

**Golf Commission Meeting
October 27, 2014
Minutes**

Members Present: Ron Dray, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Richard DeLibro; Joe DeLuca; 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

Members Absent: Teri Deal; Tony Guzzi

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 September 22, 2014 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. DeLuca seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
--

Audience Participation:

- Ms. Janet Duffy, President of the Ladies 18-holers, reported that the majority of the 18-holers like the new forward tee boxes. However, they have had two low handicap players leave their club because of the forward tees. Ms. Duffy asked that the Commission consider re-instating the white tees where the old green tees used to be. After some discussion it was decided that the white tees will be placed where the green tees used to be on holes that have the new forward tees on Thursdays. The score cards will be reprinted to allow for either tee.

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, Markaj)
- Part-time Seasonal (Rodriguez, Ferguson, Hicks, Quinn, Hoepfner, Oleyar, Messina, Riley, Martins, Summerville, Kelley, Harrison, Goodwin, Bova)
- Summer Seasonal (Ormsbee, Spangenburg, Matera, Ebert)

Maintenance Department:

- The Knolls course is in good shape:
 - Some weak spots in the fairways were aerified and seeded

- All fairway bare spots will be filled with soil and seed
- The greens will be deep tine aerated in late November/early December
- Winter preparations, including spraying for snow mold, has begun
- Leaf removal at the complex is underway.
- The Glen course update:
 - The greens have healed nicely from the aerification
 - Some weak spots in the fairways have been aerified, seeded and topdressed
 - Clearing of overgrown areas is continuing
 - The area to the left of the 3rd fairway has been cleared
 - The right of #7 fairway will be cleared
- The maintenance department will work on the fall checklist next week when the clocks are moved back.
- Mr. Nagashima was asked about the hydraulic fluid leak on four holes, most notably the #13 green. He replied that it is expected the damage will grow out and that the leak started out small and was very hard to see.
- Mr. Nagashima was also asked by Mr. Dray about some erosion on the Glen practice green. He replied that he was aware of it and will be working to correct the problem.
- Mr. Nagashima was also asked by Mr. Dray to correct a low spot on the cart path between #6 and #7 Knolls as a winter project.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- Mr. Evans reported that several cart paths are starting to crack. Most notably the 9th hole on the Knolls is in need of repair. Mr. Evans asked that \$5,000 be allocated from the capital account to fix both the drainage and paving. The Commission gave its consensus.

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

Golf Operations:

- September Rounds: 7,410 (Knolls 5,149; Glen 2,261)
- September Revenue: \$259,830
- 2014 weekday fall specials were implemented on Monday, October 20th. 18 holes with cart \$50, \$35 for ID holders.
- On November 27th, the 10th Annual Thanksgiving Day shotgun will be held at 8:30 AM. The course will close for the remainder of the day after the shotgun – at approximately 2:00 PM.
- The problem with the GPS in the golf carts was due to operator error. All but four devices are now working. All personnel will be trained in the proper use of the devices.

Outings:

- Newtown Rotary – 84 players
- EWGA 9-hole Shotgun – 69 players
- Knights of Columbus - cancelled
- Trumbull Republican Town Committee – 27 players
- St. Mary/St. Michael – cancelled

Revenue Ideas:

Mr. Brown was asked to further investigate his proposed revenue ideas and work out pricing and details. Suggestions include:

- Monday Madness
- Rainy Day Pricing
- Too Hot/Cold Day Pricing
- Player Loyalty program

Pro Shop

- All 2014 Pro Shop credit must be redeemed by Monday, December 15th, 2014.
- All 2014 rain checks must be used by the end of the 2014 golf season.

House Committee (Richard DeLibro & Ron Dray):

- Mr. Dray reported that the air scoop and oil leak in the restaurant side boiler room was still not fixed. Despite the fact that Mr. Faustini was advised of the problem in August, he recently called in for emergency service on a Saturday to get the boiler going for an event that day.
- Mr. John Cross of H. Hulse went through the entire HVAC system with Mr. Dray in preparation for a meeting. Mr. Cross will bill us for the visit.
- Mr. Dray, Mr. Turk, Mrs. Deal and Mr. Evans met with the entire maintenance department on a recent Friday morning at 6:00 AM to discuss changes in their work environment.
- The video system is up and running at both the clubhouse and maintenance barn. Mr. Dray asked the Commission to consider upgrading two of the older cameras for \$325 for both with installation. The newer cameras will be much clearer with infrared capabilities. The Commission gave its consensus.
- Mr. Dray also asked the Commission to consider purchasing a locking cabinet for the DVR for the video system to prevent any act of vandalism from damaging the memory card. The cost is \$600 including installation.
- Mr. Dray asked Mr. Nagashima to look to repair the lock on the cart barn garage door.

Concessionaire (Mr. Faustini):

None – did not attend.

Finance (Jonathan Turk):

September Revenue from POS System

Total Income (including carts)		
2013	2014	Change
\$276,713	\$259,830	-6.1%

Knolls (including carts)		
2013	2014	Change
\$219,417	\$209,541	-4.5%

Glen (including carts)		
2013	2014	Change
\$52,972	\$46,793	-11.7%

September Round Analysis:

Knolls		
2013	2014	Change
5,551	5,149	-7.2%

Glen		
2013	2014	Change
5,515	2,261	-10.1%

Items of Note:

- Revenues for the current fiscal year are down compared to last year’s numbers. The golf industry is reporting that the number of rounds played and revenue in general is down nationwide. We need to be more diligent about cutting costs. Making decisions about course improvements must be based on “must have” as opposed to “nice to have” projects. Overall, we must keep tight restraints on spending now and in the future.

Budget:

- The budget process will begin in November. Mr. Turk reminded Commissioners that any large projects or purchases needed in the future as a capital expenditure be included in next year’s budget. Please be prepared to present your information, including anticipated costs, during the November and December meetings. After hearing your proposals, the Commission can decide whether to include, postpone or modify your request.

Correspondence:

- Mr. Dray asked the Commissioners to approve the date for the 2015 First Selectman’s tournament:

A motion was made by Mr. DeLuca; seconded by Mr. DeLibro; to approve the First Selectman’s 2015 tournament request as follows:

1. August 14 – First Selectman Golf Tournament

Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- Mr. DeLuca asked the Commission to place the plans to reconfigure the cart path on #3 Knolls on hold. Consensus was given.
- Mr. Evans presented an update of the Rules & Regulations. The document had been amended slightly for grammatical errors by Mrs. Deal. It also had some recently passed motions included. In addition Mr. Evans asked that the Commission consider a provision for active duty service personnel:

A motion was made by Mr. Evans; seconded by Mr. Turk; to change page 10, #7 of the Trumbull Municipal Golf Regulations, Trumbull Golf Course as follows:

7. All ordained clergy **and active duty service personnel** may play at the fees set for Senior residents.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

- Mr. Dray asked the Commission to consider relocating the practice bunker further away from the Glen practice green due to safety considerations. Several customers have been observed taking full swings out of the bunker which have the potential to hit the numerous customers in the practice green. The new bunker would also have trees or shrubbery installed to further protect players. Mr. Evans felt that the solution did not eliminate the problem, but only duplicated it in another area. Most Commissioners agreed that it would not totally eliminate the problem, but it would greatly reduce the potential for injury. The work would be done in-house for an estimated \$5,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Dray; seconded by Mrs. Michaels; to relocate the practice bunker further away from the practice green and surround the area with trees. Motion carried 6 – 1 (Oppose, Evans).

- Mr. Dray also discussed problem of customers taking full swings on the practice greens. Mr. Brown stated that the policy for the greens has always been “no shots above the knee”.
- Mr. Brown updated the Commission on the status of tournaments. Some of the facts regarding tournaments include:
 - In 2005 Tashua held 16 tournaments representing \$95,248 in income.
 - In 2014 Tashua held 7 tournaments representing \$40,145 in income.
 - Tuesday income during the summer averages approx. \$5,000 more in daily income.
 - Tashua has not raised its tournament rates in three years.
 - In addition to number of tournaments, average number of players per tournament is going down as well.

For all of the above reasons and given the fact that the golf industry in general is experiencing a down trend, Mr. Brown recommended that we eliminate Monday tournaments during the months of June, July and August. We will grandfather in any existing tournaments in the summer months. In addition a recommendation was made that in order for a tournament to go out at noon with a shotgun start, they must guarantee 100 players; otherwise the tournament will begin at 9:00 AM.

A motion was made by Mr. Dray; seconded by Mrs. Wheeler; that Tashua Knolls Golf Course eliminates tournaments in the months of June, July and August with the exception of tournaments currently booked in those months which will be grandfathered in. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mrs. Michaels; seconded by Mr. Turk; that Tashua Knolls Golf Course tournament policy will be a guaranteed 100 players to have a noon shotgun. All other tournaments must start at 9:00 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Dray asked Mr. Nagashima about our policy of opening at 9:00 AM on Mondays and if it could be moved earlier and still accommodate the maintenance schedule. Mr. Nagashima stated that it was possible except on days when the course was being sprayed. Mr. Nagashima and Mr. Brown agreed to communicate with each other regarding an opening time on Mondays.

Executive Session:

Mr. Dray made a motion at 8:50 PM, seconded by Mr. DeLuca, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Also invited to attend was Mr. Brown. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mr. Dray at 9:17 PM and seconded by Mr. DeLibro. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mrs. Wheeler at 9:21 PM; seconded by Mr. Evans to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk