

**Golf Commission Meeting  
July 28, 2014  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Ron Dray, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Teri Deal (arrived 9:15 PM); Richard DeLibro; Joe DeLuca; Tony Guzzi; Joyce Michaels; Jonathan Turk

**Also Attending:** Bobby Brown, Director of Golf; Hidalgo Nagashima, Director of Golf Course Property

**Members Absent:** Diane Wheeler

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 23, 2014 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. DeLibro seconded by Mr. Guzzi to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
--

**Audience Participation:**

- Mr. Al Dewalt, Trumbull resident, thanked Hidalgo Nagashima and the maintenance department, for the work they had done on the steps on the 12<sup>th</sup> hole.
- Mrs. Karen Daly, Co-President of the Ladies 9-holers, took the opportunity to inform the Commission of the support they have been giving to the Miklus Foundation's ConnCap students this summer. To date the 9-holers have donated approximately \$1,000 to allow eight girls to take weekly lessons during the summer. She also mentioned that the Sr. Men's Club had donated \$150 to allow one boy to take a weekly lesson during the summer. Mrs. Daly wanted the Commission to know much work the Miklus Foundation was doing to support the ConnCap program and how proud the Ladies 9-holers were to add their support to such a wonderful cause.

**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 Markaj (effective 8/2))
- Part-time Seasonal (Rodriguez, Ferguson, Hicks, Quinn, Hoepfner, Oleyar, Messina, Riley, Martins, Summerville, Kelley, Harrison, Goodwin, Kelley, Walton, Martins)
- Summer Seasonal (Ormsbee, Spangenburg, Hare, Maciver, Derwalis, Ebert, Fairfield)

### **Maintenance Department:**

- Mr. Nagashima interviewed four qualified applicants for the full-time greensman position. The position was offered to and accepted by John Markaj. Mr. Markaj stood above the other applicants as having the most golf course experience. Other factors included his knowledge of Tashua Knolls and our irrigation system.
- The timely rains and cooler weather has the course in good shape. The fairways and greens are excellent. The roughs have improved with expanded weed control.
- The Glen greens have improved, largely due to intensified maintenance including soil tests to determine nutrient deficiencies and a core aeration and topdressing. A winter plan will be formulated to include tree removal to improve the amount of sun and wind on the course.
- The painting of the clubhouse is in the final stages with the last side being painted now. The finishing touches will include some trim work and scraping paint off the windows. Both Mr. Nagashima and the entire Commission would like to recognize maintenance employees Ricardo Rodriguez, TJ Hicks and especially Joe Kelley for their excellent and dedicated work in completing the project. Having the work done in-house was a great cost savings for the golf course.
- The maintenance department will begin work on the rock wall behind the 9<sup>th</sup> green this week.
- The lightning sensor has been sent out for service. It appears that a lightning strike very near the clubhouse damaged a chip in the sensor. It is due back shortly.
- Mr. Dray asked that Mr. Nagashima makes sure that the maintenance department has the seed boxes filled on the weekends as there have been several occasions when they haven't been.
- Mr. Dray also asked if a box could be installed between #7 and #16 that could hold several seed containers. This is a location where golfers usually have to wait and the time could be put to good use filling divots.
- Mr. Dray also asked if more attention could be paid to the cart rules on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fairway as sometimes the information is confusing as to if it is open or closed. It was agreed that a rope would be used to block it off on days when it is closed.
- Mr. Dray also reported that he was very pleased with the decision to move the tees up on #6 on the weekends. He felt that the policy has worked perfectly in decreasing the pace-of-play.
- Mr. Dray asked the Commission to consider some options for a U-turn on the back of #3 with the goal of decreasing the pace-of-play. Several options were mentioned and Mr. Nagashima has spray painted some options and asked the Commissioners to take a look and report back at the next meeting.

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

- None

## **Director of Golf Operations/Head Professional Report (Bobby Brown):**

### **Golf Operations:**

- Weekends have been consistently strong during July. We have experienced some rain during the weekdays.
- The driving range net is ordered and Fence-Me-In will start installation within the month and estimates it will take half-a-day to complete.
- The Digital Caddies cart GPS was installed on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The only complaint to date was that the ads are too loud. Mr. Brown is investigating how to lower the volume.

### **Outings:**

- USGA Jr. Boys Amateur – 91 players
- Southern Connecticut Women's Championship – cancelled due to rain
- Sr. Men's Junior Town Tournament – cancelled due to low participation
- Ladies 9-hole invitational – 92 players
- CTPGA Jr. Tour – 99 players
- Men's Club Member/Member – 72 players

### **Programs:**

- PGA Jr. League Tashua Travel Team – 12 players record 5 – 0
  - LPGA Girls Golf -3 programs per week with an average of 28 girls each
  - Junior Camps – 5 weeks complete with average attendance of 18 campers per week
  - Short Game School – 22 players
  - Advanced Camp – 3 players per week
  - Special Olympics – 36 athletes per week
- Mr. Dray reported to the Commission that he spent several hours working with Player Assistant's Terry McGovern and Gus Phillips. He gained a new appreciation of the job that they do and was very pleased with how they handle their job responsibilities. He has also seen an improvement in the Player Assistant's customer relations.
  - Mr. DeLuca and Mrs. Michaels pointed out the great job that our new Starter Glen Fuchs was doing and what a great addition he is to the Tashua Knolls staff.

## **House Committee (Richard DeLibro & Ron Dray):**

- Mr. DeLibro informed the Commission that he was made aware of a temporary wall installed in the kitchen by Mr. Faustini. Mr. DeLibro asked for further information as the Commission was not aware of why the wall was built although he expressed the Commission's belief that improving the A/C function throughout the clubhouse would be a benefit to all. Mr. Faustini submitted a letter stating that the wall was an experiment to prevent the cool air in the restaurant from being sucked up into the make-up air handler in the kitchen. And that should the work become permanent, proper permits would be obtained. Due to the nature of the temporary wall, on July 17th the Town Fire Marshal inspected the wall and determined that it was illegal and needed to be removed immediately. The fire marshal returned on the 21<sup>st</sup> and even though Mr. Faustini had been ordered to remove the wall, it was still in place. The fire marshal once again ordered Mr. Faustini to remove the wall.

- F.D. Security was chosen among all the bidders for the video surveillance system. Installation is scheduled to begin in 2 – 3 weeks.
- After sending out six requests for quotes on a replacement front door, the only response came from Horizon Glass with a quote of \$5,800.
- John Cross, of Hulse Heating, contacted Mr. Dray to inform him that he was called in by Mr. Faustini who reported the A/C not working in the restaurant. On several occasions, Mr. Cross reported that he came in to find that the A/C was not turned on at all. Mr. Cross informed Mr. Faustini that the A/C must be turned on daily to the “occupied” mode which is set to allow the proper amount of time and temperature for the restaurant area.
- Mr. Guzzi reported that several player assistants requested an awning be installed at the back of the cart barn to protect them from rain when washing the carts. In investigating the issue, Mr. Guzzi found that several other rangers felt that an awning wouldn’t be much help because they have to go out in the rain anyway to drive up carts further down the line. The Commission agreed to buy several rain slickers for the staff to use on rainy days.
- Mr. Guzzi presented a mock-up of a sign for the Par 3’s on the Knolls advising customers that they are Cart Path only. The Commissioners approved the purchase of four such signs at a cost of approximately \$180.
- The Commission also approved a sign for placement between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> hole advising customers of the policy of keeping carts 30’ away from hazards.
- Mrs. Michaels reminded the Commission that a spring and fall maintenance list had yet to be approved.

A motion was made by Mrs. Michaels; seconded by Mr. Guzzi; to approve a spring and fall clubhouse maintenance checklist. Motion carried unanimously.

**Concessionaire (Mr. Faustini):**

None – did not attend.

**Finance (Jonathan Turk):**

**June Revenue from POS System**

<b>Total Income (including carts)</b>		
<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
\$331,423	\$306,359	-7.6%

<b>Knolls (including carts)</b>		
<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
\$237,816	\$228,407	-4.0%

<b>Glen (including carts)</b>		
<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
\$68,951	\$65,237	-5.4%

**June Round Analysis:**

<b>Knolls</b>		
<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Change</b>
6,181	5,795	-6.2%

  

<b>Glen</b>		
<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Change</b>
3,016	2,939	-2.6%

**Items of Note:**

- Tashua Knolls Golf Course revenue for the 2013/2014 fiscal year was average. We had a late start to the season with a slightly colder weather pattern this spring which contributed to the lower revenues. We were, however, able to surpass \$1.9 million in revenues; almost reaching our \$2 million gross revenue goal.

**Budget:**

- Expenses were held in line all year. Mr. Turk thanked Mr. Nagashima, Mrs. Plumeau, and the green and building committees for their help in watching spending which allowed us to stay within our budget numbers for the fiscal year. Based on our approved budget passed by the Town 1-1/2 years ago, we were projected to make a slight gain this fiscal year. A final and accurate year-end report will be available at the August Commission meeting.

**Correspondence:**

- A letter was received by Mr. Faustini requesting the following land use:
  - Friday, August 22, 2014 from noon to 4:00 PM for 250 guests for a company picnic
  - Planned events include golf and games such as bean bag toss and ladder ball.
  - A 30' x 30' tent to be erected on the law.

During Commission discussion, Mr. Nagashima stated that he would not recommend erecting a tent due to the fact that a 30' x 30' tent is a large tent with large, numerous stakes. He felt that we would be jeopardizing the septic system which is not very deep in that area as well as the irrigation system in that area. The Commissioners felt that the time, date, size, and nature of the event would be in direct conflict with the rights of the public to use and enjoy the golf course.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLibro; seconded by Mrs. Michaels; to approve Mr. Faustini's request to erect a 30' x 30' tent in the land area for a company picnic for 250 guests at noon on Friday, August 22 <sup>nd</sup> . Motion denied unanimously.
---

**Old Business:**

- The Commission was advised that the last date for land use by Mr. Faustini was February 6, 2015. The Commission is investigating returning the land back to the original design for the first tee by relocating the trees and fence closer to the walk way. The result would be to open up the first tee.

**New Business:**

- None

**Executive Session:**

Mrs. Michaels made a motion at 9:05 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 Mr. Turk at 9:35 PM and seconded by Mr. DeLuca. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLuca; seconded by Mr. Turk; to immediately implement the maintenance department flexible work schedule as originally outlined and accepted by the union and maintenance employees in May 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Guzzi; seconded by Mr. DeLuca; to implement a third wave special on Saturday and Sunday for \$5 off a 9-hole round and \$10 off a 18-hole round. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. Guzzi at 8:55 PM; seconded by Mrs. Michaels to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau  
Golf Course Commission Clerk