

February 13, 2019

To: Halifax Country Club Members

From: Tommy Daniel – Greens Committee Chairman

Subject: Review of 2018 and updates regarding short term and long term golf course maintenance and improvement projects and Member Responsibilities

Rough:

William Puryear and his staff made tremendous strides improving our rough this past year. In addition to our herbicide program to reduce our crabgrass and weed problems, we also implemented a rough fertilization program. The results were obvious. We have a thicker more consistent rough and if weather cooperates (i.e. rain) we should see more improvement in 2019.

With all the good things that we have seen in our rough, there are some negatives a few members have complained about. We have gotten complaints that the rough is too difficult to play from and has resulted in more lost balls. **To address these issues I am going to have William and his staff create a primary and secondary cut of rough. The primary rough will consist of the first 20 to 24 feet beyond the fairway being cut approximately 1 inch shorter than the remaining rough (secondary cut). The primary rough will be cut twice each week and the secondary rough will be cut once weekly (this is during the active growing season).** Remember it is acceptable for foursomes, groups etc. to allow themselves the ability to improve their lie in the rough if **everyone is in agreement**. Golf is a game meant to be enjoyed! This does not apply to tournament play or in groups/games that it has not been agreed upon.

Objective: Create a primary and secondary cut of rough on the course. Continue spraying and fertilization program for the rough. Establish Bermuda grass on areas of rough where trees were removed (holes 4, 13, 15, 9).

Greens:

This past year was an exceptionally difficult year for maintaining our bentgrass greens. The record amount of rainfall in 2018 required our staff to treat our greens constantly with fungicide to prevent/treat disease promoted by these conditions. Again, William and his crew did an exceptional job keeping our greens in good condition during these very difficult conditions.

Our greens did experience some issues with crabgrass and goose grass, much of which was due to high rainfall washing out our chemicals used to prevent these grasses. Hopefully, 2019 will see more normal rainfall and moderate temperatures and these grasses will be better controlled.

One issue we wanted to address with the greens was to prevent new encroachment of Bermuda grass. I feel we did accomplish this goal in 2018 and may have reduced some of the Bermuda in our green. This will continue to be a focus in 2019.

Objective: Control/eliminate Bermuda grass from our greens.

Collars surrounding greens:

The collars on most of our greens did improve in 2018. However, the collars around #10 and #18 did not show any improvement and may have deteriorated somewhat. In 2019, it is our plan to completely sod/seed/sprig the areas surrounding these greens. We have opened the area around #10 green to increase sunlight and air movement and it is now ready to be renovated. The area surrounding #18 green still has more clearing to do to improve sunlight and airflow. (see Tree section of this document)

Objective: Continue to improve the collars around our greens with special focus on #10 and #18.

Tees:

There was very little accomplished on tee boxes in 2018 other than removing trees surrounding #5 tee box. In the coming year it is our plan to renovate #5 tee and #10 tee boxes.

Objective: Focus on renovation of #5 and #10 tee boxes. Long term we would like to make all of our tee boxes more level with good drainage and have plush grass.

Trees:

The most dramatic change to our golf course in 2018 was removal of trees this past fall and winter. Again William and his staff did a great job cleaning out problem trees on the course. It should be noted that a large number of trees were cut down at no cost to HCC because of their proximity to power lines. This was a large savings for the Club. Major areas impacted were around 10, 13, and 15 greens and removal of trees on #9, #6/#14 and #4. Opening up these areas is going to make a tremendous difference in establishing grass in areas that are primarily bare dirt, rocks and roots. The areas around #13 and #15 have already been reseeded with a temporary seed blend. The objective in all areas where trees have been removed is to establish Bermuda grass.

The stumps have been removed from most areas that trees were taken down. Stumps inside wooded areas will be removed as time permits.

The following areas (in order of priority) will have trees removed in 2019: (1). Trees surrounding #18 green and #10 tee box (2). Trees off the right side of the fairway on #7 (e.g. to the left of the ditch on the hill approaching #7 green) (3). Other miscellaneous trees around the course.

Objective: Continued removal of problem trees that inhibit grass growth and detract from the appearance and playability of our course.

Bunkers:

Many may have noticed that the bunker of #15 has been removed and has been reseeded in the past few weeks. It is our plan to remove the first bunker on the right side of #6 and the bunker to the left of #18 green. The bunker on #6 rarely comes into play and renovation would be costly. The bunker to the left of the green on #18 is poorly designed and requires a large amount of reworking after almost any rain due to its location. The #18 bunker will be filled, leveled and made into Bermuda grass rough when the collar of #18 green is renovated. In addition, we are looking at building a retaining wall in front of #18 green as close to the pond as is feasible. This wall will allow us to make the area in front of the green more level and easier/safer to mow. We will also be able to establish Bermuda grass in this area and make it more player friendly for shots landing short of the green (prevent balls from rolling back into

pond). It should be noted that in the past few years we have had to pull our mowers out of the pond on several occasions due to the severity of the slope.

Objective: Remove problem bunkers and enhance appearance and playability of our course

MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITIES

In 2018 we removed all roped areas from our course. This improved the appearance of our course and saved us time and money when mowing/maintaining these areas. In addition, we added many “No Cart Signs” and placed cart directional signs to indicate desired cart flow away from greens.

Most have notice that the signs and direction arrow have greatly improved the turf in areas that where carts were causing damage around tee boxes and greens! I would like to thank our members for following these signs and being good stewards of our course. However, we still have a “few” members who find it difficult at times to follow these signs. I would ask everyone to continue to be diligent in observing these signs and encourage those you see not following the signs to please be respectful of our course and what we are trying to accomplish.

Thanks again to all members and guests for observing the signs and taking ownership in doing their part to keep our course in great shape.

Please remember these cart rules:

- Follow all cart instruction signs
- Keep carts on paths whenever possible.
- Follow directional arrows in fairways
- DO NOT pull carts off cart paths around greens and tee boxes (i.e #11 tee box, between 17 green and cart path)
- Keep carts out of all low wet areas
- Keep carts on **path only** when designated due to wet conditions (its cart path only for a reason)
- **New Request for 2019: Use 90 degree rule when Bermuda grass is dormant (late Fall through early Spring).**
- If you see an area that in fairway that has very little grass, do not drive in that area
- If you have special needs please let us know and we will provide a handicap flag for your cart

Please remember:

Sand your divots if your riding a cart in the fairway (sand bottles are available on every cart and can be filled at #2 tee box and #14 tee box).

Sand your divots on tee boxes

Repair your ball mark and another one if you see one on a green

Rake bunkers

Remember this is OUR course, please do your part to help us maintain it!