



**Borough of Fenwick
580 Maple Avenue
Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475**

Parks Commission Meeting Approved Minutes for October 15, 2022

1. Call to order at 9:04AM, Frank Keeney, Robyn Gengras, Marilyn Ozols, Bruce Baird (resident), and Jeff Champion in attendance ... Bob Gay, Scott Pulver, and Margaret Wade attended via Zoom.
2. Comments from the public – NONE
3. Approval of minutes from prior meeting – Motion made, seconded, unanimous approval.
4. GM Report – Rental golf carts will be available until October 24th, 9th tee and 5th tee projects are progressing nicely, the Park Monitor will be working until at least October 30th then will go to an on-call basis based on weather, the Grove Entrance proposal will be worked on after the tee box projects are complete and the beach/pier are broken down for the winter, the main entrance landscaping is still a work in progress, the admin office is busy and going well, Harbor Engineering is working on a proposal for the pier-4th tee box-Crab Creek Bridge.
5. Lynde Point Land Trust – Bob Gay:
 1. Comments regarding the uniformity of cart paths (shells) were discussed especially as it pertains to the 3rd tee. A resident may be willing to contribute to that project, Margaret Wade will follow up.
 2. A request was made to include indigenous plants around the new tee boxes if there is any opportunity for that.
6. Beach and Pier Report – Margaret Wade:
 1. There were some losses to beach furniture - umbrellas, and tables.
 2. The design of the new gate at the pier entrance was discussed.
 3. The hydrangea along the entrance to the pier have some unhealthy plants that require some attention. Daryl is looking into this.
7. Tennis Report – Robyn Gengras:
 1. Tennis wall needs replacing and a quote is being worked on, Aaron is helping, Robyn has contacts to reach out to as well.
 2. The courts are doing well, and Daryl is reaching out to Putnam Tennis for an end of season evaluation.
8. Golf Report – Scott Pulver:
 1. Some trees near St. Mary's will be taken down to open the approach to the first green. The volunteers that represent St. Mary's are in favor of this and new plantings are being explored to protect the church from errant golf balls.
 2. Trees on the 8th hole are being trimmed so that there isn't a double hazard between the overgrown trees and the sand trap.
 3. Moving the starters out to the first tee has been helpful when they stay there. The number one problem with FGC is the length of play.
9. General Manager's Comments regarding staffing to run FGC:

The current staffing structure was based on doing \$300k per year. With COVID, an assistant Head Starter and a ranger schedule was added to the team to help deal with "temporary" increases in golfers. The "temporary" increase is going

on it's third year with no signs of letting up in the next few years. The Borough went from having 6 rental carts to 8 this year with room to rent more based on demand. Carts can help speed up rounds.

With slow play being the biggest concern to address, a plan was proposed by Dave MacNeill (Head Starter) that includes:

- a. Add in a third person to busy shifts that would be permanently stationed near the 1st tee.
- b. Increase Supervision oversight and better training.
- c. Evaluate current staff and limit them to tasks that they are successful with.

It is the consensus that the causes of slow play can be attributed to a lack of knowledge on golf etiquette, too many new or first-time golfers to the sport, lack of ranger oversight and rangers not addressing slow play aggressively enough.

To best structure a plan, a mission statement should be agreed upon with regards to what the expectation is from the Parks Commission and Burgesses. Are we striving to give a country club experience or a public golf course experience? FGC will still be friendly while really focusing primarily on keeping the golf course moving in a way that there is a 2-hour round and adding in a country club experience will have more personalized services where a public golf course experience will not.

10. Pricing was discussed and Frank will be sending his recommendations out along with the GM's report on golf staffing structure.

11. Adjournment at 10:22AM, motion made, seconded, and approved

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Champion, General Manager