

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

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

**Also Attending:** Bobby Brown, Director of Golf; Hidalgo Nagashima, Director of Golf Course Property; Jon Janik, Head Golf Professional; Tim Herbst, First Selectman, John Ponzio, Town Treasurer, Darin Callahan, Town Attorney.

**Members Absent:** none

Ron Dray, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:**

Review and approval of the Minutes of July 22, 2013 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. DeLibro seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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**Audience Participation:**

- Mr. Dray responded to Mr. DeWalt's comments from the July meeting regarding the First Selectman's Tournament. Mr. Dray stated that the Town Tournament was a two-day tournament held on a Saturday and Sunday where the players paid \$50 which included rounds, carts, food and trophies for the two days. The First Selectman's Cup cost the golf course less than ½ of the cost. In addition the money raised by the tournament goes directly back to the Community and in particular the children of Trumbull.
- Mr. Al DeWalt, a member of the Senior Men's Club, stated that he has asked that the Town Tournament goes to a one-day event with no meals to save money. He also asked what the difference was between the First Selectman's organizations and MDA or Special Olympics and he felt all the charities were good causes.
- Mr. John Ponzio, Town Treasurer, reported that he expected the event to gross between \$68,000 and \$70,000 of which \$40,000 to \$45,000 would be turned over directly to the Trumbull organizations involved with Trumbull students. He stated that it costs a great deal to educate children and this represents a way to save the taxpayers of Trumbull money. He also said that the decision as to which organizations benefit from the Tournament is made by a Committee made up of both parties. There is a Platinum sponsor (Mr. Aiello) on board who will continue to make a \$10,000 donation to the cause into the future.
- Mr. Tim Herbst, First Selectman, thanked all the volunteers, workers, and the Golf Commissioners for their help in making the tournament a success. He felt a tremendous sense of pride in that 10 mayors and first selectman from all over Connecticut attended the event. They all commended the excellent condition of Tashua Knolls and felt the tournament was one of the best they ever attended. He felt that the organizations involved

contribute greatly to the future of the youth in this country through a fun and learning environment. And that the experiences provided to the children help them get into college and in many cases helps defer the cost of college. He will continue to defend this tournament and is very proud of what has been accomplished.

- Mrs. Barbara Whetstone, Chairwoman of the Town Tournament, thanked Mr. Brown, Mr. Janik, Mr. Nagashima, Mrs. Plumeau, the entire staff at Tashua, and the Golf Commission for their help in making the event a success. The Town Tournament Committee is very grateful to the First Selectman and to Tashua Knolls Golf Course.

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

##### **Labor:**

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Assistant Superintendent (Gallant)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Romano)
- Part-time Seasonal (Balkun, Quinn, Goodwin, Hoepfner, Oleyar, Markaj, Kelley)
- Summer seasonal (Messina, Fowler, Martins, Spangenburg, Derwallis, Matera)

##### **Maintenance Department:**

- The cooler, more moderate August weather has allowed some of the stressed turf to recover. The fairways have bounced back. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> greens have shown marked improvement. The greens are being aggressively seeded. The Glen greens have been fine all summer and should remain so into the fall.
- The split-rail fence along the side of #1 has been installed.
- The new signs throughout the course have been installed.
- The land near the scoreboard has been top soiled, sodded, irrigated, and mulched.
- The new Toro equipment for the fiscal year has been received.
- The ponds have been treated and shown improvement.
- The double doors to the course have been temporarily fixed and will be replaced in the fall.
- Three white pine trees will be installed between #6 and #15 to replace trees that were lost in storms.

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

- Mr. Evans reported that the Green Committee has met and has a few projects to add to the Maintenance department project list. However, he distributed the list to the Commissioners who noted the tremendous amount of work that has been accomplished recently.

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

##### **Golf Operations:**

- July Rounds: Knolls 6,677, Glen 3,060
- A pace-of-play meeting was held with Mr. Dray, Mr. Evans, Mr. Guzzi, Mr. Brown and Mr. Janik

**Outings:**

- 18-hole Ladies Member/Guest - 27
- Men's Club Member/Guest – 84
- Men's and Ladies Club Championships
- CT PGA 2-day Jr. Tour Event – 71 players
- Jim Kelley Group – 40 players non-resident, Friday
- 9-hole Ladies Member/Member – 41
- First Selectman's Cup – 117
- US Kids Westchester Tour – 41
- Tashua Junior Golf Club – 5 events
- Sr. Men's Club Junior Tournament - 33

**Awards/Thank You's:**

- Thank you to the Senior Men's Club for volunteering as spotters for the CT PGA Junior Tour
- Thank you to Patrick Dizney, Jim Peloquin, Chris Alvarex. Ron Rubano (senior volunteers) for helping with the Monday morning junior golfers. They averaged 34 juniors for nine weeks.

**Programs:**

- Junior camps finish on Friday with a total of 10 four-day camps
- Fall programs start Saturday
- Adult programs remain strong with a new "Ultimate Putting School" and the popular new "Full Swing" workshop
- Trumbull Continuing Education starts its third program on September 9th

**Fall Specials:**

- Mr. Brown proposed the following Knolls special for Saturdays and Sundays beginning September 7<sup>th</sup>. After 4:00 PM, 9-hole special with cart, resident \$20, non-resident \$25. The Commission agreed to the special.
- Mr. Brown also proposed the following Glen special beginning September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Monday through Friday, 9-hole with cart, \$18. The Commission agreed to the special.

**House Committee (Ron Dray):**

- There is a problem with circulator leaking oil and a hot water heater leaking water. An estimate has been received and they will both need to be fixed before heating season.
- The ducts leading to the Grill Room froze solid. The problem was blamed on a dirty filter and the fact that the system was left on too high a setting for too long.
- Two doors on the lower level had alarm repair.

**Concessionaire (Domenick Faustini):**

- None

**Finance** (Jonathan Turk):

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

**Revenue:**

<b>Total Income (including carts)</b>		
<b>July 2012</b>	<b>July 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
\$337,609	\$323,962	-4.0%

<b>Knolls (including carts)</b>		
<b>July 2012</b>	<b>July 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
\$253,543	\$248,302	-2.1%

<b>Glen (including carts)</b>		
<b>July 2012</b>	<b>July 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
\$76,592	\$66,453	-13.2%

**Round Analysis:**

<b>Knolls</b>		
<b>July 2012</b>	<b>July 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
6,762	6,678	-1.2%

<b>Glen</b>		
<b>July 2012</b>	<b>July 2013</b>	<b>Change</b>
3,649	3,060	-16.1%

**Items of Note:**

- Tashua Knolls Golf Course revenue for July was slightly behind last year’s July numbers.

**Budget:**

- Recently our fiscal year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) ended. The golf season closed early in December 2012 and we had a late opening in March 2013. Despite the weather, our revenues reached \$2 million this past fiscal year. We were also successful in keeping our line item expenses within budget and therefore we realized an increased in retained earnings this fiscal year of \$207,626 according to the most recent MUNIS report. However, most of this was attributed to the Town’s restructuring our bond debt obligations which reduced the budgeted bond line items by \$142,659. Most of this expense savings is in fact a reduction in principle payments of \$122,000. Therefore, this principal debt, in essence, has been deferred and will have to be paid back to the Town in future years. Given this, we can expect less retained earnings over the next few years.
- Mr. Ponzio pointed out that there was a significant savings in the interest payments as well which is why the Town took advantage of the markets being down and chose to refinance.

**Correspondence:**

- Mr. Evans presented a letter requesting that Tashua host the 2013 U.S. Junior Qualification.

Mr. Dray made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Michaels to approve the national 2013 Junior Championship for Monday, June 30, 2014 for approximately 60 juniors with greens fees waived. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

- None

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Dray made a motion at 8:40 PM, seconded by Mr. Evans, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Also invited to attend the meeting were Mr. Herbst, Mr. Ponzio, and Mr. Callahan. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mrs. Deal at 9:05 PM and seconded by Mrs. Michaels. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeLibro to accept a letter as drafted by attorney Robert Nicola and authorizing it to be transmitted by the Town Attorneys. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

- Mr. Evans recently observed a player assistant handed a lost club by a group of golfers. Rather than try to find the owner of the club, the player assistant returned the club to the starter area. Mr. Evans proposed the following:

Mr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Guzzi, to make the following part of the player assistant responsibility:

If a Player Assistant (PA) comes across a group that has found a club left by another group in front of them, the PA must take the club and go to the first group in front of the finding group to determine if one of the players in that group left the club. If not, then the PA must go to the next group in front, etc.

If a PA is approached by a player saying he left a club on a hole earlier, the PA must go back to the first group in back of the group that left a club and determine if they had found the club. If not, then the PA must go the next group in back, etc. When the PA finally finds the missing club, the PA must then go to the group missing the club and return it to its owner.

Motion carried 7 – 1 (Oppose: Turk) (Abstain: Michaels).

- Mr. Brown asked that the Commission consider setting a special at the September meeting due to the bunker renovation project starting in October. Mr. Brown will also send out an e-blast in mid-September advising customers about the project.

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Dray made a motion at 8:15 PM, seconded by Mr. Evans, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Also invited to attend were Mr. Brown, Mr. Nagashima, Mr. Janik and Mrs. Plumeau Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mrs. Wheeler at 9:05 PM and seconded by Mrs. Michaels. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. Evans at 9:11 PM; seconded by Mr. Turk to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau  
Golf Course Commission Clerk