

1968

The record of documents for 1968 is slim compared to other years, but it is clear work was continuing and discussions were taking place - primarily to get all the pieces in place to make this idea a reality.

FEBRUARY: In a Feb 22 letter to the Board of Selectmen, The Golf Course Study Commission requests the Town obtain three specific parcels of land “for the purpose of constructing a Golf Course in the near future”. They ask the request to be considered “urgent” and want such a proposal brought forth at the next Town meeting - “preferably in early March”. (1968-1)

JUNE: The Leighton family writes to the Board of Selectmen for a third time, reiterating their Dec '67 offer of an Option for the Town to purchase their 40 acres for \$50,000. This time the Option is good for 30 days. (1968-2)

It's curious that each of the 3 letters from the Leightons start off with similar wording. It appears they were exhibiting patience, but one wonders what their internal family conversations on the matter may have been. They can easily be forgiven, though, since the first mention of a possible sale to the Town was April, 1966, and more than 2 years later, there was still no move to closure on the parcel:

Wording about Town interest in land in general:

- November 24, 1966 - “We have learned of the Town of Ridgefield being interested in getting options on land for future use of the town”

Wording about Town interest in their land specifically:

- December 19, 1967 - “We have learned of the Town of Ridgefield being interested in obtaining an option on our land”
- June 10, 1968 - “We have learned the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut is interested in obtaining an option on our land”

Their repeated offers to sell to the Town may have been driven by a belief that there was limited usefulness of the parcel to any other buyer. It is a long, narrow strip that has a swamp in the middle of it. Their parcel may be a bit wider, but in essence it will become the 16th, 17th and 18th holes. (This is best shown on a hand-drawn map later published in the Ridgefield Press in 1971 when the Town was looking to acquire additional land around the area). (1971-15a)

The swamp between 16 and 17 likely made the whole tract of limited value to any potential purchaser other than the Town. As the work over the ensuing years will reveal, even the Town encounters trouble trying to make this section of land workable.