



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Thomas F. Cooke - Director of Administrative Services

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AGENDA SUBMISSION FORM

1. **Date of submission:** April 9, 2014

2. **Date of Board Meeting:** April 16, 2014

3. **Individual or Entity making the submission:**

Gerard G. Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation

4. **Action requested of the Board of Selectmen (Acceptance of gift, creation of reserve, approval of contract, information only, etc. Be as specific as possible with respect to the desired action of the Board.):**

The Individual or Entity making the submission requests that the Board of Selectmen:

Approve the recommendations from the Simsbury Farms Complex Committee and Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission for a new Complimentary Greens Fee Policy and Fee Policy for Simsbury High School Golf Teams.

5. **Individual(s) responsible for submission (Please include complete contact information. The identified individual(s) should be prepared to present information to the Board of Selectmen at the Board Meeting.):**

Gerard G. Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation
860-408-4682
gtoner@simsbury-ct.gov

6. **Summary of Submission** (Include in your summary (i) relevant dates and timelines; (ii) parties involved; (iii) a description of financial terms and conditions specifically identifying the financial exposure/commitment of the Town of Simsbury; (iv) whether or not contracts, licenses and other legal documents have been reviewed by the Town's counsel; and (v) other information that will inform the Board of Selectmen's consideration of your submission. Include any additional information in an attached memorandum.):

At their regular meeting on March 27, the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission addressed the following recommendations of the Simsbury Farms Complex Committee:

1. After discussing the need for a Complimentary Greens Fee Policy for the Simsbury Farms Golf Course, the Complex Committee requested a survey of the complimentary golf policies of other municipal courses in Connecticut (att.). After reviewing the policy, the attached draft was prepared and unanimously approved for recommendation to the Culture, Parks and Recreation.
2. In response to the concern for generating additional revenues at the Simsbury Farms Golf Course, the Complex Committee prepared the attached proposal and approved by a vote of 5-1 for recommendation to the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission. The fee policy would take effect in 2015.

After discussion, both recommendations were approved unanimously for recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

7. **Description of documents included with submission** (All documents must be in final form and signed by the appropriate party.):

The following documents are included with this submission and attached hereto:

Proposed Complimentary Greens Fee Policy; Complimentary Golf Policy Survey; Proposed Simsbury High School Golf Team Fee Policy

Simsbury Farms Golf Course

Complimentary Green Fee Policy – (Proposed)

October 11, 2013

In recognition of proper protocol, and based on the generally accepted practices at nearly every other Connecticut golf facility (both public & private), the following policy on complimentary green fees is recommended:

The following groups or individuals are entitled to complimentary green fees:

- 1 Visiting PGA Professionals and Apprentices (PGA card to be presented).
- 2 Visiting GCSAA Superintendents (Card to be presented).
- 3 Simsbury Farms Golf Professional and his Assistant(s).
- 4 Simsbury Farms Golf Course Superintendent and his Assistant(s).
- 5 Simsbury Parks and Recreation Director.
- 6 Simsbury Parks and Recreation Supervisors.

The following groups or individuals may be entitled to complimentary green fees, at the discretion of the Simsbury Farms Head Professional:

- 1 Additional employees of the Simsbury Farms golf staff.
- 2 Additional employees of the Simsbury Farms golf course maintenance staff.
- 3 Guests of the Simsbury Farms Parks and Recreation Director.

Note: in all cases mentioned above, the payment of golf cart fees is mandatory, unless the Simsbury Farms Head Golf Professional decides a waiver is warranted.

Simsbury Farms Complex Committee

Simsbury High School

Fee Proposal:

- \$750 fee for Boys' Golf Team
- \$750 fee for Girls' Golf Team
- Both teams will continue to pay for range balls as needed
- A 25% discount on a Junior Season Pass for all members of the HS Teams that wish to buy one-I proposed this to John V, but did not hear back from him regarding his input and feasibility.

Use History:

The High School golf program consists of 27 girls and 13 boys (Varsity and JV boys combined) team. Both teams will practice daily, weather permitting, at Simsbury Farms. Per John Verrengia, the girls tend use the range more, and may send 6 girls out to play 2 or 3 holes. They rarely, if ever, will play 9 holes. The boys use about 3.5 tee times daily. In 2012 the teams played a combined 13 home matches, and in 2014, played 14 home matches. To date, the teams do not pay any greens fees, but have been paying for range balls as needed. Per John, in 2012 the girls' team spent about \$1,000 and the boys' teams spent about \$400. Per Dane Street, in 2013, the girls' team spent \$880 and the boys' team spent \$285 on rang balls. The 100 token range keys are distributed to teams as needed and Simsbury Farms is reimbursed at the end of the season.

Fee Rationale:

Given the use of the course, range, and practice green, it is recommended that a fee of \$750 be assessed to each of the teams this year to help cover the cost of facility and course maintenance. It is also recommended that each of the teams continue to pay for range balls as needed.

HS Students current Play to Pay fees:

- All students pay a participation fee of \$175 per season.
- Hockey players and swimmers pay an additional \$200 per season

Other Schools Arrangments:

- Westminster \$6k - Hop Meadow for unlimited daily course and range use as well as matches
- Miss Porters \$4k - Farmington Woods for matches and daily range use
- Enfield HS \$5k - Cedar Knob for play only - no range
- Avon HS \$4k budget-Blue Fox and some practices at ACC.
- Ethel Walker - Tower Ridge? (info from Dee at Canton)
- Granby HS - Did not hear back
- Canton HS \$3k - Tower Ridge
- Weston HS- Aspetuck. No charge. Limited range. Limited use for matches (Mondays)

Opinion from Dane Street, AD at Simsbury High School:

- Dane posted the question to other HS ADs (via the CAIC website) and did find that many pay a small use fee
- He agrees that a small rental fee would be feasible
- He would have to directly pass any increase or fee on to the participants like they do for hockey or swimming
- He did feel that imposing a change would reflect badly on the "image" of the course with the town and the team members and their families.
- Dane has also indicated that if we impose any additional fees, he will be obligated to "shop around" for other arrangements to find what suits the program best.

Municipal Golf Course Survey

Complimentary Golf Policies

Simsbury	Longshore - Westport	Hunter - Meriden	Stanley - New Britain	Rockledge - W. Hartford	Smith Richardson - Fairfield	Western Hills Waterbury
High School teams/coaches	HS teams/coaches	HS teams/coaches	HS teams/coaches	HS teams/coaches	HS teams/coaches	HS teams/coaches
Golf Pro, Staff	Golf Pro, Staff	Golf Pro, Staff	Golf Pro, Staff	Golf Pro's Decision	Golf Pro	Golf Pro, Staff
			Staff - min. 10 hrs.wk non-prime time		Staff - pays reduced cart fee	
Superintendent, staff	Superintendent, staff	Superintendent, staff	Superintendent, staff - no reservations	Golf Pro's decision	Superintendent	Superintendent
Park and Rec. Dir.	Park and Rec. Dir., guest	Park and Rec. Dir.	Park and Rec. Dir.	Golf Pro's decision	Staff - weekdays-no carts surcharge - \$3	Staff - pays Park and Rec. Dir. guest
Park Supt.	Dept. Supervisors, guest	Other Staff			Park and Rec. Dir. decision	
Visiting Pro's	Visiting Professionals	Visiting Pro's	Visiting Professionals	Golf Pro's decision	Visiting Professionals	Visiting Pro's
Visiting Supt.'s	Visiting Supt.'s	Visiting Supt.'s	Visiting Supt.'s	Golf Pro's decision	Visiting Supt.'s	Visiting Supt.'s