

PINECREST GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2022---VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Wally Thornton, Chryso Lawless, Deb Moore, Bob Smith, Larry Wise, John Sullivan, Mike Sarsfield

GUESTS: Bill Harrison, New England Golf, James Keast, Holliston Facilities Manager

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair Deb Moore, who read the virtual meeting statement.

Minutes of the GCAC meeting of July 7, 2022 were not approved due to typos and will be corrected and approved at the next meeting.

There was no financial report due to the town accountant being on vacation this week.

Bill Harrison updated the golf season so far:

- Water in the pond continues to be at a critical level.

- There has been 15 tankloads of water delivered, for which Pinecrest is being billed. The total is \$7850. Larry Wise made the motion to approve this amount and pay the bill, contingent upon the committee requesting reimbursement of water expenses with a town meeting article. Chryso Lawless seconded the motion. Voted yes: Wise, Thornton, Lawless, Moore, Sullivan. Voted no: Smith. Bob Smith stated that NE Golf is doing a great job under very challenging conditions.

- Harrison noted that it is very challenging to manage the amount of water needed against how often/much to water. The extremely hot weather will likely result in turf loss on greens and tees. He has ordered seed for fall for slice seeding and sodding.

- Business is up YTD but costs of fertilizer, gas, and labor have also increased.

James Keast gave a facilities report:

A well consultant reviewed the well operations and adjusted the valves. James researched the history of the well and found that it was drilled in 1914 to a depth of 376 feet and 25 gallons per minute. The cistern holds 15,000 gallons.

Future project considerations:

Drill a second well closer to the pond but the challenge is how deep it would have to be which makes it difficult to procure a price. A discussion followed on expanding the pond.

The wetlands delineation field work is complete and we should have a report in 2 weeks.

Cart storage building: there are incentive for solar and James will obtain pricing.

Deb Moore noted the need to prioritize the many projects we have: well/pond expansion, wetlands, cart storage and charging, and patio construction. James will obtain pricing for walkway and patio.

Deb Moore reported on the Select Board meeting at which we requested being able to use town water.

- We were denied use of town water to maintain the course and were advised to buy water.
- The Select Board wants Pinecrest to form a plan for water conservation.

Deb has researched water conservation solutions. There are companies that consult in this area and Bob Smith will follow up with them. She reported the following solutions from her research:

1. Remove trees from around the pond
2. Increase storage capacity with a deeper pond
3. Slow aquatic plant growth
4. Watershed management (dig ditches funneling water to the pond)
5. Sediment retention – involves digging a second pond lower than the first.
6. Install Liner and /or dredge pump

She noted that many golf courses are being asked to plan for water conservation with irrigation audits, moisture sensors, and drought tolerant turf.

Discussion followed on how to plan for water conservation to meet the Select Board's request.

The committee discussed the proposed location of the DPW facility adjacent to Pinecrest.

A motion was made by Chryso Lawless: The Golf Course Advisory Committee opposes locating the new DPW facility adjacent to Pinecrest. We will prepare and read a statement at the August 15 public forum. The statement will address the safety issues of this site and also the financial impact on Pinecrest. Motion seconded by Bob Smith and the motion passed unanimously.

Deb Moore noted that Anthony's costs are increasing and he may be looking for relief.

Larry Wise made a motion to adjourn and Bob Smith seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Submitted by:

Chryso Lawless