Ground broken at ex-sand pit

SCITUATE, Mass. — Ground has been broken and eyes are set on the Widow’s Walk golf course project at a former sand and gravel pit here on the Massachusetts coast. The Michael Hurdzan-designed muni will be one of the most closely observed course construction projects in recent years.

Last year, a series of conferences of environmentalists and golf course industry representatives selected Widow’s Walk as one of two projects that would demonstrate the viability of “environmental reclamation” golf courses — the idea that a golf course can enhance and improve a piece of abandoned land.

A no-pesticide, fertilizer-free zone will be enforced within a 400-foot radius of the town well, which is on the property.

International Golf Construction Co. will build the course, which will meander across the former Boston Sand and gravel site. The site has been vacant since 1975.

Corcoran Jennison Hospital Co. of Boston, operators of Ocean Edge golf course in Brewster, Mass., and Glen Ellen in Millis, have been awarded a five-year, $1.5 million contract to manage the complex.

Bank of Boston has underwritten a film and video history of the site before, during and after construction. The video will include aerial photography of the site after, during and after construction. The course is expected to officially open in 1997.

Palmer Design comes to New England

AMESBURY, Mass. — Arnold Palmer’s first signature course in New England will be on the rolling fields of the former Woodsom Farm site near the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border.

Palmer Course Design Co. and a Florida-based construction firm are part of a team led by Championship Golf Enterprises of Larchmont, N.Y., which was recently chosen to build and develop the course. The town of Amesbury will seek a 40-year lease on the 223-acre section of the town-owned farm with Championship Golf. The selection marked the end of several years of discussion and false starts over plans to build a course on land the town bought in 1988 to prevent residential or commercial development.

The layout is expected to be an upscale, daily-fee course with greens fees starting at about $35. The course should open in 1998.

Mt. Greylock project goes begging

ADAMS, Mass. — The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is still looking for development proposals for a 1,063-acre recreational/residential site — including a possible golf course — at the base of Mt. Greylock.

Massachusetts officials recently issued a revised Request for Development Proposals (RFDP) for the Mt. Greylock site. The RFDP is based on an expanded and fully-approved master plan for the Greylock Center that now allows for a conference center, up to 27 holes of golf and residential development.

Greylock Center is intended to showcase the ideal of sustainable development and management techniques and to promote regional economic development in Massachusetts, in this case, the northwestern part of the state.

One of the most significant revisions includes the allowance of residential units, the increase in the potential number of golf holes to 27 and the idea of time—interval ownership. The deadline for submissions of development proposals to the Department of Environmental Management is 3 p.m. on May 22, 1996.

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