

## ENERGY IN THE AIR

In terms of going green, many clubs are looking down, working on soil and water conservation; in Melrose, Mass., they're looking up.

The Melrose Park Commission is starting a feasibility study, funded in part by the state, to determine whether wind energy can be harvested at the best possible place in town for a wind turbine: near the No. 11 and No. 18 holes at the Mount Hood Golf Course.

"It was pretty much the only location in town where it would work," says David Shakespeare, chairman of the Melrose Energy Commission. "The initial idea was to power the clubhouse and security lighting."

But as technology has improved and a larger turbine is plausible, the plan for the club to power itself grew into a contribution to the town.

"Originally it just seemed kind of cool if we could do it," says Shakespeare. "But as we looked at it, the economics works out a lot better, and we started thinking, 'Maybe it makes sense to maybe power some schools as well.'"

In addition to the clubhouse and security lighting, the turbine project, with a large 900kw tower, could provide power for six schools in Melrose.

Though an earlier test showed the course with too little wind to be feasible, site assessments have confirmed enough wind at the location. One FAA study checking interference with airport radio communication later, Melrose is ready to move on to the feasibility study through the Commonwealth Wind Incentive Program, offered by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. The feasibility study will only cost the park commission \$4,250 through the program, five percent of the total cost, thanks to the incentive program.

"Assuming we pass the feasibility study, we'd then apply for a construction grant," says Shakespeare. After that, the town would look into purchasing and financing options for the turbine.

Though Shakespeare hasn't received any negative feedback directly from golfers or town residents, the idea of wind turbines making use of the open air near a club is both gaining ground and picking up opponents. In Milton, Mass., the Granite Links Golf Club is suing the town to stop construction of a wind turbine on town-owned land near the course.

Shakespeare expects to hear more discussion once the feasibility study is completed. Until that point, the project is up in the air.



## EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

While the recent reconstruction project of renovating all 18 greens, greens complexes, tee complexes, and bunkers at Bald Head Island Club in Bald Head Island, N.C., was an impressive task, the most notable part was the discovery of three Civil War-era skeletons buried under the No. 7 green.

Bones!?!?

That's right, confirms superintendent Steen Wansley.

"Rocks, shells from previous tropical storms, burnt wood from a Civil War fort... those were all things we expected to find," Wansley says. "But three skeletons were probably the one thing we didn't expect to find in that old subsoil."

The skeletons are still being investigated by the state's archaeology department in Raleigh and will be returned back to their original resting place, near a slightly moved No. 7 green.