

**Golf Commission Meeting
February 3, 2015
Minutes**

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

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

Members Absent: Teri Deal; Tony Guzzi

Ron Dray, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of December 15, 2014 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Turk seconded by Mrs. Michaels to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation:

- Mr. Neil Sullivan, of the Men's Club, requested the following tournaments for the 2015 season:

A motion was made by Mrs. Michaels; seconded by Mr. Evans; to approve the Tashua Knolls Men's Club 2015 season requests as follows:

1. May 17 – One Day Member/Member – shotgun start 7:30 AM
2. June 13, 14, 20 & 21 – Senior Club Championship – 4 times for 1st day, 2 times for 2nd day, 1 time each day 3rd & 4th
3. June 26 – Friday Night Glen – Master's Par 3 Tournament 5:30 PM
4. June 27 & 28 – Two Day Member/Member – shotgun start Sunday 7:30 AM
5. July 25, 26, August 1 & 2 – Club Championship – each day is ½ tee times of the previous day
6. August 15 & 16 – Two/Day Member/Guest – Shotgun start Sunday (resident rates)
7. September 27– Annual Tashua Cup – 10 start times

Motion carried unanimously.

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)

Maintenance Department:

- The maintenance crew was working on the Green Committee winter project list until the heavy snow. The staff will resume cutting down trees when conditions improve.
- A total of 17 trees around the #10 green complex have been removed.
- Drains were installed on #6 Knolls. Approximately 700 feet were trenched. The area was stoned and pipe and rough backfilled.
- A 150 foot drain was installed on the left side of #8 Knolls to the creek. Pipe and stone was also added.
- A total of four fingers were dug on #18 (approximately 30 feet each) which will be tied into the existing drain line. This area is by the stone wall prior to the start of the dogleg.
- The new bunker by the practice green has been completed with the exception of the shrub barrier. The old bunker and new bunker areas have been sodded. Mrs. Michaels and Mr. Guzzi would like to monitor the situation of the cart path on #9 Glen.
- The maintenance staff has been working on the remodeling of the Town office and Ladies locker room. The locker room is complete and the office is being finished. Mr. Dray thanked Mr. Nagashima and staff for their work in the clubhouse.
- Mr. Nagashima will be attending the International Golf Course Industry Conference and Show the week of February 22 in San Antonio, TX. He has enrolled in the following three courses: 1) 7 Practical Steps to Increase the Investment Return of your Public Golf Course, 2) New Strategies for Annual Bluegrass Weevil Management, and 3) The Importance of Being Sharp. In addition there will also be numerous free workshops and a trade show.
- Mr. Dray asked Mr. Nagashima to follow up on the memo to the Town finance department for the vertidrain vendor.
- Mr. Dray also informed the Commission that the budget line item for goose patrol had been raised at the First Selectman's budget meeting.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- None

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

Golf Operations:

- The last day of rounds for the 2014 season was December 21st. It was also the same day the pro shop closed for the season.
- Mr. Brown opened up a discussion regarding the disciplinary action in the Employee Golf Policy. Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Nagashima felt that the consequence of violating the policy should be immediate dismissal for part-time employees and suspension of golf privileges for full-time employees with the requirement that the

full-time employee appear before the Golf Commission. In addition any part-time employee who knowingly let another employee violate the policy would also be dismissed.

Mr. Dray made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeLibro, to change the Employee Golf Policy to:

“Failure to comply with this policy WILL result in the following disciplinary action:

- a. Part-time Employees: Dismissal
- b. Full-time Employees: Immediate suspension of golfing privileges until such time as the employee appears before the Golf Commission who will vote on further action”

Motion carried unanimously.

Pro Shop

- Mr. Brown, Mr. Janik and Mr. Martin attend the PGA show in Orland in January
- The theme of the industry continues to be about growing the game and meeting the new challenges of the millennial generation. Although the overall buzz from the industry experts seems to be optimistic, facilities still face the challenge of too many golf courses and low demand. Other challenges include:
 - o Expensive
 - o Too slow and difficult
 - o Other sports grab customer’s attention
- PGA Flagship programs include PGA Junior League and Get Golf Ready. Tashua Knolls participates in both programs and will be adding a girl’s PGA Junior League this year.
- Mr. Janik received his fourth and final US Kids Top 50 Instructor award this year. Mr. Janik joins Mr. Brown as a US Kids Master Certified Instructor.
- Mr. Janik, Mr. Bove, and Mr. Martin will all be returning to Tashua Knolls for the 2015 season.

House Committee (Richard DeLibro & Ron Dray):

- Mr. Dray reminded Mr. Nagashima to fix the gutters at the clubhouse.
- Fairfield Sprinkler replaced a 6” corroded pipe to the sprinkler system.
- According to Mr. Faustini’s contract, his use of the land on the side of #1 Knolls ends on February 6th. He will be asked to remove his archway and anything else he has on the land. The maintenance department is authorized to help remove the archway.
- The UI has removed numerous trees and lots of brush along Tashua Road. They worked exactly according to the mutually agreed upon plan.
- The lightning detection system has been moved from the office to the pro shop.
- There have been a number of false alarms at the restaurant due to vendors trying to make deliveries when the restaurant is not open. Mr. Faustini will be advised that he will be held accountable any charges that may result from the Town responding to the false alarms in the restaurant.

Concessionaire (Mr. Faustini):

None – did not attend.

Finance (Jonathan Turk):

December Revenue from POS System

Total Income (including carts)		
2013	2014	Change
\$12,295	\$15,225	+23.8%

Knolls (including carts)

2013	2014	Change
\$6,669	\$8,886	+33.2%

Glen (including carts)

2013	2014	Change
\$1,197	\$532	-55.6%

November Round Analysis:

Knolls		
2013	2014	Change
220	311	+41.4%

Glen		
2013	2014	Change
62	25	-59.7%

Golf Cart Usage:

2013	2014	Change
170	219	+28.8%

Items of Note:

- The income and number of rounds in December were favorable due to better weather conditions. However, the overall fiscal year-to-date revenue number comparison over the past seven years indicates that we are in good financial shape.
- The finance committee met with the First Selectman on January 16th to go over the Golf Commission's proposed 2015/2016 budget. Mr. Turk thanked Mr. Dray and Mr. Brown for attending the meeting. The next budget meeting with the Town's Board of Finance will be held in late February.

Annual Income Analysis (Gross Revenue Figures)

	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
July	\$339,228.50	\$344,149.00	\$311,308.50	\$349,041.25	\$337,608.53	\$323,962.25	\$339,405.40
August	\$345,791.28	\$325,218.50	\$324,575.00	\$280,997.00	\$318,196.98	\$322,751.87	\$325,429.03
September	\$242,016.00	\$277,855.00	\$271,419.00	\$233,621.50	\$277,118.97	\$276,713.49	\$259,830.12
October	\$156,633.00	\$147,526.08	\$174,005.00	\$159,111.10	\$150,943.67	\$176,255.00	\$162,375.02
November	\$59,287.00	\$80,697.05	\$74,961.24	\$80,885.50	\$41,051.00	\$52,895.70	\$47,342.50
December	\$8,235.00	\$13,416.00	\$12,343.00	\$41,579.25	\$19,631.00	\$12,295.50	\$15,225.75
January							
February							
March							
April							
May							
June							
TOTAL	\$1,151,190.78	\$1,188,861.63	\$1,168,611.74	\$1,144,350.10	\$1,144,550.15	\$1,164,873.81	\$1,149,607.82

Correspondence:

- Mr. Angelo Cordone, president of the Senior Men’s Club submitted a letter requesting a tournament for the 2015 season.

Mr. Dray made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeLibro, to approve the Tashua Knolls Senior Men’s club request for an Interclub Tournament on August 5, 2015 at resident rates. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- As a follow-up to a previous discussion regarding rewriting the ID policy to clarify the documentation needed to obtain a resident ID. Topics included individuals who had out-of-state driver’s licenses but owned and paid property taxes on a residence in Trumbull, renters and businesses. It was decided to form sub-committee to make recommendations and submit them at a later Commission meeting. Sub-committee members include Mr. Dray, Mr. Brown and Mrs. Wheeler.

New Business

- Mr. Dray asked the Commission to discuss the rate given to the 2015 Mary’s Fund Tournament. Consensus was given to offer the tournament preferential rates.
- Mr. Brown began the discussion of rates for the 2015 season. He presented a review of rates and rounds for the Knolls and Glen over all categories by all types of players. He also presented a comparison of Tashua Knolls rates against our area competitors. The Commission studied the information and discussed various scenarios. They also took our budget numbers and retained earnings into comparison. The following motions were made:

Mr. Dray made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeLibro, to leave the 2015 green fees at the existing rates. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dray made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Michaels, to leave the 2015 cart fees at the existing rates. Motion carried 6 - 1. (Oppose: DeLuca)

Mr. Dray made a motion, seconded by Mr. Turk, to leave the 2015 ID fees at the existing rates. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

Mr. Turk made a motion at 9:00 PM, seconded by Mr. DeLuca, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Also invited to attend was Mr. Brown and Mr. Nagashima. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nagashima exited the Executive Session at 9:25 PM.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mrs. Michaels at 9:45 PM and seconded by Mr. Evans. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mrs. Wheeler at 9:47 PM; seconded by Mr. DeLuca to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk