

**Golf Commission Meeting  
July 22, 2013  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Ron Dray, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Joe DeLuca; Tony Guzzi; Joyce Michaels; Jonathan Turk; Diane Wheeler

**Also Attending:** Hidalgo Nagashima, Director of Golf Course Property; Jon Janik, Head Golf Professional

**Members Absent:** Teri Deal; Dick DeLibro

Ron Dray, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:**

Review and approval of the Minutes of June 17, 2013 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca seconded by Mrs. Michaels to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

**Audience Participation:**

- Mr. Al DeWalt, a member of the Senior Men’s Club, stated that he had appeared many times before the Commission to ask that the Town Tournament be brought back to Tashua Knolls. He stated that he has repeatedly been told that the golf course budget is too tight to add the Town Tournament. Mr. DeWalt stated he was very disappointed to learn that the Golf Commission voted to allow the First Selectman’s Cup to be held on a Friday when all other charitable organizations can only hold a tournament on Monday. In addition, this year the Golf Commission voted to do away with both green and cart fees for the Cup. Mr. DeWalt felt this was very unjust.
- Mr. Dray read a letter from Kristine Miklus, Trustee of The Donald Miklus Foundation, asking for permission to hold a “Fossil Dig” for children in the practice bunker on September 14. The plan is to bury some fossils in the sand and allow children under the age of 14, for a small fee, a limited time to find them. The fossils will be donated by Bill Heher of Rare Earth Mining Company and the proceeds would allow the Foundation to provide scholarships to area youth to learn the game of golf during the school year.

Mr. Dray made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Michaels, to allow the Donald Miklus Foundation to hold a “Fossil Dig” on September 14, 2013 in the practice bunker. Motion carried 6 – 1; Oppose: Evans

## **Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima):**

### **Labor:**

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Gallant, Romano)
- Part-time Seasonal (Balkun, Quinn, Goodwin, Hoepfner, Bowden, Oleyar, Edvardson, Markaj, Kelley)
- Summer seasonal (Fairfield, Messina, Talamelli, Fowler, Maciver, Summerville, Spangenburg, Caravello, Derwallis, Matera)

### **Maintenance Department:**

- Mr. Nagashima was pleased to announce that Mr. Christopher Gallant has been promoted to the position of Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. Mr. Gallant was chosen after a rigorous interview process with various Town and outside individuals.
- The wet spring and hot, humid weather has been brutal on the turf. The majority of the course is in good shape with some turf loss on the 17<sup>th</sup> green and thinning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> green. The condition is being closely monitored, cared for, and the areas are expected to recover.
- Both the Knolls and Glen greens have been aerated.
- The left side of #17 has been thinned of foliage to allow for more sunlight and air movement to the green.
- A pre-bid meeting was held for contractors interested in the bunker renovation project. In addition to golf course personnel, Town Purchasing, and the project architect, several qualified bidders attended the meeting. Bids are due by noon on July 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The new Toro equipment for this fiscal year is in process of being ordered.
- All ponds have been treated for algae and the pond on #4 has been treated for lily pads.

## **Green Committee (Owen Evans):**

- Mr. Evans reported that many projects on the Maintenance Project List have been completed. The Maintenance Department is currently working on the water problems on #2 and low spots on #14. Mr. Evans will be issuing an updated project list to all Commissioners.

## **Director of Golf Operations/Head Professional Report (Jon Janik):**

### **Golf Operations:**

- Hot, humid weather impacted June play
- June Rounds: Knolls 6,181, Glen 3,016
- Outings for May: Special Olympics, June 15, 42 players
- The CTPGA Junior Tour event will be held on June 29 and 30

### **Pro Shop:**

- The Titleist Ball Fitting day on June 18 was poorly attended due to the extremely hot weather.
- A Nike shoe promotion is on-going in the pro shop.

**Programs:**

- Adult: Get Golf Ready with 6 participants; New programs include a 5-hour Golf School and FlightScope/SAM PuttLab Golf School.
- Junior: Adult/Junior tournament with 10 teams, Summer Camps at or near capacity, and weekend programs well attended.

**House Committee (Ron Dray):**

- An oil supply pump to one of the clubhouse boilers is leaking oil. As it is summer, the boiler is shut down while estimates are being obtained.
- One of the two clubhouse water heaters is leaking. An attempt will be made to tighten the seal around the gasket. If that doesn't work, a plumber will be called.
- The air flow around the outside compressors was occluded by foliage. The maintenance department cut back the foliage to alleviate the problem.
- The grass area around the scoreboard will be top soiled and grassed to improve its appearance.
- The range will have excess fill from the installation of the Glen added, then topsoil and seeded to make it more even.
- The maintenance department has been asked to improve the appearance of the grounds on the left side of the building. Mr. Faustini will be asked to improve the appearance on the right side.
- Individuals are continuing to park in the fire lane. The area will have an additional "Fire Lane" sign painted. The fire marshal reported that pictures of the license plates of vehicles parked in the fire lane can be sent to them and they will, in turn, issue a parking violation.
- The double doors to the golf course are not closing properly. The maintenance department will attempt a temporary fix. The doors are scheduled for replacement in the fall when the course is not as busy.
- The maintenance department will install fencing along the first tee to prevent customers from cutting across it from the practice green. They will also be installing fencing and a gate along the 10<sup>th</sup> tee to prevent customers from cutting across that tee as well.

**Concessionaire (Domenick Faustini):**

- Mr. Faustini was not in attendance. However, both Mrs. Michaels representing the Ladies 9-holers and Mr. Evans representing the Men's Club commented on the generous and varied amount of food that Mr. Faustini presented at the recent Club appreciation events. Both stated that the members that attended were very pleased with the events.

**Finance (Jonathan Turk):**

**Monthly revenue – June (From POS System)**

**Revenue:**

<b>Total Income (including carts)</b>		
<b>June 2012</b>	<b>June 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
\$348,544	\$331,423	-4.9%

<b>Knolls (including carts)</b>		
<b>June 2012</b>	<b>June 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
\$254,046	\$237,816	-6.4%

<b>Glen (including carts)</b>		
<b>June 2012</b>	<b>June 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
\$68,797	\$68,951	+0.2%

**Round Analysis:**

<b>Knolls</b>		
<b>June 2012</b>	<b>June 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
6,846	6,181	-9.7%

<b>Glen</b>		
<b>June 2012</b>	<b>June 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
3,137	3,016	-3.9%

**Items of Note:**

- Tashua Knolls Golf Course revenue for the 2012/2013 fiscal year was average. We experienced a late start to the golf season together with a slightly colder and wetter weather pattern this spring which contributed to the lack of revenues. We were, however, able to surpass the \$2 million gross revenue threshold (see report next page)

**Budget:**

- Expenses were held in check this year. Mr. Turk thanked Mrs. Plumeau, Mr. Nagashima, and the green and building committees for their efforts in watching the spending and remaining at or close to budget numbers this fiscal year. Based on our original year-to-date budget passed and confirmed by the Town 1-1/2 years ago, we were projected to break about even for the year. However, the town restructured all of its debt obligations which substantially reduced our debt budget line items and now we are anticipating an increase in retained earnings of over \$100,000.
- However, outstanding items yet to be paid and posted on the MUNIS report for the 2012/2013 fiscal year may force adjustments in the overall expenditures. A final and accurate year-end report will be available for the August 2013 Commission meeting.

**Annual Income Analysis (Gross Revenue Figures)**

	<b>2006/2007</b>	<b>2007/2008</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>	<b>2009/2010</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>
July							
August	\$321,276.88	\$332,425.74	\$339,228.50	\$344,149.00	\$311,308.50	\$349,041.25	\$337,608.53
September	\$293,232.00	\$303,320.50	\$345,791.28	\$325,218.50	\$324,575.00	\$280,997.00	\$318,196.98
October	\$251,289.71	\$259,745.00	\$242,016.00	\$277,855.00	\$271,419.00	\$233,621.50	\$277,118.97
November	\$146,098.11	\$134,895.50	\$156,633.00	\$147,526.08	\$174,005.00	\$159,111.10	\$150,943.67
December	\$89,692.50	\$59,936.93	\$59,287.00	\$80,697.05	\$74,961.24	\$80,000.00	\$41,051.00
January	\$37,317.00	\$7,307.00	\$8,235.00	\$13,416.00	\$12,343.00	\$41,579.25	\$19,631.00
February	0	\$3,582.00	\$255.00	\$381.00	\$60.00	\$902.00	\$824.00
March	0	\$3,048.00	\$670.00	\$3,197.00	\$4,765.00	\$3,180.00	0
April	\$30,588.00	\$37,981.00	\$52,686.00	\$32,343.00	\$13,952.00	\$125,536.00	\$34,377.00
May	\$137,969.00	\$187,964.92	\$200,814.50	\$210,827.29	\$172,005.50	\$228,201.00	\$211,249.14
June	\$302,291.39	\$286,950.54	\$302,924.00	\$312,860.00	\$270,491.25	\$289,955.50	\$287,043.92
July	\$325,591.00	\$320,660.77	\$278,648.50	\$314,195.00	\$314,021.00	\$348,544.37	\$331,422.69
<b>TOTAL</b>							
	\$1,935,345.59	\$1,937,817.90	\$1,987,188.78	\$2,062,664.92	\$1,943,906.49	\$2,140,668.97	\$2,009,466.90

**Correspondence:**

- None

**Old Business:**

- Mr. Guzzi reported that an accident between two golf carts - one driven by an employee and the other by a customer - resulted in extensive damage to the carts, but luckily no injuries. The accident occurred at an intersection between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> tees and could have been the result of lack of a sight line due to the safety trees in the area. As the path the employee was on is generally not used by customers in the direction the employee was riding, it was decided that a better educated staff should alleviate the problem.
- Mr. Guzzi asked about the status of the awning at the back of the cart barn. Mr. Nagashima responded that Mr. Faustini has given permission to use his leftover awning and the maintenance department will do the installation.
- Mr. Guzzi reported that he believes pace-of-play is still a problem at Tashua Knolls. He reported that he did not think the player assistants were flying the correct flag colors at the correct time. Mr. Guzzi felt that a meeting should be set up to discuss these problems.
- Mr. Guzzi also reported that he had been doing some research into the type and cost of name badges for player assistants. He asked for time to make a final decision after the player assistant meeting was held.

**New Business:**

- The net installed by Mr. Faustini between the first tee and the land area has fallen down. Mr. Faustini has been advised to fix the net and have it inspected by a qualified individual.
- Mr. Janik will check to see if there has been any improvement in the turn time by the introduction of a new phone number to pre-order food at the restaurant. Also, Mr. Evans will work with Mr. Nagashima to advertise the phone number and menu on the course.

Mr. DeLuca left the meeting at 8:50 PM.

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Dray made a motion at 8:50 PM, seconded by Mr. Evans, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mrs. Wheeler at 9:40 PM and seconded by Mrs. Michaels. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. Evans at 9:42 PM; seconded by Mr. Turk to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau  
Golf Course Commission Clerk