

Golf Course Commission Meeting  
Agenda

Date: Monday, September 26, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Council Chambers –Town Hall

1. Meeting called to order
2. Review and approval of prior minutes
3. Audience Participation
4. Director, Golf Course Properties/Green Committee – Andy Fries/Shelly Dowling
5. Director of Golf – Bobby Brown
  - a. House Committee – Tony Ciccaglione
  - b. Concessionaire – Domenick Faustini
  - c. Finance Committee – Dave Galla
  - d. Personnel – Diane Wheeler
6. Correspondence
  - a. Ladies 9 and 18-hole Restaurant Letter
  - b. Sr. Men’s Flagpole Donation
  - c. First Selectman’s Letter
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Executive Session to discuss a personnel and legal issue.
10. Adjournment

***Please email Chris Plumeau at [tkgolf@trumbull-ct.gov](mailto:tkgolf@trumbull-ct.gov) if unable to attend***

**Golf Course Commission Meeting  
August 22, 2022  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Joe Gaudiano (Acting Chairman); Shelly Dowling; Owen Evans; Dave Galla; Nate Moyer; Diane Wheeler

**Also Attending:** Bobby Brown, Director of Golf Operations, Andy Fries, Director Golf Course Properties

**Members Absent:** Tom Cerulli; Tony Ciccaglione

Mr. Gaudiano called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:**

Review and approval of the Minutes of July 25, 2022 . . . A Motion was made by Mrs. Dowling, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously (6 – 0)

Mr. Gaudiano began the meeting by thanking Mr. Espach for his two stints of service on the Golf Course Commission. The first beginning in 2008 and the second beginning in 2018. Most recently, he served for 4-1/2 years; first as Finance Chairman and for the past three years as Chairman. He led us through the COVID pandemic into the recent financially successful past two years. The entire Commission joined in thanking Mr. Espach.

**Election of Officers:**

Mr. Moyer moved to nominate Joe Gaudiano as Chairman of the Golf Course Commission for the remainder 2022, seconded by Mrs. Dowling. There being no further nominations, the clerk cast one unanimous ballot for Joe Gaudiano.

Mr. Evans moved to nominate Shelly Dowling as Vice-Chairman of the Golf Course Commission for the remainder of 2022. Mrs. Dowling responded that she had not thought of serving as Vice-Chairman and felt she did not have the time to dedicate to the position.

Mrs. Dowling moved to nominate Nate Moyer as Vice-Chairman of the Golf Course Commission for the remainder of 2022; seconded by Mr. Gaudiano. There being no further nominations, the clerk cast one 5 – 1 (Abstain: Evans) ballot for Nate Moyer.

**Audience Participation:**

- None

**Director Golf Course Properties/Green Committee (Andy Fries, Shelly Dowling):**

- See report attached

- Mr. Fries added that both courses are doing as well as can be expected during the exceptionally dry, hot weather. As soon as the weather breaks, both courses will be reseeded.
- Due to the unusual amount of irrigation on the course, there has been a higher amount of broken heads. There have also been several large pieces of equipment breaking down. This has resulted in a larger than normal expenditure in the maintenance GL at the start of the fiscal year.
- The fall will bring more attention to wood lines and vegetation including the left of #10 Knolls.
- Mr. Fries, Mr. Brown and the Green Committee will be meeting with Mr. Robert McNeil, golf course architect, next week.
- Mrs. Plumeau thanked the Ladies 18-holers for their recent donation of 18 native plants from their Invitational.

**Director of Golf Operations (Bobby Brown):**

- See report attached
- Mr. Brown updated the Commission on several instances of vandalism on the course. As a result, security measures around the complex will be stepped up considerably.
- Mrs. Dowling informed the Commission of two occurrences to her as she was leaving the complex in the evening when it was dark. Both times, the Ranger on duty personally made certain that Mrs. Dowling was safely in her car. The ranger in the latest incident was Mr. Richard Catanese.
- Mrs. Plumeau also gave kudos to the pro shop staff and the starters/rangers for their help and dedication in tracking down customers and paperwork on several recent occasions.

**House Committee (Nate Moyer):**

- See report attached

**Concessionaire (Domenick Faustini):**

- No report given
- Mr. Gaudio reported that a meeting was held on August 19<sup>th</sup> between Mr. Faustini, himself, Mr. Ciccaglione, and Mrs. Marie Scott, president of the ladies 19-holers. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss survey results of the recent Ladies Invitational which pointed to reoccurring problems with the food served at their events. The meeting was productive with Mr. Faustini committing to a stepped up partnership between himself, the Commission and the various clubs.

**Finance (Dave Galla):**

- See attached report
- In addition planning will begin in September for the next fiscal year's budget.

**Personnel (Diane Wheeler):**

- Mr. Fries 6-month review will be coming up in September. Mrs. Wheeler asked all Commissioners to forward any comments to her. She will be meeting with Mr. Gaudio to discuss the process.

**Correspondence**

- None

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- The Commission gave its consent to move the time of the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to 7:00 PM.
- The Employee Appreciation event is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup> at the clubhouse from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
- Mrs. Plumeau reported on the progress of Tashua's Environmental Initiative. A new tab on the website has been created to list the numerous efforts. We have been working with the Town's Sustainable Team and Conservation Commission to keep them apprised of our efforts. There is currently a tank set up in the clubhouse where at least a dozen caterpillars are in the process of emerging into Monarch butterflies.

**Executive Session:**

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion seconded by Mr. Moyer at 8:10 PM to move into Executive Session to discuss a legal and a contractual matter. Mr. Brown, Mr. Fries and Mrs. Plumeau were asked to attend the Session Motion carried unanimously (6 – 0).

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by Mrs. Dowling at 8:25 PM and seconded by Mrs. Wheeler. Motion carried unanimously (6 – 0).

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. Moyer at 8:27 PM; seconded by Mrs. Wheeler to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously (8– 0).

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau  
Golf Course Commission Clerk

**Golf Course Commission  
Green Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2022**

**Members Present:** Shelly Dowling (Green Committee Chair), Owen Evans, Andy Fries, Bobby Brown

Mrs. Dowling called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**Topics Discussed:**

- After a very hot and dry August, the course has responded nicely to the 5+ inches of rain September has brought.
- Aeration schedule is set with the Glen on September 27<sup>th</sup> and the Knolls on October 3 and 4.
- Seeding continues and aeration will be done more frequently.
- Sand is added to the bunkers as appropriate.
- Great progress has been made cleaning the maintenance barn. Several dumpsters were filled and all equipment can now be stored indoors.
- The remaining mower ordered this past fiscal year will be delivered on Friday, September 16.
- Working on plans for next year's fiscal budget for equipment and projects.
- Mr. Brown, Mr. Evans and Mr. Fries will tour the course for potential winter project.
- Mrs. Dowling will be following up on the job classification for the approved Mechanic position so it can be posted.
- Mr. Fries responded to Mr. Evans question that we do in fact have a moisture meter.
- Mr. Brown and Mr. Fries will determine a location on Knolls #7 and #16 for the sand/seed boxes to be returned.
- The fall paving project has gone out to bid. The project will require the maintenance department to move a few sprinkler heads prior to paving and to take care of some landscaping after the paving is complete.
- Mr. Evans asked about treating the ponds and Mr. Fries responded that he needs a second quote.
- Mr. Brown asked about the repairs to the Ventrac which are taking place now.
- A discussion was held on the proposed Architectural Consultation Services. A memo will be put together on the project for vote at the September meeting.
- August Weather Report: Dry and hot weather continued in August. We received just shy of 1" of rain, about 3" less than normal. It was also very warm with numerous nights where the low never dipped below 70 degrees and daily highs north of 80 degrees for much of the month

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Plumeau  
Administrative Assistant

**TASHUA KNOLLS GOLF COMMISSION  
SPECIAL PROJECTS/HOUSE COMMITTEE  
Commission Meeting Monday, September 26th, 2022**

**Topics For discussion**

- 0 Power wash the rear entrance and review the restaurant area doorway. October completion
- 0 Lighting punch list is the two cart barn bathrooms and OCC sensors to be moved for better control on/off.
- 0 Plan to go for three bids for new paving in the area from the Cart Barn to Club house. Bid Opening 9/29/2022.
- 0 Review areas for New carpet in club house. Expect install January.
- 0 Main water pipe from the Meter to the Maintenance Barn has an underground leak. Difficulty finding someone to fix.
- 0 Roof Repair underway. Roof work completed. Custom Drain spouts to be delivered/completed by 9/14/2022.
- 0 Developing budget for next fiscal year. Additional paving and painting will be included.
- 0 Upgrades required for both Mens/Women bathrooms. Get bids during September. Exact work TBD. Working with Gralor.

**Respectfully submitted**

Anthony Ciccaglione – Head of House Committee



**Tashua Knolls Golf Course**  
**Finance and Budget**  
 August 2022

**Income**

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- Total rounds remain strong
  - Knolls – up YOY 9%
  - Glenn – up YOY 19%
  - Total rounds up 1,186 in same period
- Income up – total of 12.73%
  - Knolls +11.45%
  - Glenn - +18.39%
- Cart Rounds up 14.5% YOY
- Total income is up 12.75%
  - 11.5% Knolls
  - 18.4% Glen

Rounds	2021	5-yr. Avg.	2022
Knolls Rounds	6,996	6,485	7,669
Glenn Rounds	3,041	2,978	3,744
Cart Rounds	7,232	6,856	8,418

Income	2021	5-yr. Avg.	2022
Knolls Income	\$310,213.00	\$273,148.30	\$350,307.00
Glenn Income	\$ 76,779.00	\$ 70,807.20	\$ 94,082.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$383,943.00</b>	<b>\$344,790.07</b>	<b>\$439,928.00</b>

The 5 year average is impacted by COVID-19 course closure in 2020

## Expenses

Tashua Golf YTD Budget Report - Fiscal Year 2022/2023						
Account Description	Original	Transfer	Revised	YTD	Encumber	As of 9/19/2022 Available
Salaries-FT/Permanent	433,665		433,665	58,191		375,474
Salaries-PT/Permanent	26,706		26,706	6,801		19,904
Salaries-Seasonal	256,500		256,500	82,357		174,142
Salaries - Overtime	18,000		18,000	1,955		16,044
Salaries- Longevity	850		850	0		850
Uniform Allowance	4,000		4,000	888		3,111
Services & Fees Clerical	840		840	140		700
Services & Fees Professional	223,464		223,464	50,787	172,677	0
Services & Fees Ancillary	17,000		17,000	1,000	6,995	9,005
Services & Fees Contractual	117,283		117,283	106,922		10,361
Program Expense	2,000		2,000	0		2,000
Reimbursable to GF	288,300		288,300	288,300		0
Materials & Supplies Office	72,000		72,000	9,195	14,560	48,244
Program Supplies	272,000		272,000	62,055	65,909	144,035
Communications PR	1,000		1,000	0		1,000
Professional Dev Conferences	1,750		1,750	0		1,750
Dues	2,100		2,100	480		1,620
Oil, Gas, Grease	18,500		18,500	5,881	6,119	6,500
Travel Reimbursement	500		500	67		433
Maintenance Repair Contracts	22,943		22,943	2,903	9,158	10,881
Maintenance Equipment/Building	101,500		101,500	26,604	20,591	54,304
Refuse	2,761		2,761	690	2,071	0
Capital Outlay	95,000	106,646	201,646	0	155,895	45,750
Leases	106,462		106,462	0	67,290	39,171
Occasional Rentals	3,000		3,000	0		0
Heat	7,450		7,450	2,915		4,534
Electricity	48,500		48,500	7,506		40,996
Water	54,500		54,500	15,986		38,513
Telephone/Internet	1,560		1,560	260		1,300
Interest on Bonds	28,052		28,052	0		28,052
Principal on Bonds	251,961		251,961	0		251,961
<b>TOTAL TASHUA KNOLLS BUDGET</b>	<b>2,480,147</b>	<b>106,646</b>	<b>2,586,793</b>	<b>731,883</b>	<b>521,265</b>	<b>1,330,635</b>
<b>TOTAL TASHUA KNOLLS EXPENSES</b>						
Tashua Knolls Income (MUNIS)				828,149		
Misc. Revenue (Rent)				8,666		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>				<b>836,815</b>		
<b>NON BUDGET EXPENSES</b>						
Credit Card Fees				22,263		
Golf Car Taxes				7,161		
Banking Fees				0		
ATK Tournament Fees				5,480		
<b>TOTAL NON-BUDGET EXPENSES</b>				<b>34,904</b>		

## Miscellaneous Finance

No Misc. Finance of note for this meeting.

To: Trumbull Golf Commission

Date: September 26, 2022

It is important for me to stress our goal was/is for Tashua to be our league's clubhouse where we gather after golf, hold all our luncheons, and host our signature Invitational. By taking the actions below we believed we could help upgrade the quality of food by partnering with Domenick, being candid with feedback, and moving forward in a positive, constructive way.

#### Background:

- July 2021 Invitational – We conducted our first survey with 128 participants (roughly 50/50 split of club members and non-club members). Survey response was very high with approximately 50% of event participants giving feedback. Survey results gave highest marks for golf course, Bobby and his team, organization of the event, and the volunteers. Food was rated “poor”, “inedible”, and “disappointing”. Comments were made that we need to change the vendor.
- Regular Thursday golf – Our membership wants to gather after golf (especially after the lockdown) but gives the food such poor marks that there are few if any who stay. My first year with the league was in 2018 and many golfers met weekly to have lunch and socialize. That was also the case in 2019. The Grill room was filled with the 9 Holvers who were just finishing their after-golf gathering when the 18 Holvers started to come in.
- July 2022 Invitational – Once again we conducted a survey and food rated poorly.
- August 11, 2022 – Championship Luncheon. Only 13 of anticipated 45 signed up for lunch citing the poor food that they didn't want to pay for. For the Board to afford to pay for the event, we adjusted the menu to desserts and beverages only. Because we paid for the event and changed the menu, we were able to attract the appropriate participation to congratulate the winners and give them the respect they deserved.
- August 19, 2022 – Meet with Domenick, Joe Guadiano, and Tony Ciccaglione. Domenick asked to hear the comments from the two surveys which I read. The comments were brutal, but Domenick appeared to accept them reasonably well. He committed to demonstrating what he could do by providing some of his signature dishes at our next major luncheon on 9/8. He agreed to be cc'd on my email to the league that the meeting went well, and we were now partners on making his restaurant our go-to place. Domenick thanked me for the email, saying it was positive. I also stressed with Domenick that we are sensitive to the issue of rising costs and the Board agreed we would need to pay more for a meal but the proverbial “between a rock and a hard place” means we would be paying more for the same substandard food.
- September 8, 2022 America the Beautiful Luncheon – In order to secure enough attendees since it was an important General Meeting, the Board paid for lunch. Domenick provided no signature dishes as he had promised and his only options were chicken wraps, chicken sandwiches, and salad. No imagination, no newness, no demonstration of elevating his quality/variety, or any attempt to win our leagues trust. We conducted another survey of those who attended the luncheon, and the results came back just as poor as the two Invitational surveys.
- September 2022 – We cancelled our closing Banquet for 10/13 which will now be held at Vazzy's 19<sup>th</sup> Hole at Fairchild Wheeler.

As a board, we have agreed we can no longer hold our four major 2023 luncheons at Tashua. This is not ideal, but we can no longer “give it a try and hope Domenick will deliver something better” as we did for this 2022 season. We can no longer rely on Domenick to be the “expert chef and caterer” to help us plan a quality menu. If outside events such as weddings, showers, etc. receive better feedback then we expect that same chef for our large events and after golf.

The big issue is our Invitational:

- Logistically it is not feasible to ask players to go to another location for lunch.
- Financially our league cannot afford to buy out a restaurant to hold 128 golfers.
- The impact to Bobby and the proshop is significant if participants leave to eat at another location.
- Our raffle (in partnership with Bobby and the proshop) is a huge source of revenue to the league and the logistics of how to handle if at another location are more than a volunteer organization can handle.

We are asking for the commission’s partnership in coming up with a solution to hold our 2023 Invitational at Tashua; a solution that is financially feasible and makes sense logistically.

We are extremely disappointed that we are at this point.

Respectfully,

Marie Scott

President TKWGA

[mariescott6@gmail.com](mailto:mariescott6@gmail.com)

646-483-6731 mobile

## Tashua Knolls Senior Men's Club



Ms. Christine Plumeau  
Tashua Knolls Golf Course  
40 Tashua Knolls Lane  
Trumbull, CT 06611

Dear Christine,

In honor of our past members and veterans, The Tashua Knolls Senior Men's Club is donating the Flagpole and Flag installed on the golf course staging area at the Tashua Knolls Golf Course. This site was selected to give the Flag prominence and visibility from multiple points on the property, from the parking lot to the actual course.

Also, to thank the Golf commission for their support over the years of The Tashua Senior Men's Club, and as part of the transition of ownership of the Flag and pole we pledge to donate \$500.00 in 2023, 2024 and 2025 for the care and maintenance of the Flag and pole.

Best Regards,  
Jim Costello  
TKSMC President

Cc: Mark Ryan  
TKSMC VP

Vicki A. Tesoro  
First Selectman



Office of the First Selectman  
Town Hall  
5866 Main Street  
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611  
203-452-5005

## TOWN OF TRUMBULL CONNECTICUT

Trumbull Golf Commission  
Tashua Knolls Golf Course  
40 Tashua Knolls Lane  
Trumbull, CT 06611

August 31, 2022

Dear Commissioners,

It is with deep gratitude that I thank you for your donation to the First Selectman's Golf Classic. Your generosity will benefit the Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band, the Academic Challenge for Excellence, and the various booster clubs for THS sport teams. Again, we had a successful, beautiful day for golf! Thanks for all you do to keep the course in such beautiful condition.

Your support makes a world of difference to our young adults at the high school. It helps our marching band, our various academic teams, and our sports teams perform at the high levels for which they have been recognized. The students, their parents, directors, and coaches could not achieve such success without support from the community.

I hope you will continue your support next year and join us again for another wonderful golf tournament-- a tournament that has now donated approximately \$500,000 to our high school organizations!

Sincerely,

Vicki A. Tesoro  
First Selectman

*Thank you very much!*