

1966

APRIL: The quest to obtain the land that would become the Ridgefield Golf Course officially began in 1966. First Selectman Leo Carroll wrote two letters on April 5th of that year requesting that “as soon as possible”, Arthur Carnall, the Chairman of the Selectman’s Appraisal Committee, should provide appraisals of 2 separate parcels of land being offered to the Town.

One was for 40 acres owned by members of the Leighton family. The other was for 50 acres owned by Mrs. Dubois. These letters were evidently issued very shortly after (the same day in fact) the Town Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z) voted to recommend “taking the necessary steps” to acquire the Leighton property. ([1966-1](#) and [1966-2](#)).

Daniel McKeon, Chairman of P&Z, cites Carroll’s letters of April 5 and Feb 8. We don’t have a copy of that Feb 8 letter, but this reference is the earliest we have to the conversations that were occurring about the Town compiling a large tract of land in the Ridgebury section of Town. The use of that land was not stated in those documents, but a letter one month later makes clear the vision taking shape.

MAY: First Selectman Carroll writes to the National Golf Foundation specifically asking what it takes to construct and operate a municipal Golf Course. ([1966-4](#))

JULY: In what would become a conversation of long duration, Attorney Richard Hanna writes to First Selectman Carroll that he wants to investigate all possibilities for the land in the Estate of Joseph Dhly as he is getting ready to close out the Estate. ([1966-5](#))

AUGUST: First Selectman Carroll writes to Mrs. Littlefield in Massachusetts expressing interest in acquiring 5.7 acres “for future use”. Evidently that parcel is necessary to make the Dhly parcel a functional piece of the whole (should that come to pass), as it bisects part of the Dhly acreage being eyed by the Town.

Carroll responds to Hanna’s July letter with a hand drawn sketch of the Dhly land the Town is interested in , and how it intertwines with the Littlefield parcel. ([1966-7](#) and [1966-8](#)) Included in this correspondence: a straightforward statement that this land is in fact intended for use as a Golf Course.

Just two weeks later, Hanna replies that Mrs. Dhly is not interested now, but leaves the door open to a future change of mind.

OCTOBER: Not letting the matter wane, First Selectman Carroll again writes to Dhly’s attorney, this time offering possible methods to acquire the land - either through a “friendly agreement” or through an Option to Purchase. ([1966-10](#))

NOVEMBER: The Leighton family offers the Town a 3-month option to purchase their 40 acres for \$45,000.