

**Golf Commission Meeting
May 18, 2015
Minutes**

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

Also Attending: Bobby Brown, Director of Golf; Hidalgo Nagashima, Director of Golf Course Properties; John Ponzio, Town Treasurer

Members Absent: Teri Deal

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 April 27, 2015 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Guzzi seconded by Mr. DeLuca to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
--

Audience Participation:

- Mr. Al DeWalt reported that there are 275 members in the Sr. Men's Club with an average age of 76.4 and 50% living out of Town. He also reported that there are 26 new members this year.
- Mrs. Karen Daly reported that the membership of the Ladies 9-holer's Club increased to 75 this year with 12 new members.
- Mr. Tim Herbst, First Selectman, briefly attended the meeting to inform the Commissioners that the Town of Trumbull and its attorneys are committed to providing the Golf Commission with any resources required in response to any lawsuit it may face. In addition the Town will not allow any member to be personally sued while representing the Golf Commission. Mr. Herbst also stated that both he and the Town would be an advocate for our interests.

Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima):

Labor:

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Romano, Markaj)
- Part-time Greensmen (Oleyar, Quinn, Rodriguez, Martins, Riley, Harrison, Hicks, Hoepfner, Ferguson, Somerville, Riley, Kelley)
- Weekend Help (Bova, Ormsbee, DeVitto, Spangenberg, Matera, Zacchilli)

Maintenance Department:

- The greens are starting to show some recovery. The worst greens have been aerified and seeded which include #2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 13. Extra fertilizer was also applied. The two practice Glen greens were aerified today and topdressed and dragged.
- The tees will be aerified and seeded in the next two weeks.
- 3000 sq. ft. was sodded over the drainage project on #18. The rest of the area was seeded. The area on #6 was re-seeded today.
- The area around the new practice bunker was mowed for the first time today. A target green is beginning to be cultivated.
- The maintenance department has encountered some problems in fixing the damaged plumbing fixtures in the on-course bathrooms. Mr. Dray responded that opening the bathrooms are a high priority and that the Town plumber should be called in if necessary to speed up the process.
- Mrs. Michaels asked about a depression on #15 that is difficult to see because it is covered with grass but that she has stepped in it several times. Mr. Nagashima will inspect the area.
- Mr. Dray began a discussion regarding the experience and training for the maintenance Supervisor job description. Mr. Nagashima asked that the following language be included in addition to the bachelor's or Associates requirements: "or a two-year certificate in an accredited Golf Turf Management Program and four years in a supervisory position." Following a discussion, the Commission gave its consensus to add the language pending approval from the Town's Civil Service department. Mr. Dray also stated that the Commission would strongly look at new outside candidates with no existing potential conflict of interests.
- Mr. DeLibro asked about the condition of the bridge on #15 which appeared to be sinking. Mr. Nagashima replied that he would be looking at the footings of the bridge.
- Mr. DeLibro also asked about the condition of the forward tees as the ground is so hard that it is difficult to insert a tee. Mr. Nagashima responded that the forward tees need to be aerated.
- Mrs. Michaels asked about the frequency of the raking of the bunkers and that it did not appear that they were being raked on Thursdays which is the ladies day. Mr. Nagashima responded that he would be more diligent in maintaining the bunkers but added that each bunker had two rakes which should also be used more frequently by customers. Several Commissioners felt that any wet weather made the bunker sand very hard.
- Mr. Dray reported that the condition of the greens on a few holes on the Knolls needed some improvement and that the greens on the Glen also needed some work. He stated that he hoped they would be improving over the next week or two.
- Mr. Dray also stated that he wanted to set a new policy that Mr. Nagashima report in to him between 3 and 4 times a week with an update on the work being done and the condition of the course.
- Mr. Nagashima has received two estimates on the cart path repair and is expecting a third shortly.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- Mr. Evans reported that he had worked an event at Woodway in Darien and the condition of the greens there was not good at all.

- Mr. Dray added Mr. Brown as a member of the Green Committee and asked that he be included in all future Committee meetings.
- Mrs. Michaels asked about the status of the Maintenance Department Handbook as she had not had an update of the progress in quite a while. Mr. Evans responded that Mr. Nagashima has been very busy but hoped to be able to work on it in the coming weeks. Mr. Nagashima asked for and received permission for Mrs. Plumeau to help with the project.

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

Golf Operations:

- Play in May is very strong with some great weekend numbers.
- ID Renewal in May is up significantly.
- The installation of the net on the range net was postponed on May 18th and must be rescheduled.
- The barn swallows have returned to the cart barn this year but initial populations seem to be smaller than last year. The barn will be completely cleaned again at the end of the season.
- A customer has paid for the repairs to a cart he damaged at the end of last season.
- There have been a great number of internet interruptions over the past week or two. The Town, Charter Communications, and our Point of Sale technician are all working together to try to resolve the problem.
- There was an accident on the course involving an 18-year old who attempted to drive a cart through the rain shelter. The cart and shelter were damaged. The driver and his father returned to the course the next morning and reported that they will make the course whole for any damage that occurred. In addition the driver apologized and was very remorseful for his actions. The Commission discussed some possible actions for the driver but decided to table the discussion for Executive Session.

Programs:

- Adult Academy program is ramping up
- LPGA Girls (148 girls)
- Equipment Demo Days: PING (May 14)

Tournaments:

- May 4; Trumbull Republican Party – 47 players
- May 11; Trumbull Fathers Club – 124 players
- May 17; Men’s Club Member/Member – 78 players

House Committee (Ron Dray):

- Mr. Dray updated the Commission on the roofing project. We are currently working on writing up an RFQ as the project will cost over \$10,000. We are also exploring the option of paying for the roof out of this year’s budget without going before the Board of Finance.

- The Town of Trumbull recently inspected the lean-to attached to the Miklus Center. Although the structure needs repairs it was not condemned at this time. The Commission will have to decide shortly on some repair or replacement options.
- The annual maintenance was performed on the clubhouse A/C system. The pro shop unit was found to be completely frozen due to a problem with a belt.
- The Commission gave its consensus to add an additional camera to the security system.

Concessionaire (Mr. Faustini):

- None – did not attend.
- Mr. Dray presented a request from Mr. Faustini to hold a retirement party on Monday, June 15 for Booth Hill School as there was no tournament scheduled for that date. The Commission gave its consensus to hold the event with the condition that the Eagle’s Nest remains open for the golfing public.

Finance (Jonathan Turk):

April Revenue from POS System

Total Income (including carts)		
2014	2015	Change
\$168,827	\$152,245	-9.8%

Knolls (including carts)

2014	2015	Change
\$112,666	\$104,523	-7.2%

Glen (including carts)

2014	2015	Change
\$25,875	\$21,385	-17.3%

April Round Analysis:

Knolls		
2014	2015	Change
3,070	2,796	-8.9%

Glen		
2014	2015	Change
1,354	970	-28.4%

Items of Note:

- Revenue is down in April compared to 2014 due to a late opening and a cool, wet spring. Overall the revenue is sufficient to exceed expenses for this fiscal year.

Budget:

- All of our expense budget numbers are in line with the exception of water which is over budget by roughly 20% and heating oil which looks to be running 3% above our budget numbers. Despite these findings, we are very close to our expected fiscal year expenses.

Correspondence:

None

Old Business:

None

New Business

- Mr. Dray asked that Mrs. Wheeler be added to the Human Resources Committee in the capacity of Chairman.
- Mr. Dray reported that the Commission, with the exception of allowing golf on weekends after 4:00, had not changed the Employee Golf policy at all. The Commission is only enforcing the long-established policy. He also felt that the employees have done so well in following the policy that he asked that the Commissioners consider re-instating weekend play.

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeLuca to allow golf course employees to golf for free on weekends after 4:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Dray informed the Commission that there had been an accident on Senior Men's day when a golfing customer tripped over some restaurant advertising that was placed on the floor outside of the Eagle's Nest. Although the customer was not hurt, the Town Fire Marshal inspected the hallway and reported that a minimum of 44" of space must be maintained in all hallways at all times. The Commissioners began a discussion which was tabled to the Executive Session.

Executive Session:

Mr. Dray made a motion at 8:45 PM, seconded by Mr. DeLuca, to move into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Also invited to attend was Mr. Brown, Mr. Ponzio and Mrs. Plumeau. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Plumeau left at 9:50 PM.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mrs. Michaels at 9:10PM and seconded by Mr. Guzzi. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Evans made a motion seconded by Mr. DeLuca, to suspend the golfing privileges of Mr. Nico Baldelli at Tashua Knolls Golf Course for the remainder of the 2015 season. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. DeLibro at 9:15 PM; seconded by Mr. Turk to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk