

1972

In 1972 the work began in earnest. The Records reveal an effort replete with challenges.

JANUARY: In a reply to Fazio re: Contract submission, Don Brooks conveys that there are some competing interests on the Land that must be managed in some fashion. First, some “conservationists” want to preserve 15 acres of the site in its natural state. Second, there is a group that wants to set aside land for other recreational uses; ideally a baseball diamond, football field, and tennis courts. More importantly, Brooks reveals the Mopus Brook feeds into the Town’s water reservoir, so there are concerns about impacting the Water Purity within. ([1972-5](#))

FEBRUARY: After a site inspection by Fazio and the Committee, dredging the Swamp and building a water reservoir take center stage ([1972-9](#) and [1972-10](#))

MARCH: The March 13 Committee meeting dealt with a large number of issues; tree clearing, swamp sizing (no one knew exactly how big or deep the swamp was), Construction bidders, floating a Bond Issue, revisions to Fazio’s contract, interest in the Superintendent and Head Pro positions, and even water levels during a dry spell. Also mentioned for the first time: potentially naming the “Course itself, or some area of the golf course DHLY Park” ([1972-16](#)).

Shortly after, the Ridgebury Congregational Church (RCC) writes to convey concern that access to the Course will be along Old West Lane (now Canterbury Lane), disturbing the tranquil nature of their campus. ([1972-19](#)) First Selectman McLinden replies it appears the access will be through the Dhly land but potential future access via Old West Lane is not ruled out. ([1972-20](#))

The month ends with an update published in the Ridgefield Press, recapping a Public Hearing. In short, much of the discussion was positive about land management issues. ([1972-22](#))

OTHER 1972 HIGHLIGHTS OF NOTE:

([1972-23](#)) Brooks strongly argues against Parks & Rec taking over Golf Course management

([1972-25](#)) Mrs. Dhly is notified the Committee approved the name “Dhly-Ridge Golf Course”

([1972-34](#)) Contract awarded to Nemo D’Agostino for Golf Course construction

([1972-35](#)) Fully executed Design Contract with signatures of Tom and George Fazio

([1972-37](#)) Committee wonders if the Course may be “too difficult for the average golfer”

([1972-45](#)) July - the Committee charges Richard Gracy with Abandonment of his Tree clearing responsibility. He left the work site during a meeting with Fazio and neither he nor his men have returned. Gracy felt ‘clearing’ meant cutting down only, not removing brush stubble and pulling tree stumps. The lack of a defined contract results in a prolonged legal fight in the months to come.

([1972-46](#)) Seeding is slated to begin the third week of August, but gets delayed to Fall ([1972-48](#))

([1972-50](#)) Cost concerns of the project - despite operating within an ‘austere’ budget