

## 1967

**FEBRUARY**: The Town receives word that the new owner of the Dubois property (James Lawrence) is willing to offer the Town - until May 1 - an Option to Purchase his 50 acres at a price "very favorable to the Town". ([1967-1](#))

**MARCH**: In what may be viewed today as a negotiating tactic, the attorney for James Lawrence writes the Town to convey that Mr. Lawrence will be out of the country for much of April. The letter includes a subtle reminder that the Option will expire shortly thereafter. ([1967-2](#)) (We subsequently learn in the 1969 records that Lawrence sold the parcel to Hans Kraus. Evidently he couldn't wait for the Town to act).

Not much is documented for the rest of 1967, until two important events occur in **DECEMBER**:

First, on December 7, the Board of Selectmen voted to appoint Don Brooks to "serve on a Committee to study the feasibility of a municipal golf course for Ridgefield". Mr. Brooks was notified by a very short, straightforward letter from First Selectman Woodcock, newly elected just one month earlier to the Seat vacated by Leo Carroll who retired after 10 years in office. ([1967-3](#))

Looking back, this was a watershed moment in the Course. Don Brooks proved to be an excellent choice for the task - taking the reins and expanding the concepts set forth until this point. Despite his relative youth, he came to the job with significant experience in the golf world. As a photo-journalist for Golf Digest magazine in the early 1960s, he covered five US Opens, one US Women's Open and one US Amateur. In 1966 he was hired as an Assistant to Joe Dey, Executive Director of the USGA. Don's enthusiasm, imagination and tireless efforts for the project (and the Town) knew few bounds, as voluminous correspondence of his in the coming years will attest.

Second, on December 19, the Leighton family once again offered to sell their parcel to the Town, this time with increased terms: a 60-day Option to sell 40 acres for \$50,000; \$5,000 more than their offer just 13 months earlier, in November, 1966. As a result of a phone conversation documented by a hand-written note dated Feb 28, 1968 on that same offer letter, the Option was extended to April 7, 1968. ([1967-4](#))

It becomes clear that time is a factor in the land acquisition process - the longer the Town waits, the more expensive it may become. Somewhere in the minds of those involved, a clock must have begun ticking.