

Minor, Craig

From: Minor, Craig
Sent: Friday, June 07, 2019 9:07 AM
To: Minor, Craig
Subject: Tree at Indian Hill

From: Hinckley, Erik
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:56 AM
To: Minor, Craig <CMinor@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Subject: FW: FW: Tree at Indian Hill

Craig,
Would mind sharing this with your Open Space committee? They may or may not have an interest. Below is a letter from the groundskeeper at Indian Hill CC that discusses on site trees and their maintenance. The CC chairman also responded as well to inquire about preservation of mature trees, which I sent to the groundskeeper. Thanks.

-Erik-

From: JEFFREY ZELEK [<mailto:jzelek@cox.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 4:49 PM
To: Hinckley, Erik <EHinckley@NewingtonCT.Gov>; Alan Paskewich <alan.paskewich@sbcglobal.net>; Andreas Sadil <andreas.sadil@frontier.com>; John Bachand <jbachand1@cox.net>; John Casasanta <jacasasanta@hotmail.com>; Kathleen-Marie Clark <somepoodles@gmail.com>; Peter Manke <plmanke@att.net>; Philip Block <philipblock@snet.net>; Susan Gibbon <sgibbon@goodwin.com>
Subject: Re: FW: Tree at Indian Hill

Hi Erik,
On behalf of the commission please thank Mr. Weston for his quick and detailed response to the ad hoc commission inquiry that was made at the request of the public. Please ask Mr. Weston if the club is aware of what some consider historically significant trees on the property and if they are given any special consideration. Also ask if there are any invasive species measures. I agree this property is not under the jurisdiction of the Commission but as the towns Conservation Commission we can make such inquiries and encourage preservation and protection of our natural resources. Thank You, Jeff

On March 20, 2019 at 10:00 AM "Hinckley, Erik" <EHinckley@NewingtonCT.Gov> wrote:

See the email from the groundskeeper at Indian Hill. It appears the trees are being removed due to disease and safety concerns.

-Erik-

From: Marc Weston [<mailto:marceweston@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 9:54 AM
To: Hinckley, Erik <EHinckley@NewingtonCT.Gov>
Subject: Tree at Indian Hill

Tree removal around greens and tees has been a methodical process for the past 15 years. We have done so with the goal of improving turf health and playability under the advisement of the United States Golf

Association and continuing education with the Golf Course Superintendent Association of America. Removing trees and underbrush has added sunlight and air movement, which is necessary to provide a healthy playing surface.

Also, by removing certain trees, we have been able to significantly reduce the amount of pesticides used at Indian Hill. We have reduced our chemical budget by 22% yearly, over the past 15 years. Not only has this been great financial savings for the club, but it is also the right thing to do environmentally when caring for the 138-acre property.

On Monday January 23, 2017, I did a tree assessment at Indian Hill. I counted 337 Scots Pines (conifers) and 28 White Pines on the property. These trees were not originally planted at Indian Hill and were never meant to be a part of the original design of the course. These pines have been able to grow between fairways and in wooded areas due to maintenance neglect from the past.

Of the 337 Scots Pines remaining, 50 are already dead because of Diplodia Blight (a fungal disease) and need to be removed. The faster these pines are removed, the slower the disease will spread to the rest of the pines. We have never been able to keep up with the removal of these pines because all tree work is done in-house due to the expense of tree removal.

Concerning our various hardwood trees, I have found 27 in need of removal because of safety concerns due to rotting from insects, poor drainage, storm damage, or other environmental factors.

At this point, there is no tree replacement program in place. As the Scots Pines are removed there are specimen trees within the pines that become the focal point of the hole. Trees should be added in the future on an as-needed basis, not based on the opinion of "what should be there." I would recommend tree replacement to be based on recommendations from the United States Golf Association or a Certified Golf Course Architect. Trees should never be added to a golf course simply based on the opinion of a member or other individuals, without knowing the potential negative effects on playability or the future environmental impact it would have on greens and tees.

Here is the recommendation from Adam Moeller of the United States Golf Association on his June 23, 2010 visit to Indian Hill:

The topography on the golf course needs to be highlighted much more in the future! Trees certainly add interest, strategy, and have a positive environmental impact to golf courses. However, classic old golf courses were not built with trees in mind. Course officials need to realize that the design and topography of the course is excellent and the majority of the trees, primarily poor-quality conifers, are negatively impacting the golf course and detract from its character, as well as blocking desirable specimen trees. Aggressive tree removals over the next 5-10 years are strongly recommended, with the focus being to restore the golf course to its original design, improve growing environments, and highlight specimen trees.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Marc Weston, CGCS

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