

Park Commission
Special Meeting 7/1/18

Committee Attendees:

Frank Keeney-Chair
Robyn Gengras
Greg Millard
Bob Gay

Public in attendance:

Hall Wilson
Connie Wilson
Tom Riggio
Cindy Patterson
Richard Patterson
Jessica Gay

Borough Staff in attendance

Jeff Champion-General Manager

1. Call to Order.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 by Frank Keeney.

2. Open time for Fenwick residents.

-Tom Riggio regarding fallen trees and whether to chop up and remove or leave where they fall. He is concerned that leaving them creates opportunities for invasive species the Borough and LPLT have worked so hard to eradicate. Bob Gay also read a letter from Jonathan Larken expressing safety concerns about fallen trees and leaning/dying trees adjacent to bike paths.

-Jessica Gay

1) How can we better identify Fenwick golf carts? Suggested using the Fenwick lighthouse sticker on all carts. G. Millard suggested reinstating the Fenwick flags so the carts are more easily identifiable to the Borough security guard as well as Borough residents

2) Would like the Borough to consider a sign on the corner by the 3rd hole water tee telling cars, pedestrians etc to yield to golfers in order to speed up play. F. Keeney said that is a Burgess/roads committee issue, not Parks.

3) asked that the Parks Commission consider a noise ordinance against leaf blowers etc. F. Keeney noted this is a Burgess issue and is currently under discussion.

3. EZ Golf presentation.

Jeff Champion presented the opportunity to work with EZ Golf to develop a point of sale and online tee time management system. The proposal is for EZ Golf to provide the system for free in return for two tee times per day year-round. After discussing the positives for the Borough, including getting more reliable player data, ability to market to season ticket holders an ability to better manage tee time inventory, Bob Gay noted he thought the two tee times per day could negatively impact Fenwick residents' ability to secure tee times in the prime summer months. The Commission asked Jeff Champion to go back and explore alternative deal structures, such as two tee times per day for 10 months, with blackouts for July and August. The idea of Fenwick gaining access to the allotted tee times if not sold by EZ Golf 24 hours prior, was also discussed. Jeff to come back to the Commission with an update after discussing with EZ Golf and doing some diligence with other CT courses who currently work with them.

4. Golf Update.

Greg Millard updated the Commission on a number of items:

1)Active military access to the course: Unbeknownst to the Parks Commission, the previous general manager instituted a policy offering free access to the course for active military. This had not been used much by members of the military, but there was a recent spike of naval staff using the free access at a high rate. The Commission is concerned about the impact to revenue and availability of tee times if this policy remains in place. The Commission agreed to keep an eye on usage and assess whether to modify the policy to be a discount, as opposed to free.

2) Golf Cart Trail Fee-Borough residents have expressed interest in charging a fee to season ticket holders and Old Saybrook residents who bring their own carts to the course. This is a common practice in gated golf communities and the intent is to offset the wear and tear of the course. The Commission agreed it was worth considering and would investigate further.

3) The golf course revenue report provided to the Parks commission on a monthly basis needs to be updated to provide YOY percentage growth/decline and YTD percent to budget. Jeff Champion will address. It was also noted that an EZ Golf system would provide accurate monthly reports with all stats desired.

4) Golf Master Plan: Working with Daryl and Jeff to identify most important projects within the context of the master plan and reviewing resident feedback from previous presentation of the plan.

5) In discussing the master plan, the Commission all agreed that the work by Daryl and his team on the course and other parkland areas had the Borough in fantastic shape and the Commission asked Jeff to reiterate the residents' appreciation to Daryl and his team.

6) cost of installing and removing black platforms is expensive. Bob Gay mentioned possibly putting in permanent footings to save annual costs. Jeff Champion to investigate.

5. LPLT update.

Bob Gay updated the Commission on Lynde Point Land Trust issues (LPLT)

-“Widowmaker” trees, that pose safety issues can be removed without specific permission from the LPLT.

-Limbs laying on paths or causing potential hazards can be removed.

-Work forms for other trees are required, but the Borough, as the ultimate enforcer of the easements has final say on any specific tree.

-LPLT is concerned about some of the mowing of marshes, as invasives in these areas are now eradicated. LPLT will discuss with their consultants and come back to the Borough with a suggested schedule. There was also discussion of the proper mowing schedule in the grove and LPLT will come back to the Commission with a suggested schedule.

-Concerns about the height of grasses by 4th hole water tee, as cars can't see pedestrians and carts coming from direction of Crab Creek. Frank Keeney asked Jeff Champion to address.

6. Tennis Update.

None.

7. Pier Update; Recreation Fee discussion.

Frank Keeney noted the work on the west side of the pier was completed and that at some point the Borough would need to address the south end of the pier.

Frank Keeney also asked the Commission to think about cottage recreation fees and whether family members of home owners are covered under a multi-family fee if they are renting a place in the Borough.

8. Close.

Meeting adjourned 5:55 PM.

Greg Millard