**Town of Westborough Recreation Department**

**Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes – June 30th, 2021**

Members Present: Recreation Commission Chair Earl Storey, Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland, Bill Clausen, Colleen Dowd, non-voting member Katie Welch, and Select Board representative Ian Johnson.

**5:00pm – Discussion/vote on conditions to put on Civic Kitchen’s liquor license**The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm, with good morale as the first in-person commission meeting in about 1.5 years. The discussion is around the license conditions for The Civic’s liquor license being expanded in order for them to be able to serve golfers at the Westborough Golf Course. Recreation Director Jenn Kirkland reiterated the fact that this is not a time where things such as the hours of operation can be negotiated. Ian Johnson noted that the restaurant lease would be up in 2023, and this is the time when those more nuanced negotiations would take place.

There was a sheet handed out with the conditions on it, which read as follows…

1. *Conspicuous signage shall be posted that clearly identifies licensed areas on the property from unlicensed areas. Licensed areas are inclusive of the approximately 2,500 square foot restaurant areas, the golf course grounds, and the interior “clubhouse” room which allows access from the bar area of the restaurant to the exterior of the building and the golf course grounds. Unlicensed portions of the premises include the “Pro Shop” portion of the building and the parking lot located on the premises.*
2. *The consumption of alcohol shall be permitted on the grounds of the golf course and in the “Clubhouse area” of the building only during the hours in which the golf course is open for golf play. Only golfers actively engaged in play shall be permitted to consume alcohol on the course.*
3. *Signage shall be posted stating that alcohol may not be removed from the licensed premises and that consumption of alcohol in the parking lot is expressly prohibited.*
4. *Any beverage cart or portable service area where alcohol is sold must have the appropriate warning signs posted per Chapter 138 Section 34d.*

Jack Negoshian, the current Golf Course manager agreed with these terms. None of the staff at the Westborough Golf Course would be able to sell. Groton has no conditions on their expansion of the liquor license in a similar situation, and views it as a mutual partnership. It was discussed that this will be a mutually beneficial partnership, with The Civic very open and receptive, and the ability for tournaments to have the non-golf events on the same site. The expansion expires on 12/31/2021, at which point the Recreation Commission will be able to evaluate the success of the partnership.

Ian also made the point that while the Select Board will be voting on it in the near future, the expansion of the license will need to be approved by the State. He indicated that they would try to get the process expedited as much as possible, but it’s not likely to be approved until August.

Bill Clausen asked about whether or not there will be any metrics from the restaurant to help measure the success. Ian noted that we could ask, and there was discussion about possibly putting QR Codes on the bar to a survey of whether a purchase was made by a golfer or a non-golfer. Jenn also noted that if the arrangement is unsuccessful, that there would be a public opinion that would get back to her directly or via the staff at the golf course.

Limitations were discussed about the partnership with the Civic. They are only open at noon through the summer, and are closed completely on Monday. Expanding these hours is possible in the future, but the Civic would need additional time to plan out staffing for such a change. Alcohol would also not be permitted on the putting green or in the parking lot.

There was mention of how the possibility of a sandwich and/or alcohol being available on-site would possibly boost the amount of 18 hole play vs just 9 hole. There was also a brief discussion about a location on the course to serve, however that would not be something set-up this golf season.

Colleen Dowd made a motion to vote to approve the conditions on the Civic’s Liquor license, and Bill Clausen seconded the motion. The vote passed 3-0. The meeting was adjourned.