

**Golf Commission Meeting  
February 28, 2011  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Ron Dray, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; George Furkiotis; Dave Galla, Tony Johnson, Jonathan Turk

**Members Absent:** Teri Deal; Tony Guzzi; Jim Steidlmayer

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 January 24, 2011 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Galla, seconded by Mr. Turk to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

**Audience Participation:**

Mr. Domenick Faustini, Concessionaire, presented the Commission with a proposal to make improvements to the ladies locker room at the Clubhouse. Improvements will be made at Domenick's cost and will include:

1. Replace carpet
2. Build shelf above bulletin boards
3. Add pull down shades to protect bulletin boards
4. Paint entire room
5. Add new couch
6. Add credenza with file cabinets

Mrs. Diane Viera, president Ladies 18-holers, thanked Domenick for his willingness to update the locker room which is badly in need of sprucing up. Her two concerns were that the pull down shades did not interfere with anything on the bulletin boards nor take away any space from them. Her second concern was that at least two tables remain in the room for the ladies to work at. Mrs. Lisa Laudano, president Ladies 9-holers expressed the same two concerns but requested at least three tables. Mr. Faustini addressed those concerns and assured the Ladies Clubs that it would not be a problem. Mr. Johnson suggested that Mrs. Deal be appointed as the Commission liaison to approve color choices and ensure that the work is carried out to the satisfaction of all parties.

Mr. Tony Johnson made a motion; seconded by Mr. Dave Galla; to approve Mr. Faustini's request to update the ladies locker room provided that all work is agreed to by the Commission representative. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Lisa Laudano also stated that she felt the condition of the ladies bathroom in 2010 was not maintained to previous levels. Mrs. Laudano has received complaints from club members regarding the cleanliness and lack of supplies this past year. Mr. Faustini addressed the issue as he is responsible for maintaining the bathrooms. He stated that he experienced some problems with personnel changeover last year but has added new personnel this year to address the problems. He will also monitor the situation more closely.

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

##### **Labor:**

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Cook, Gallant, Romano)

##### **Maintenance Overview:**

- Equipment maintenance is ongoing. By the end of this week, all reel sharpening will be complete and all greens, tee, and fairway mowers will be sharpened, serviced, and reassembled. Only the rough units remain to be serviced.
- The #1 priority of the maintenance department is the clearing of all remaining snow on the greens. There is an ice layer of between 2” – 3” under a snow cover of 6” – 14” on the greens. Problems that can develop with prolonged ice exposure include:
  - Crown hydration
  - Suffocation
- Several seasonal workers will be activated and on stand-by so that once the grounds have thawed sufficiently a work force will be ready to start.

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

Mr. Evans stated that no outside work as been done on the course due to the severe winter. He did want to stress Mr. Nagashima’s assessment of the damage that can occur to our greens if not properly addressed. He stated that several golf courses in the Northeast have already experienced some damage. Further questions were asked of Mr. Nagashima as to his plans for the greens. The top layer of snow will be removed from the greens to expose the ice to the sun to facilitate melting. A layer of the green divot mix will be spread on the ice which should make its way down to the greens to create air space to allow the greens to breathe and to release any gases that may have formed between the greens and the ice. Core samples will also be taken and kept inside to test for any damage. If damage is found corrective action will be taken including resodding and reseedling.

#### **Head Professional Report (Jon Janik):**

##### **Tournaments:**

- Deposits Received:
  - May 9<sup>th</sup> - Kiwanis
  - May 16<sup>th</sup> – Trumbull Rotary
  - August 1<sup>st</sup> – Don Miklus Memorial

- Confirmed Dates:
  - o May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Trumbull Father’s Club
  - o May 23<sup>rd</sup> – St. Vincent’s Special Needs
  - o June 2<sup>nd</sup> – American Legion
  - o June 27<sup>th</sup> – Lindwall Foundation
  - o June 13<sup>th</sup> – University of Bridgeport
  - o July 11<sup>th</sup> – Trumbull Republican Town Committee
  - o August 15<sup>th</sup> – Wounded Warrior Project
  - o September 12<sup>th</sup> – Newtown Rotary
  - o September 19<sup>th</sup> – Knights of Columbus

Pro Shop:

- Pro shop has been cleaned, touched up, and prepared for the season
- New merchandise will be arriving beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - o Featured golf club companies will be Nike, and Ping
  - o Featured apparel companies will be Adidas and Nike

Instructional Programs:

- Adult programs:
  - o Outside programs - EWGA – three programs for the spring will be created and marketed at the EWGA Tee-Off Luncheon on March 20<sup>th</sup>
  - o Inside programs – Dave Bove has been working on a full schedule of adult programs which will include full and half day golf schools, swing clinics, and camps
- Junior programs:
  - o Sign-ups for junior programs will begin March 12<sup>th</sup>
  - o Spring programs include full swing classes, on-course classes, spring camp, and leagues

**General Manager Report (Bobby Brown):**

Mr. Brown and his staff attended the PGA Merchandise Show and the PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit in Orlando, FL. The general consensus from the PGA and the show floor and vendors is that 2011 looks to be a promising year for golf growth. Merchandise orders and industry reports indicate a turn for the positive. One initiative from the show is to continue to grow the game through effective on-course programs with new adult golfers and more emphasis on junior golf programs and youth physical fitness. The teaching summit was highlighted by presentations from Lou Holtz and Bob Toski.

The ten extra rental carts are scheduled to be delivered this week. Until more space in the cart barn can be cleared, they will be stored in the Miklus Center. Mr. Dray asked that Mr. Brown double check that the amperage in the Center is sufficient for the carts.

An informational meeting to discuss the Tashua Knolls alcohol policy protocol is being scheduled for March.

The 2011 Tashua ID passes and spring golf program enrollment will begin on Saturday, March 12, from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

The driving range improvements for 2011 include three new mats, a new range door featuring a new dollar bill receptacle, wireless connection for communication with the pro shop, and Range Express advanced bucket purchase. The old E-keys will be replaced with a magnetic card. New targets will be added and new yellow Nike range balls will be introduced. Total investment in the range is \$10,000. Mr. Brown also agreed to paint the range shed where necessary.

Also a new CG1 Game Changer launch monitor will be introduced this year. The device will provide customers with feed back about ball speed, spin rate, and side spin. It will be used in driver fittings and coaching sessions. Total cost of the device is \$6,400.

**House Committee (Tony Johnson):**

The clubhouse and surrounding area has suffered some problems during the severe winter.

The solar light and several lights in the parking lot and on Tashua Knolls Lane are not working. Mr. Nagashima will contact the UI.

The new cart barn roof needs flashing repaired around the cupola. The maintenance crew will handle that repair.

The pro shop walls and counter have been painted. The door to the shop has been stained as well.

The most significant damage occurred to the front and back porch areas outside the clubhouse where the ceilings have collapsed due to ice dams. The costs to repair the damage include:

- Emergency ceiling removal: \$600
- Emergency roof snow removal: \$1,450
- Front labor to install new ceiling: \$700
- Back labor to install new ceiling: \$1,500
- New vinyl ceiling: \$1,200
- New commercial lights: 8 x \$160
- Labor to install lights: \$600
- Total cost of damage: \$6,250

Mrs. Christine Plumeau, Administrative Assistant, will contact Town Hall regarding an insurance claim.

The fascia board underneath the gutters were found to be rotted which caused the gutters to collapse, sink, and not function properly which added to the ice dam problem. The repair to the fascia board will be handled in house and quotes for the gutters will be obtained.

The problem with the attic insulation was once again discussed. It was agreed that we will call in three insulation vendors to give us a price per square foot quote. Once we have the quotes, we can decide how much insulation we want to do in the attic and go before the Town Council to request funding if necessary.

The regularly scheduled boiler inspection also took place. Two maintenance problems were identified. The burner nozzles on both clubhouse boilers had excess soot and the relief valve on the water booster in the restaurant must be replaced. Once the official report is received, it will be given to Mr. Faustini for action.

The compressor for the fire suppression system has been running excessively. Fairfield Sprinkler conducted an inspection and found the following issues: need to purchase four extra sprinkler heads, one air and one water gauge need replacement, and a clogged line was cleared. The cause of the compressor issue is a leak in the pipes which could not be identified on initial inspection. The entire system will have to be flooded when the temperature moderates.

The computer in the office suffered hard drive damage and will need replacement. CT Retail Systems is working on the issue.

Lastly, the previously agreed-to awning over the starter's area will need to be ordered and installed.

**Finance** (Dave Galla):

Monthly revenue for January is \$60.00.

We are currently tracking well against expenses for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

Tashua Knolls is scheduled for a Board of Finance meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 PM.

**Correspondence:**

None

**Old Business:**

A marketing and installation and software proposal was received from Fore Reservations for \$3,200 for upgrades to be done in the 2011 winter off-season.

Mr. John Ponzio, Town Treasurer, and Mr. Evans are still working on updating information on the Kaulbach Trust.

Mrs. Plumeau followed up on the records retention issue and reported that the area in the men's locker right next to the existing office would be a good location to add an area to hold file cabinets and a locked storage area. Mr. Evans will investigate the possibility.

**New Business:**

Mr. Galla presented the Commission with a Financial Analysis for the 2011 season revenue that outlined several scenarios and considerations. Mr. Galla expressed concerned that our revenue for the 2011 season may be adversely affected due to:

- Current economic conditions
- Future retained earnings
- Weather variables
- Unexpected damage to the course and clubhouse
- Fuel and fertilizer costs

Mr. Johnson discussed the fact that a \$1 rate increase now would mitigate the need for a larger rate increase in the future in the event that we had a down year revenue wise. He also stated that a \$1 increase would not represent a hardship to the average golfer.

Mr. Dray felt that as three Commissioners were not in attendance, the 2011 rate discussion should be held at the March meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Galla; seconded by Mr. Johnson; to hold a special meeting in one to two weeks to discuss rates for the 2011 season. Motion failed - 3 For (Galla, Johnson, Furkiotis), 3 Against (Dray, Evans, Turk)

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson at 9:15 PM; seconded by Mr. Furkiotis; to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau  
Golf Course Commission Clerk