

Mount Pleasant Golf Club

141 Staples Street

Lowell, Massachusetts 01851

www.mpgc.net

Established 1910

(978) 452-8228

Donna McMahon
President

Pat Donovan
Vice-President

Bob McLeod
Secretary

Sean Moriarty
Treasurer

Board of Directors Special Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

President Donna McMahon called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. with eight (8) board members and Superintendent Chuck Malatesta present, and Pat Donovan on his way.

Chuck briefly recapped the past winter and his normal routine of regularly walking the course, checking the greens, removing ice and spreading black sand as needed. Initially it appeared the course came through alright, just as it has for the last five years. In retrospect, there were two weeks of unseasonably warm weather in February followed by two consecutive nights in the low to mid-teens – the resulting thawing and freezing produced some pooling and drainage issues. This was complicated by cooler than normal spring temperatures which delayed the start of grass growth, so the extent of the damage was not immediately apparent. In the meantime Chuck continued to prepare for the season as he has for the last five years, in addition to working several ongoing projects (e.g., # 9 and # 4 tee boxes; tree work throughout the course; restoring the ensuing damage, especially between # 8 and # 9 fairways; etc.).

Pat Donovan entered the meeting at 5r:08 p.m.

As the damage to the greens became apparent, Chuck and his crew began an aggressive plan of seeding, top dressing, and fertilizing, interspersed with aeration and verti cutting; shutting down # 5 green gave it some much needed rest and time to recover; they have also been precise with pin placements, directing foot traffic away from damaged areas; next week there will be an additional verti cut and they will start plugging dead spots (taking hexagonal plugs from the nursery and the back of # 6 green); they will also continue to top dress and seed aggressively. Chuck said he is pleased with the noticeable growth thus far, and expects to be able to mow and roll all greens and return to seasonal conditions in 10 to 14 days.

The major issues are essentially slope and drainage related, and we can explore adjusting one or the other (or both) over time; also reseeding with bent grass seed and gradually replacing the poa grass. Installing sod is not a quick fix, as it requires ripping up, sodding, letting it take root, and then mowing (Vesper recently shut down August 1st to begin sodding greens for the following year). Chuck suggested buying three greens covers or tarps (not necessarily for the winter but spring) and acquiring a verti cut/seed machine (he's borrowed one from Vesper).

The board again emphasized that resources are available (e.g., he will exceed his budget for seed and fertilizer), that he should obtain quotes for three tarps, a verti cut machine, and drainage improvements; and should continue to get the course and greens in the best shape possible for the Cities but not jeopardize the long-term health of the greens.

Chuck wrapped up with a quick litany of other current projects: prepping for the Cities; patching and sodding mud spots on # 2, # 8 and # 3; keeping the 'rough' cut and clean; railing installed on # 9 tee steps; and finishing stone dust pathway between # 8 green and # 9 tee.

The board expressed their appreciation to Chuck and his crew for their efforts.

Chuck Malatesta left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Agreed, to allow the Thomas Livingston Memorial Tournament Committee to use the email blasts to publicize the event.

The Mount Pleasant Scholarship Committee will present awards on Wednesday, June 22 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the patio.

Motion by Ray Costello, seconded by Brian Gleason to adjourn. Vote unanimous - Motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob McLeod,
Secretary

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June 10, 2022

Dear Members,

Re Status of Greens – Follow Up Summary - DRAFT

As stated last week, the board of directors met with Superintendent Chuck Malatesta on Wednesday (6/8) to follow up on the status of the course, and the greens in particular.

As background Chuck recapped his winter routine of the last five years – regularly walking the course, checking greens, removing ice and spreading black sand as needed. Initially it appeared the course came through alright, and Chuck began to prepare for the season as he has for the last five years. In retrospect, there were two weeks of unseasonably warm weather in February followed by two consecutive nights in the low teens – the resulting thawing and freezing produced some pooling and drainage issues. This was complicated by a cool spring which delayed the start of grass growth, and the extent of the greens damage was not readily apparent.

Chuck and crew soon established an aggressive plan of seeding, top dressing, and fertilizing, interspersed with aeration and verti cutting, as previously detailed. # 5 green was shut down for rest and recovery, and pins were placed to direct traffic away from damaged areas. Next week they will start plugging dead spots (taking hexagonal plugs from the nursery and the back of # 6 green), and will continue to top dress and seed. Chuck is pleased with the noticeable growth thus far, and expects to mow and roll all greens and return to ‘normal’ conditions in 10 to 14 days.

Discussion began on preventive measures (e.g., as major issues are essentially slope and drainage related, and we will explore adjusting these over time; acquiring a verti cut seeder (Chuck has been borrowing Vesper’s) to continue reseeding and replacing the ‘poa grass’ with ‘bent grass;’ etc.).

The board again emphasized that resources are available (e.g., we will exceed the budget for seed and fertilizer), and he should continue to get the course and greens in the best shape possible for the Cities without jeopardizing the long-term health of the greens.

Sincerely,
Board of Directors
Mount Pleasant Golf Club