



## **DIRECTOR OF GOLF MAINTENANCE REPORT**

### **November, 2022**

The season is quickly coming to a close. Turf growth has slowed considerably and I estimate we are over halfway through leaf removal. Once leaf removal is done for the year, we will begin our winter project lists at the two courses. Fairway Hills priorities this off-season are repairing the drainage on #5 green complex, tree trimming around the course, and removal of railroad ties used as curbing. Hobbits Glen priorities this off-season are going to be drainage on tee boxes that constantly stay wet, the continuation of tree trimming around the perimeter of the course with a lift truck and the main one will be the renovation of the chipping green that Tyler talked about earlier, and of course the bunker renovation on holes 1-6.

I want to use this report to discuss the state of the turf industry as a whole, in terms of supply chains and availability of resources. While it has been some time now that everyone has returned to daily routines since the pandemic, we are still seeing the outfall from this. While things are slowly getting better, there are still some extreme wait times on parts and equipment. As many of you have noticed, the light on hole number 7 has not worked properly all year. This was a part that was ordered back in March and has still not arrived. When it comes to equipment, most companies are on a waiting list with a time to deliver of 12-18 months.

With all of this going on, it makes the process of Capital Improvements significantly more difficult. In the past, we would decide what we were in need of each year, set up a couple of Demos, send the product out to bid, and then purchase. The entire process from beginning to end would take about a month and we would have our new piece of equipment. The process now has changed in the fact that we have to order the equipment so far in advance that when it does become available we are not sure if we will still be able to purchase. This could be due to a couple of factors. First, if a piece of equipment we are in line for becomes available earlier than expected we will most likely move forward and get it when it's available which may push something else out. Second, none of the dealers are willing to hold the price of equipment for that long of time, meaning that if we get in line for something and when it is available the price has increased by 25% we may not have the funds for that. Finally, there are always some unexpected projects that come up that may cause a hit to our Capital funds. If something unexpected arises, that may also remove upcoming purchases.

On a positive note, most of these delays are on the equipment side, there are still plenty of projects that can be completed without delay of 1-1.5 years. This is where we have to get creative. We can try to move forward with some of these projects while keeping some money available in the case that something becomes ready. Some of these projects that you will see us



moving forward with are the bunker renovation that should be starting very soon. There are some drainage issues on the tees that we plan on repairing over the winter, and we are in the process of getting pricing for a Driving range upgrade, where we will have artificial turf installed in place of individual matts.

Along with both Tyler and Joey, I think we had a very successful year at the golf courses and continued to see improvements. After a very cold and difficult spring the summer was great without many weather issues and as I am writing this on November 10th, it is 64 degrees outside and the course is packed. Thank you to everyone for your support throughout the year and we look forward to continuing our improvements during the winter and into next year.

*Sincerely,*

Patrick Mather

Director of Golf Maintenance