

**Golf Course Commission Meeting
September 26, 2022
Minutes**

Members Present: Joe Gaudiano (Chairman); Nate Moyer (Vice-Chairman); Tom Cerulli; Tony Ciccaglione; Shelly Dowling; Owen Evans; Dave Galla

Also Attending: Andy Fries, Director Golf Course Properties; Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman

Members Absent: Diane Wheeler

Mr. Gaudiano called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of August 22, 2022 . . . A Motion was made by Mrs. Dowling, seconded by Mr. Moyer, to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0)

Mr. Gaudiano made a motion to take the agenda out of order:

Mr. Gaudiano made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ciccaglione to take the agenda out of order to allow the Tashua Ladies Clubs to present their letter to the Commission. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

Correspondence

- The attached letter to the Golf Course Commission was received by Marie Scott, President of the Ladies 18-holers. Mrs. Scott was present at the meeting to highlight the letter. She began by stressing that the intent of the Ladies 18-holers is always to have Tashua be their clubhouse for all of their events. However, three surveys by the club pointed to a dissatisfaction with the food being served at various events. Mrs. Scott also met with Mr. Gaudiano, Mr. Ciccaglione and Mr. Faustini to discuss the problem. She felt the meeting was positive that some promised changes will take place to improve the quality of the food. Unfortunately the promised changes did not occur. The club has made the decision to hold the majority of their 2023 season food events at outside venues. However their Invitational is their signature event attended by 128 women; half from Tashua and half from other clubs. Logistically it would be nearly impossible to hold the food service and raffle for this event elsewhere. She also stated to keep holding any food event at Tashua would be a big blow to their credibility as the surveys again and again point to a problem with the food. She asked for a partnership with the Golf Course Commission to work out a solution.

Also in attendance to support Mrs. Scott from the 18-hole Ladies were: Julie Jenkins, Kathy Monaghan, Joyce Flanagan, Rhea Adler, Lezlie Anastas, Manny Valdes, Carol Marinaccio, Meg Cole and Diane Vieira. Lending their support the ladies 9 hole attendees were Janet Arena and Lucille Sheehan.

Mr. Gaudio spoke on behalf of the Commission and stated that “We Hear You.” He also stated that Mr. Faustini was asked twice to attend tonight’s meeting but has chosen not to. Therefore the Commission could not hold a constructive discussion at this time. Mr. Gaudio committed to following up with Mr. Faustini to set up a meeting to discuss alternatives as well as to add to the agenda for October.

Mrs. Dowling also added that if the various Tashua clubs don’t hold their events on site, that is also hurting Mr. Brown’s business as well because the attendees don’t end up shopping at the pro shop.

Audience Participation:

- None

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

- See report attached
- Mr. Fries and Mr. Brown made their first ride around the front 9. They both pointed out several issues and agreed to more frequent communication now that the brunt of the summer rush has subsided.
- A meeting was held between Mr. Fries, Mr. Brown and Mrs. Dowling with Robert McNeil, Golf Course Architect for The Northeast Golf Company. Mr. McNeil submitted a proposal to map out a plan for Consultation/Comprehensive Golf Course Enhancement Planning services to map out a plan for the future of the property at Tashua Knolls Golf Course.

Mrs. Dowling made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gaudio to allocate \$6,500 from the Program Account for the Northeast Golf Company Consultation/Comprehensive Golf Course Enhancement Planning service. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

Director of Golf Operations (Bobby Brown):

- See report attached
- Mr. Brown did want to state that all 2022 season golf shop credit must be redeemed by December 15th and all rain checks must be used by the last day of play of 2022.

House Committee (Tony Ciccaglione):

- See report attached
- In addition, the water heater at the maintenance barn broke down and required total replacement.

Concessionaire (Domenick Faustini):

- No report given

Finance (Dave Galla):

- See attached report
- Initial FY 2024 budget meetings will be taking place over the next couple of weeks.

Personnel (Diane Wheeler):

- No report given.

Correspondence

- Mr. Jim Costello, President of the Tashua Knolls Sr. Men's Club, submitted a letter to the Commission gifting the flagpole and flag in the garden between Knolls #1 and #10 to the Golf Course. In addition to thank the Golf Commission for their support over the years, they are also donating \$500 for the next three years for the care and maintenance of the flag and pole. Mr. Gaudio thanked the Sr. Men's Club for their donation.
- Mrs. Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman, submitted a letter to the Commission thanking them for their donation to the First Selectman's Golf Classic held in August. In addition, Mrs. Tesoro thanked the Commission for the job done on the course to keep it in such beautiful condition. The Golf Classic supports the Trumbull High Marching Band, the Academic Challenge for Excellence and various booster clubs for THS sport teams.

Old Business:

- Mr. Moyer and the Golf Commission commended the work done by Mrs. Plumeau and Mrs. Jeanmarie Montabana, Tashua Gardener, for all their hard work on the native plants and wildlife projects around the course. In particular, the 59 Monarch butterflies that emerged in tanks at the course and the \$695 raised for the Pollinator Pathway through the "Name the Butterfly" program. Mrs. Plumeau thanked all of the individuals at Tashua who donated to the program and helped to make it a very rewarding experience.

New Business:

- None

Executive Session:

Mr. Galla made a motion seconded by Mr. Moyer at 7:45 PM to move into Executive Session to discuss a legal and a contractual matter. Mr. Fries and Mrs. Plumeau were asked to attend the Session Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by Mrs. Dowling at 7:55 PM and seconded by Mr. Moyer. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Moyer at 7:57 PM; seconded by Mr. Cerulli to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously (7– 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 27th 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



September Golf Commission Meeting

September 26, 2022

GOLF OPERATIONS REPORT

Bobby Brown, PGA Director of Golf

Golf Operations:

*On Saturday, September 24th, I was awarded the 2022 Connecticut PGA Youth Development award. This is the first time winning this award in CT and I have previously won this award twice in the South Florida PGA section.

*Weekend shotguns are planned to start the first Saturday of November (November 5th) 8:30am starts weather permitting.

*Tee time start times have scale back for September with a 7:30am Tuesday-Friday start and 7am on Weekends.

*After work play (3pm and later) is starting to come to end as we lose daylight

*Boys High School golf (Trumbull & St. Joes) is in full swing.

Tournaments:

*September 12th Laborers Union 68 players

*September 19th HBRA 136 Knolls 12 Players Glen

*September 26th- Districts 5 teams 69 player Double Tee 8:30am

*September 12th Orchards Women's Group 60 players on Glen cancelled due to rain

Pro Shop: (1st Reminder)

*All 2022 golf shop credit must be redeemed by December 15th and any outstanding rain checks must be used by the end of the 2022 golf season.

**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

- 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
Total Income	\$383,943.00	\$344,790.07	\$439,928.00

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	54,804
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
TOTAL TASHUA KNOLLS BUDGET	2,480,147	106,646	2,586,793	731,883	521,265	1,330,635
TOTAL TASHUA KNOLLS EXPENSES						
Tashua Knolls Income (MUNIS)				828,149		
Misc. Revenue (Rent)				8,666		
TOTAL INCOME				836,815		
NON BUDGET EXPENSES						
Credit Card Fees				22,263		
Golf Car Taxes				7,161		
Banking Fees				0		
ATK Tournament Fees				5,480		
TOTAL NON-BUDGET EXPENSES				34,904		

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 Holers who were just finishing their after-golf gathering when the 18 Holers 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 19th 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
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!