



Minutes: Golf Course Advisory Committee

September 9, 2019

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Golf Course Advisory Committee was held on September 12, 2019 at 8:30 AM with Craig Wetherbee presiding and with Holly Freese as recording secretary.

Committee Members: Craig Wetherbee, John Smith, Mike Yesunas

Township Staff: Township Supervisors Mark Oney, Mike Dwyer and Annette Atkinson, Pro Shop Manager Kevin Dixon, Golf Committee Liaison Holly Freese,

Banquet Hall Manager Chris Rain.

Also in attendance, Country Club of the Poconos Golf Members: Erik Kehoe, Mike Lozupone, Paul Suhrie.

Meeting called to order at 8:35 am by Craig Wetherbee

Minutes and Agenda

- A motion to accept the minutes was made by John Smith, Seconded by Mike Yesunas. Motion passed 3-0.

Grounds- Kevin Dixon for Bill Parr

- Started aerating the course— Holes 1-8, 17 & 18 will be done this week into next week.
- Starting to cut greens shorter again.
- Slit seeded back 9 two weeks ago, and there has been a decent amount of germination.
- Some spots need work, could be a little more aggressive with watering but the forecast hasn't been cooperative.
- Ground crew is also working on inventorying the maintenance shop.

Whispering Pines—Chris Rain

- 53 events year-to-date, which is a little behind this time last year but in line with years prior.

Pro Shop—Kevin Dixon

- Rounds improved significantly over the past month, but still down 20%.
- Course revenue, Food and Beverage and Merchandise sales are all down.
- Total revenue down 30%
- Wounded Warrior golf outing was held on September 7th and was successful with 94 golfers.
- Kevin Dixon will take care of fixing the toilets in the women's bathroom and the burnt out light bulbs will be fixed soon.

Financials—Mike Dwyer

- Income 31% less than last year and expenses are approx. 50% higher. About 75% over budget.

Marketing

- No update.

Old Business:

- Membership Reimbursement-
 - Board of Supervisors offered a full reimbursement minus \$25 per round golfed OR 50% 2020 membership rate.
 - Members are still unhappy about the offer and suggested a 50% refund for the 2019 membership. The Board of Supervisors agreed to issue a 50% refund for members who are paid in full and that there will be no offer for 2020. Kevin Dixon will begin working on the math for the refunds.

New business:

- Rezoning a portion of township property-
 - There will be a public hearing on September 26th at 7 pm in regards to rezoning a portion of property off of Tom X Road from C2 to R3. This portion of property will act as a buffer between the commercial zone and neighboring homes.

Public Comment:

- Paul Suhrie sent an extensive list to Holly Freese detailing hole by hole what he believes should be done over the winter. Mr. Suhrie also asked for an update on where we are with the previous punch lists sent. Holly Freese stated that there is a weekly meeting to

go through a prioritized list of things that need to be done each week, and that many items are going to be done once the course is closed for the season.

- Mr. Suhrie asked the Board of Supervisors where they are with marketing the course for sale. Annette Atkinson stated that because it is township property it can't be sold outright and has to be put out to bid. The attorney is currently working on starting the process and there has been several prospective investors. The township's Economic Development Manager has been actively working on generating interest.
- Erik Kehoe stated that the tee box on #6 is growing smaller and smaller and there is crabgrass everywhere. He also stated that he appreciates all of the hard work the township and grounds crew has put in and has seen an improvement.

Meeting Adjourned

- Craig Wetherbee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 am, seconded by Mike Yesunas. Motion passed 3-0.

The next meeting will be held on October 14th at 8:30 am at the Whispering Pines Banquet Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Freese
Recording Secretary