

Pine Tree State adds new Walker-designed layout

SCARBOROUGH, Maine—Nonesuch River Golf Club has opened for its first full season of play. The new 203-acre facility, located outside Portland, features an 18-hole championship course, 2,500 square-foot clubhouse and practice range.

Developer Daniel Hourihan, together with a group of investors, recently took over ownership of Nonesuch River. The 6,300-yard, par 70

layout was designed by Tom Walker of Golf Design Studios in Palm Beach, Fla. Walker is responsible for a number of courses throughout the country including Hilton Head (S.C.) National and Black Moor in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Course construction at Nonesuch River began in early 1996. The course features bentgrass fairways and greens.

DEP denies Conn. town's bid

BLOOMFIELD, Conn. — The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has denied the town's request to build a \$6.9 million municipal course at Wintonbury Reservoir, according to *The Hartford Courant*.

Town Manager Louie Chapman had asked the DEP to allow the town to lease the 247-acre parcel

instead of land it has leased for recreational purposes since 1969 in the Blue Hills Reservoir.

But DEP Commissioner Arthur Rocque Jr. recently denied the town's request. "I do not believe that development of a golf facility on the subject property would be appropriate," Rocque said in his letter to Chapman.

Rocque told the *Hartford Courant* he denied the request for three reasons. The land is predominantly wetland, its wildlife has been managed by his department and it is located in flood plains.

The town's recreation director, Harold Barenz, and Chapman met with DEP officials before the November referendum in which voters approved borrowing money to develop a course at Wintonbury. They said they did not get the impression that the DEP would deny the proposal.

Chapman said he hopes to meet with Rocque again to ask him to reconsider the land swap. Rocque said he is willing to listen.

If the town instead wants to build the course at the Blue Hills Reservoir, the land it leases from the DEP, it should consult with DEP officials first, Rocque said. The leased land is 30 percent wetlands, Rocque said.

Town officials say they are already considering making a town-owned parcel at Samuel Wheeler Reed Park into the golf course. The change would mean that the town has to return to voters to seek approval for building the course on the 159-acre parcel.

Mass. muni set to start building

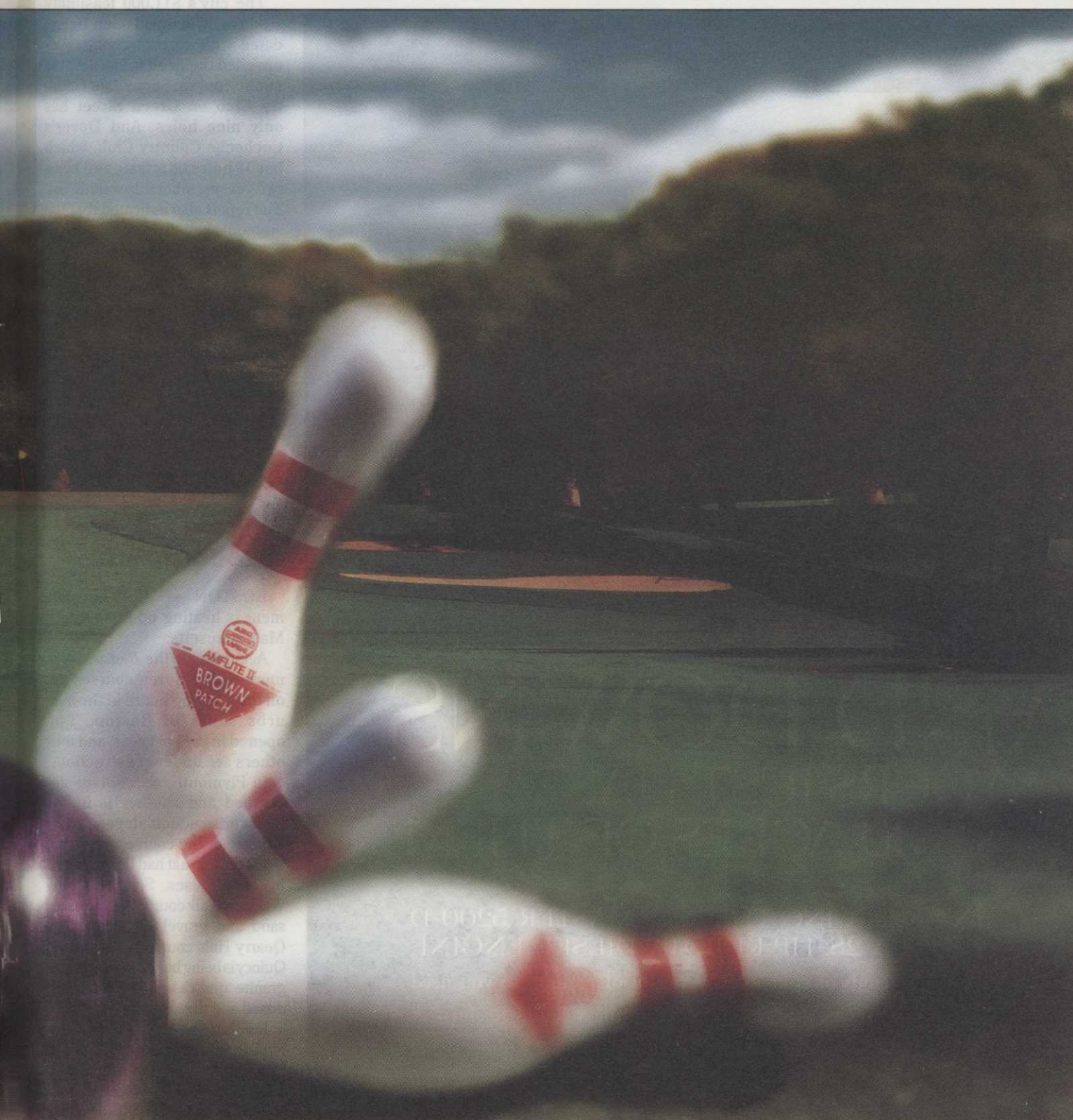
PEABODY, Mass. — Legislation recently passed in the state House and Senate that will allow the city to establish an enterprise fund to make a proposed 18-hole golf course self-supporting.

Construction on the \$5.5 million track could begin as early as this fall, with a possible opening in the summer of 2000.

The design team Cornish, Silva and Mungeam, has completed the schematic design. The final design, including plans for greens and tees, should be completed this summer. The firm will coordinate permitting, oversee the bid process, supervise construction and provide bid documents for the selection of a contractor.

The city signed a lease with Eastman Gelatine for part of the land to build on. Additional funding has been generated from a \$500,000 grant from the Department of Conservation Services.

The course is expected to host 50,000 rounds bring in more than \$1 million a year in revenue after the first five years.



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