



Stonington Country Club

MEMBER UPDATE

Golf Course Superintendent Notes

January 10, 2023

Welcome to 2023 SCC Members! I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and the beginning of the New Year.

The weather has allowed our team to make significant progress on our winter project list. There is no frost in the ground which does mean we are dealing with softer conditions than we would like, but the areas that do become damaged will be seeded and repaired in the Spring.

The tree removal list as recommended by golf course architect, Ron Forse, is nearly completed. Our contracting company has two trees left to remove and they will return when the temperatures turn colder. Our team has roughly 8-10 trees left to remove. Once all the trees have been taken down, we will continue to remove the log length pieces that are currently on holes 2, 3, 11, 13 and 14. The last piece of that project is to grind all the stumps and fill the holes with topsoil and seed. The trees that have been targeted for removal will greatly help in the quality of the turf in those areas.

Zak, our bunker subcontractor, has been making excellent progress on the bunker renovations with assistance from our two foreman, Topi and Felix. The fairway bunkers closest to the green on 10, two greenside bunkers on 2 and the 2 fairway bunkers on three are finished. The bunkers on 2 and 3 both need to be sodded. It's currently too wet to cut or lay sod right now, we are hoping in a week or so with colder temperatures we can finish those areas. Sod can be installed as long as it is not frozen, however, it will not begin rooting until we have consistent growing temperatures in the Spring. The sod will need time to knit together in the Spring similar to the tee boxes that were previously leveled. The last two bunkers to complete are the bunkers on the left side of 3 approach.

The greens have been top-dressed heavily once and the rain has already washed in a good portion of the sand. There is still sand remaining in the Academy parking lot, and we will spread the rest of that on the greens to cover them again. The sand is a great way to protect the crown of the plants to prevent winter kill.

Double-row irrigation on hole 18 will begin, weather dependent, on approximately January 16th.

One of the last major projects is to level the tees that were identified in the fall. The plan will be to focus on this work once the bunker and tree renovations have finished. It has been a very productive winter; with some continued good weather we should be able to finish most of these projects before the start of the season.

Wayne Lagasse, CGCS
Golf Course Superintendent