

**Golf Commission Meeting
June 25, 2012
Minutes**

Members Present: Ron Dray, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Teri Deal; Dick DeLibro, Joe DeLuca; Tony Guzzi; Tony Johnson; Joyce Michaels; Jonathan Turk

Also Attending: Robert Brown, Director of Golf; Hidalgo Nagashima, Director of Golf Course Property; Jon Janik, Head Golf Professional

Members Absent: None

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 May 21, 2012 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Johnson seconded by Mr. DeLuca to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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Audience Participation:

- Mark and Jennifer Kirkham of Farmstead Road in Trumbull appeared before the Commission to update their situation regarding golf balls hit into their yard. They had a meeting with Mr. Herbst, First Selectman, and Mr. Nicola, Town Attorney. The Kirkhams have had several discussions with golf course designers and once again wanted to know what Tashua Knolls could do. Mr. Dray informed the Kirkhams, that on the advice of counsel, we would not be responding.
- Mr. Joseph Kelley, Starter, went before the Commission to ask for assistance in helping to enforce the renewed emphasis on pace-of-play. He has been keeping extensive records on the length of time it takes for players to make the turn if they choose to go in to the restaurant for a drink or food. Mr. Kelley stated that it results in an average delay of 12 – 14 minutes. Mr. Kelley felt that this has a major impact on the pace-of-play and although he does go in to the restaurant to try to hurry golfers, he felt it was something that was out of his power to control. Mr. Dray responded that he and the Commission were aware of the problem and has been in discussions with Mr. Faustini, Concessionaire, to try to alleviate this problem. Although no progress has been made, Mr. Dray wanted to assure the entire staff that several alternatives were being considered and something would be implemented.
- Mr. Richard Ferguson, Player Assistant, expressed his concern that while he was assisting on the course he felt that too many individuals were coming up to him to provide input in speeding up pace-of-play. Mr. Ferguson suggested that the number of individuals responsible for pace-of-play should be limited. Mr. Dray agreed that too many interactions would be confusing, he also felt, however, that if any Commissioner saw something inappropriate happening on the course, it was his/her responsibility to act

on it. Mrs. Michaels took the opportunity to commend the Player Assistants on the great job they were doing in helping the pace-of-play. Mr. Dray seconded her comments.

Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima):

Labor:

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Cook, Gallant, Romano)
- Ten part-time seasonal (Messina, DeFrancisco, Quinn, Hoepfner, Markaj, Goodwin, Oleyar, Balkun, Edvardson, Valuzzo)
- Six summer seasonal (Bowden, Tyborowski, Bird, Kish, Matera, Bronsky)

Maintenance Department Outline:

- The course is in great shape. Several samples from greens #6, #15, and #17 were sent out for analysis due to questionable spots.
- Lycott Environmental has treated the ponds. The recent hot weather has caused the algae to bloom.
- Pinnicia Construction has completed their portion of the maintenance barn renovation. They will be submitting a proposal for converting a storage room into a break room to free up more space to work on equipment.
- G Pic has been contacted to schedule the paving of the maintenance area.
- Over the weekend the maintenance department demonstrated several rollers with very favorable results. A requisition for the preferred roller will be submitted to Town Hall.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- The maintenance crew has worked on several depressed fairway areas on the course. The areas were filled and seeded, but the results have been unsatisfactory probably due to the pre-emergent chemicals used on the remainder of the course. The areas will now be cut and sodded which should prove much more resistant to cart damage.

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

Golf Operations:

- May Rounds 2012: 7,759 (5,405 Knolls/2,354 Glen) vs. 2011: 7,399 (5,176 Knolls/2,223Glen)
- Six days were impacted by weather. However, we are one of the few courses in the area to experience increased rounds in May.
- Pace-of-play charts have been posted around the clubhouse and at the starter's booth.

Tournaments

- The only June tournament was St. Vincent's with 191 players. The Dennis Lindwall Foundation tournament scheduled for June 25th was rained out and has been rescheduled for July 30th. Mr. Dan Lynch, Web Site Designer, was commended for adding "Must Play Mondays" to the Tashua Knolls website encouraging play on

Mondays when there is no tournament scheduled. Due to increased promotion of Monday play, income for non-tournament Mondays is equal to days with scheduled tournaments.

Programs:

- Adult and junior programs are in full swing at the course. Now that school is out, the junior golf camps and programs are starting. Private lesson activity also remains strong.

House Committee (Tony Johnson):

- The old gutters at the clubhouse have been taken down and the fascia board has been prepped. The new gutters should be installed later in the week.
- Mr. DeLibro spoke about the work to date on the maintenance barn renovation and how pleased he is at the quality of work done by Pinnicia Construction. Congratulations were given to Mr. Dray, Mr. DeLibro and Mr. Nagashima for their work on the project.
- The new fire suppression air compressor failed due to the overheating of an element causing the system to initiate an emergency drain. The element is being replaced and the voltage of the electrical load reduced.
- The maintenance crew finished the back of the Miklus Center building and “dressed up” the area to mimic a barn door. The building looks great from the back side.

Finance (Jonathan Turk):

Monthly revenue - May (Off of Point of Sale System)

Total Income** (including carts)			
	<u>May 2011</u>	<u>May 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$270,491	\$289,955	+7.19%
Knolls** (including carts)			
	<u>May 2011</u>	<u>May 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$190,813	\$200,143	+4.89%
Glen** (including carts)			
	<u>May 2011</u>	<u>May 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
	\$47,795	\$52,901	+10.68%

Round Analysis

Knolls			
	<u>May 2011</u>	<u>May 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
	5,176	5,406	+4.44%
Glen			
	<u>May 2011</u>	<u>May 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
	2,223	2,354	+5.89%

Items of Note:

- Tashua Golf Course revenue is continuing to be favorable for the spring of 2012. Year-to-Date shows that based on our current Income/Expense projections we should see an increase in retained earnings of \$100,000+ this fiscal year (barring any unforeseen emergency).

Budget

- After reviewing the Munis report dated June 22nd 2012 the report shows that we are in great shape with most of our budget line items. Two exceptions; the first line item is the “Heat” which is running 171% of the estimated amount or \$3,663 over budget. The second budget line item is the “Phone” which is running 168% of the estimated amount or \$1,831 over budget. This increase was do to the newly installed DSL line added to Hidalgo’s building. Knowing this, we adjusted the “Phone” line item for the 2012-2013 budget to include this anticipated increase in cost.

Correspondence:

- None.

Old Business:

- As discussed after the May meeting, Mr. Glen Belush was issued a letter regarding some questionable behavior at the course. Mr. Belush received the letter and has returned to playing at the course with no further incidents.
- Mrs. Deal stated that she is ready to submit her business plan to several Commissioners. Several questions still require answers, but Mrs. Deal feels that it is ready for discussion.

New Business:

- Mr. Johnson asked the Commission to consider installing a sign at the bottom of the hill at #13 and #14 to advise golfers to be aware of golfers teeing off on #17. Mr. Nagashima reported that he already had a nice sign reading “Beware of Golfers on Tee” that could be installed on the hill. The Commission agreed to install the sign.
- Mrs. Michaels asked what the course policy is regarding players who show up late for a tee time. Mr. Brown responded when possible we give a player as much time as possible to get to the tee. If the majority of players are ready, they must tee off and if the last player shows up they can join the rest of the group.
- Mr. Guzzi asked about a sign that was in use several years ago that read “You Should Have Reached This Spot . . .” and wanted to know if we could re-install that sign. Mr. Nagashima responded that it was a hand-made sign that was taken out several years ago.
- Mr. Dray stated that he had been approached by a Player Assistant over the weekend who stated to his group that they “were not out of position but were approximately three minutes behind” and to “see what they could do to make up the time.” Mr. Dray was

impressed with the way the Player Assistant conveyed the information to the group and his professionalism in handling the situation.

- Mr. Dray informed the Commission that several overhanging branches on a tree on #18 would be trimmed.
- Mr. Johnson and Mr. Dray will be working together to spruce up the split rail fencing around the #1 and #10 tees. Several options are being considered.
- Mr. Evans and Mr. Dray discussed the cart path on #14 after receiving numerous complaints that the path was in play. It was recommended that the present path be changed to slope away and moved to the right. The new path will be roped off so that players are not able to take a short cut. The recommendation will be voted on at the July meeting.
- Mr. Dray reported that Mr. Ponzio, Town Treasurer, will be helping Tashua Knolls get Health Department approval to set up some type of “Snack Shack” near the turn to help with the pace-of-play issue. Mr. Dray asked all the Commissioners to submit their ideas to him regarding what items should be offered at the shack. Mr. Ponzio asked they keep in mind that the simpler the shack is, the more likely it would be to quickly get approval.
- Mr. Dray asked the Commission to help support “Must Play Mondays” by offering an incentive (suggested by Mr. Lynch). Everyone who plays on a Monday when no tournament is held would be entered into a drawing to receive a foursome for golf redeemable only on another open Monday during the season. Mr. Dray received consensus to proceed with the incentive.
- The course received several complaints over a wedding held outside last weekend that disrupted play. In addition to the wedding starting at 11:00 AM, the music was too loud, and someone from the wedding took a cart. All of these actions are in violation of the policy that was put in place in April 2007 when Mr. Faustini was given permission to hold events outside with several restrictions. Mr. Dray will re-iterate the existing policy with Mr. Faustini.
- The same employee of Mr. Faustini who had an accident in a golf course cart who was informed not to drive a cart was caught driving a cart without permission. Mr. Dray will speak to Mr. Faustini regarding that policy as well.
- Mr. Brown asked the Commission to establish a special rate for active military members. He will investigate what other courses are doing and report back at the July meeting.
- Mr. Brown also asked the Commission to consider establishing a play pass for juniors to use over the summer. He was asked to put a proposal together for the July meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. Evans made a motion at 8:40 PM, seconded by Mr. DeLuca, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Also invited to attend was John Ponzio, Town Treasurer, and Tim Herbst, First Selectman. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Commission discussed the First Selectman's cup to be held on August 24, 2012. The event is the first annual and will directly benefit the following Trumbull organizations: Academic Challenge for Excellence, THS Boosters Club, THS Golden Eagle Marching Band, and THS Choir. The Commission felt that they wanted to add their support to such a worthy cause.

A motion was made by Mr. Turk, seconded by Mr. Evans to set the Tashua Knolls Golf Course rate for the First Selectman's Classic at carts only. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Evans at 9:20 PM; seconded by Mr. Turk to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk