stated the idea would be more ideal to shotgun tournaments only. It may be "reaching" for everyday business.

A discussion regarding shotgun tournament sizes took place.

Mr. Cummings asked if the operator of the Highlands concession had any interest. At this time, Mr. MacLellan does not have any interest; however, obtaining permission is acceptable.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if other courses do it. Mr. Cummings stated they do, but needs to check with the Legal Department with regards to liability.

MOTION

Ms. Mikkila moved to recommend the Dune Dogs Par and Grille and the Dog Leg Grille be granted authority to have a beverage/snack cart to be operated during shotgun tournaments consisting of 72 or more players.

Ms. Richard seconded the motion. The Committee voted 5-0-0.

5. Director's/Superintendent's report.

Mr. Cummings stated Mr. Day was no longer an employee at Dennis Golf, and at this time, has no plans to replace him. Mr. Cummings stated he is giving some current employees the opportunity to showcase their talents. As of right now, the Golf Department has hired two (2) Seasonal Golf Assistants: Michael Pry and Rachel Uremovich. Mr. Cummings gave a background on both assistants.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the assistants would do what Mr. Day had done. Mr. Cummings stated that they would be doing the same job description that of John Fowler last year.

Mr. Cummings gave a summary on the revenue, stating as of now the Department is down \$136,000.00 from last year. About \$100,000.00 of that is from memberships. Hopefully those funds will be recouped now that the courses are open. Mr. Cummings anticipates being anywhere from \$25,000-\$35,000.00 down from last year.

Mr. Oman asked about prebooks. Mr. Cummings stated they are coming in slow. Everything seems to be off because of the winter. Mr. Cummings also stated the department would be making more of an effort to communicating through social media and redoing the website.

Mr. Cummings reminded the Committee that the aeration of both courses was coming soon.

6. Public Input

Mr. Allard stated that cart fees increased a few years back due to the cost of fuel and wondered if they would be decreased now that the price of fuel is going down. Mr. Cummings stated the fees were not solely based upon the price of fuel, but that of the lease amount of the carts. The course just received new carts at the same rate.

Mr. Allard asked about the first shotgun tournament of the year being moved to the 1 p.m. time slot, and why that was done. Mr. Cummings stated he did not want to speculate as to why, but vaguely remembers a discussion with Mr. Day regarding a group that was going to book somewhere else, and said group was a major source of revenue.

7. Minutes

Mr. Fenton moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2015 Golf Advisory Committee meeting as printed.

Ms. Fiske seconded the motion. The Committee voted 4-0-0.

8. Old/New Business

None

The Next meeting is temporarily scheduled for May 11, 2015.

Ms. Mikkila moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Fenton seconded the motion. The Committee voted 5-0-0.