

**Golf Commission Meeting
March 24, 2014
Minutes**

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

Also Attending: Bobby Brown, Director of Golf; Hidalgo Nagashima, Director of Golf Course Property; Jon Janik, Head Golf Professional; Domenick Fuastini, Concessionaire

Members Absent: None

Ron Dray, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of February 17, 2014 . . . A Motion was made by Mrs. Michaels seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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Audience Participation:

- Mrs. Karen Daly, president of the Ladies 9-holers, thanked the Commission for the recent painting and sprucing up of the ladies locker room. In particular, Mrs. Michaels thanked Jeff Cook for his excellent paint job.

Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima):

Labor:

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Assistant Superintendent (Gallant)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Romano)
- Part-time Seasonal (Markaj, Rodriguez, Ferguson, Hicks, Quinn, Hoepfner)

Maintenance Department:

- For the most part, the course has weathered the brutal winter well. It is still too early to tell the extent of any damage to the greens. Some greens look better than others; however, Mr. Nagashima has found no significant damage. He has some concern about a few spots on the greens on #8 and #2 but they are relatively small. The tees and fairways appear to be disease free, which is encouraging. There is still some snow on a couple of the Glen greens and in some shaded areas of the Knolls.
- The 2014 season opening date is, of course, weather dependent. Mr. Nagashima and Mr. Brown would like to open on Wednesday, April 2, in time for a previously scheduled Senior Men's Club tournament that day and close on Monday, April 7, and Tuesday,

April 8, for aeration. And then reopen for good on April 9th. Due to the ground freezing earlier than usual this past winter, the fall aeration was not done. As a result we will be doing ½” deep tine aeration followed by a ¼” core aeration.

- Mr. Nagashima has been in contact with the bunker contractor, architect, and sod company. As of this date, it is felt that the sod company will be able to cut sod next week so the last few bunkers can be sodded and the contractors can begin work on the punch list and cleanup. Mr. Nagashima is encouraged that there was little sand movement in the bunkers over the winter and that they are not holding water. The sod that was already in place looks good and the sod that was placed first looks to be planted. The goal is to open all bunkers by the end of May. Prior to the bunkers opening, ALL players will be informed through many channels that play in the bunkers is forbidden. Also, in order to maintain the integrity of the new bunkers, Tashua Knolls may entertain a one way in, one way out policy for all bunkers.
- A stump grinder will be on site on March 25th to remove stumps from #2, #4, and #10 and between #11 and #17.
- Outside clubhouse work will resume when more outside maintenance personnel are available.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- No report.

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

Golf Operations:

- The newly-hired outside staff has had one orientation meeting and one training meeting. One more training meeting with the entire outside staff will be held shortly.
- The golf carts will be inspected and cleaned this week in anticipation of opening next week.
- The driving range is open and Mr. Brown is obtaining quotes for repair or replacement to the net.
- Mr. Brown informed the Commission of an offer made to Tashua Knolls by Digital Caddies. Based on our number of golf carts rented, the fact that they are garaged and the strength of Sprint wireless coverage on our course, we are one of approximately eight courses in Connecticut being offered the service. The service is a 7” tablet installed in each cart offering golfers accurate distances to all obstacle and landmarks on our course as well as a platform for scoring, weather, news, and selected sporting or news channels. It offers our course a platform to separate us from our competitors, a way to track all of our golf carts, a way to promote other course amenities, a communication tool to all our players in real time, and an avenue to place food and beverage orders. The cost to our course would be free with a three-year commitment. The only charge would be for replacement devices. We will add a line to our golf cart receipts stating that a customer is responsible for the device if they damage it. Digital Caddies provide the service by selling advertisements for which we will have final say based on content. We are also offered 10% of all advertising sold; i.e of 10 ads are sold, Tashua will get one ad.

A motion was made by Mr. Dray; seconded by Mr. DeLuca; to approve the proposal from Digital Caddies with the condition that the tablets do not drastically affect the battery life of the carts and pending legal review of the contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Pro Shop:

- New product is arriving daily.
- Several demo/fitting days are scheduled for the spring season:
 - o April 17 – Nike Golf, 3PM – 7 PM
 - o April 23 – Taylor Made Golf, 3PM – 6PM
 - o April 24 – Titleist Fitting Event, 3PM – 6PM
 - o April 25 – Bridgestone True Balance Putter Challenge, 1PM – 5PM
 - o May 1 – PING Golf, 3PM – 6PM
 - o May 15 – Mizuno Fitting, 3PM – 6PM
 - o TBA – Callaway Golf

Instructional Programs:

- Spring programs are available on-line utilizing Active Golf for program management and registration.
- Adult programs include Get Golf Ready, EWGA and Fairways & Flagsticks

House Committee (Dick DeLibro & Ron Dray):

- The lock on the front doors facing the pools has been fixed with replacement parts even though the lock is very old

Concessionaire (Mr. Faustini):

- Mr. Faustini submitted revised plans for the outside sink as requested by the Town Health Department. The proposal was basically the same as the previous proposal with the addition of a wooden box installed to cover the sink to prevent it from being used for trash. The Commission responded that it was pleased with Mr. Faustini's efforts to find a solution, however, they were still concerned with the sink sticking out too far from the wall. In addition, they felt that the area became too hot, smoky and congested when grilling in that area. Mr. Dray suggested an alternate location for grilling outside the newly built outside bar area. Mr. Faustini agreed to survey the area for consideration.

(Mr. Faustini left the meeting after his presentation.)

Finance (Jonathan Turk):

- The Board of Finance approved the Golf Commission's budget at the same level as recommend by the First Selectman of \$1,897,010.

Correspondence:

- A letter was received by St Joseph's high school.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLuca; seconded by Mrs. Deal; to approve the use of the Tashua Knolls Golf Course for the 2014 St. Joseph's High School golf team. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- Mr. Brown proposed the Commission consider a junior seasonal golf pass to promote junior play and to help parents better manage paying for their junior's golf:

A motion was made by Mr. Dray; seconded by Mr. Evans; to approve a 2014 Junior Pass at the Tashua Knolls Golf Course as follows:

Valid for play from June 1, 2014 to end of season 2014
\$450 for resident juniors; \$500 for non-resident juniors
Available anytime on the Glen
Available on the Knolls: Monday if no tournament scheduled; Tuesdays no restrictions;
Wednesdays after 12:00 noon; Thursdays after 10:00 AM; Fridays after 1:00 PM;
And Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays after 3:30 PM

Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Brown also asked that the Commission institute the same special as previous years.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLibro; seconded by Mrs. Wheeler; to continue the existing Tashua Knolls Back 9 Early Bird, Tashua Glen 9 Hole Spring Weekday, and Junior/Family Tashua Glen specials at the previous rates. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- Mr. Dray asked that the Commission consider making the new forward tees green as a way to encourage play and to better represent their purpose. The present white tees would move forward slightly, the blue tees would move forward even less and the black tees would remain where they are.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLuca; seconded by Mrs. Michaels; to approve that the tees now be colored black, blue, white, and green.

Motion carried 7 – 2 (Abstain: Turk, Deal)

Executive Session:

Mrs. Michaels made a motion at 8:25 PM, seconded by Mr. Guzzi, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mr. Turk at 8:58 PM and seconded by Mrs. Wheeler. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Evans at 9:00 PM; seconded by Mr. DeLibro to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk