



## Proposed R.I. track runs into Revolutionary problem

PORTSMOUTH, R.I. — British golf course developer Peter DeSavary's plan to build an 18-hole links-style golf course and luxury lodging on a 250-acre site here has run smack into 18th-century history.

DeSavary wants to build the new facility for the Carnegie Club, the group which owns and

operates the elegant but remote Skibo Castle and its 7,500-acre grounds — including an 18-hole golf course — in northern Scotland. Skibo Castle has hosted a growing list of political, sports and entertainment celebrities, including U.S. President Bill Clinton, for golf, gourmet dining and luxury lodging and a host of

other activities from hunting and hiking to archery and overnight camping.

The Rhode Island site proposed for a new golf course and lodging, however, includes land where American forces battled the British troops on Aug. 29, 1778. The site of the Battle of Rhode Island has remained rela-

tively untouched for more than two centuries, according to the *Providence Journal-Bulletin*.

Some stone walls, which shielded Colonial military forces and newly freed slaves who also fought the British, are still standing at the site.

Richard Greenwood, a project review coordinator for the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, has

called the site, "a rare survivor." Preservationists have pushed for an independent archeologist to survey the property and outline its most historically sensitive sites on the former battlefield.

The course proposal has cleared its first major hurdle, receiving a special permit from the local Zoning Board of Review. DeSavary told the board that most of the land would be left in its current state.

For the golf course project to move forward, it will still need the approval of the Army Corps of Engineers and Rhode Island's Coastal Resources management Council, both of which seek advice from the preservation commission.

## Course planned for R.I. estate

NORTH COVENTRY, R.I. — A private, 18-hole course has been proposed on the grounds of the massive Gruber Estate.

The estate, home of the late industrialist Edward Gruber, is owned by TPT Partners. TPT has said it would like to develop a course or a retirement community.

The proposed course would take in the entire Gruber Estate. That includes Edgewood Estates, 242 acres on the south side of Route 724 and the prime 16,000-square-foot Georgian Mansion, along with Bellewood Estates, 27 acres on the north side of Route 724 and the 6,000-square-foot Colonial Mansion. A clubhouse would be constructed at the Georgian Mansion.

Construction on the course could start this spring with completion by June 1999. Real estate developer Charles Tornetta is one of the principals of TPT.

## Golf plan set to land in Bay State

WEYMOUTH, Mass. — A plan to convert part of the decommissioned South Weymouth Naval Air Station to a shopping mall has won approval from Town Meeting voters.

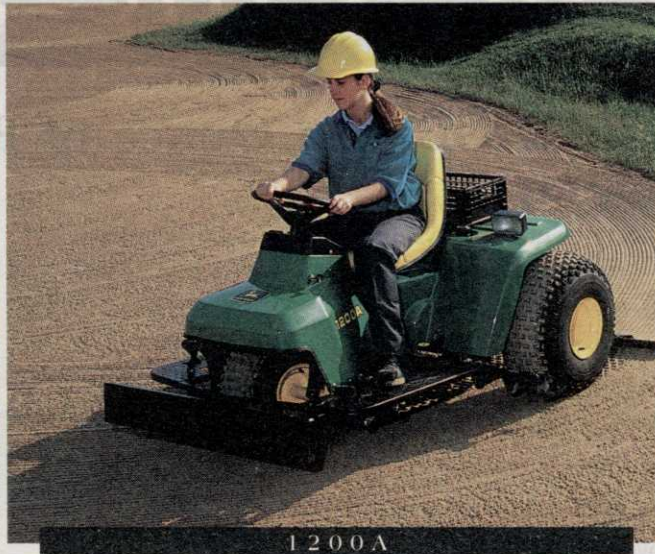
Residents in neighboring Rockland and Abington still must approve the proposal, which also calls for a golf course, housing for the elderly and open space.

The three towns must agree on a plan for the 1,400-acre site by June 30, or lose much of their control over the site's future to the Pentagon and other federal agencies. Approval is expected in both Rockland and Abington by the end of March.

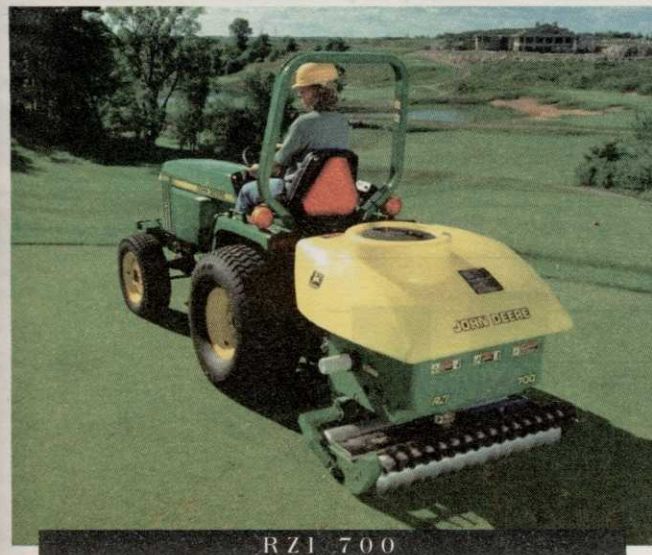
The planned anchor for the development is a 1.5 million-square-foot entertainment-themed outlet mall, the brainchild of Mills Corp. of Arlington, Va.



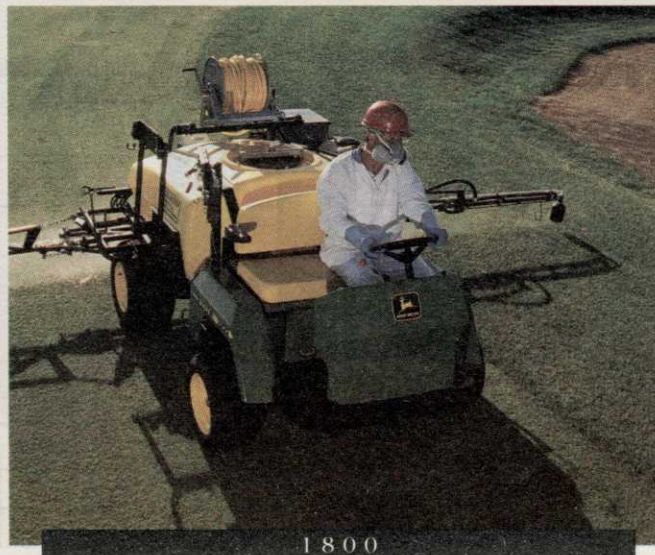
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