

## **STILLAGUAMISH COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES**

The Stillaguamish Country Club is a membership-based Club. The primary purpose of membership is maintenance and enjoyment of a quiet retreat for rest and recreation (Bylaws 1.2.3A). Membership is granted based on general guidelines described in the Bylaws. In granting membership, in its government and in its operations, the Stillaguamish Country Club is committed to providing an environment that is free of discrimination due to race, gender, age, color, religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. This applies to all Club-related activities including those related to recruiting, membership, Club governance, and employment. Our relationships with one another should be guided by respect for the innate dignity and value of all human beings.

Membership in the Stillaguamish Country Club is likely to be granted to applicants who can demonstrate general stability and responsibility, for example by:

1. Having resided at a single address for some time immediately prior to application;
2. Having held consistent employment for at least several consecutive years immediately prior to application, preferably at the same employer;
3. Having maintained an account at a bank or similar financial institution for a reasonable time immediately prior to application;
4. Having a good or excellent credit score as reported by the three main credit-reporting organizations;
5. Appropriate and positive references as to character and behavior from at least three sources known to applicant for some time, as shown by their answers to standard questions used with all applicant references;
6. Passing a criminal background check which shows no convictions for any felonies, or any misdemeanor the board feels is inappropriate to granting membership.

Under certain circumstances, applicants may be accepted for membership at the discretion of the Board of Trustees if one of the above criteria is not met, if an acceptable explanation is provided, with the exception of Numbers 5 and 6 which must be met without exception.

Other considerations for acceptance as a member could include:

1. Appropriate reasons for application, specifically a desire to participate in the Club for purposes outlined in Bylaws, especially maintenance and enjoyment of a quiet retreat for rest and recreation;
2. Understanding and acceptance of all Bylaws and rules as documented by signature of applicant(s) on the Membership Statement of Agreement;
3. Having ties to the area, which could include family in the area; a history of residence in the general Puget Sound area; a family or personal history of involvement with the club;
4. Civic or volunteer involvement in community or other similar activities, especially those demonstrating applicant's skills and abilities which could contribute to the functioning of the Club;
5. Involvement in recreation pursuits relevant to the Club such as hiking, fishing, rafting, etc.

Reasons for membership to be denied include, but are not limited to:

1. Not meeting guidelines to the satisfaction of the Board;
2. A desire merely to obtain inexpensive housing;
3. The intent or desire to obtain membership in order to develop improvements for profit or resale;  
OR
4. A determination of incompatibility based on behavior of the applicant(s), including actions such as rescinding the application process; hostility; behavior in violation of the Club's commitment to provide a safe and welcoming environment free of discrimination.

If approved for membership but later determined by the Board that the applicant's true but undisclosed intentions are any of the above, that approved applicant may be determined to be a member not in good standing, leading to potential revocation of membership.

**APPLICANTS MUST REMEMBER THAT NO SALE OF IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE CLOSED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL AS CLUB MEMBERS.**

Applicants must further be aware that the process of becoming a member(s) of the Stillaguamish Country Club is entirely different from a real estate purchase. Not only does one not own the land under the improvement or the lot, or any portion or share of the land within the Club property, the membership process is wholly separate from the purchase of the improvement. The desire or intent to purchase an improvement does not guarantee or assure approval of membership. The process of submitting an application for membership, including communication between the applicant and Club representatives, must be handled by the prospective member; real estate agents or their employees have no role in the membership application process.

The application process is handled by volunteer members who constitute the Membership Committee and the Board of Trustees. The membership approval process is subject to the availability of the committee and Board members, and can take more time than anticipated by the seller of the improvements or the applicant. While the Membership Committee and the Board of Trustees make every effort to process applications in a timely manner, applicants must plan on a minimum of two months before membership can be approved. It is not unusual for the application process to take 90 days or longer. Applicants and sellers should plan accordingly, and make no time limited decisions or plans regarding membership or sale closure.

Membership is considered a privilege and is based on the fulfillment of certain responsibilities, which include but are not limited to:

- Participating in governance of the Club as outlined in the Bylaws, which includes regular attendance at annual meetings; voting on ballots as they occur; and serving on the Board and/or various Club committees;
- Adhering to all Club rules as outlined in the Bylaws, Ground Rules, Standing Rules, etc. as adopted;
- Maintaining assigned lot and improvements in a safe and habitable condition;
- Maintaining civil communications with other Club members.