

**Golf Commission Meeting
October 26, 2015
Minutes**

Members Present: Ron Dray, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Richard DeLibro; Joe DeLuca; Joyce Michaels; Jonathan Turk (arrived 7:15 PM); Diane Wheeler

Also Attending: Bobby Brown, Director of Golf; Hidalgo Nagashima, Director of Golf Course Properties; Scott Lund, Golf Course Superintendent; Dennis Kokenos, Town Attorney, Darin Callahan, Town Attorney

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 28, 2015 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Evans seconded by Mr. DeLuca to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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Audience Participation:

- Mr. Al DeWalt, Trumbull resident, asked about the status of the pond aerators at Tashua. He said he felt they were aesthetically pleasing and helped the condition of the water in the ponds. Mr. Dray responded that he agreed with Mr. DeWalt, but the aerators have proven to be problematic, very expensive to repair, and have not been beneficial in improving the condition of the water. They are no longer functioning and the Golf Commission previously voted that they are too costly to replace.

Director of Golf Course Properties & Superintendent Reports (Hidalgo Nagashima & Scott Lund):

Labor:

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Golf Course Superintendent (Lund)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Romano, Markaj)
- Part-time Greensmen (Oleyar, Quinn, Rodriguez, Martins, Harrison, Hicks, Hoepfner, Ferguson, Somerville, Riley, Mahlstedt)
- Summer Seasonal (Bova, Bova, Ormsbee)

Maintenance Department:

- **Tashua Glen – (Scott Lund):**
 - All the Glen fairways have been verticut

- All the tees were verticut and seeded which resulted in great germination. The tees are filling in nicely.
- The greens have been aerated and have healed.
- The greens on #7 and # 8 were aerated and topdressed two weeks ago and are now recovering.
- **Tashua Knolls – (Hidalgo Nagashima):**
 - The focus of the maintenance department has been leaves, leaves, leaves which have come down later than normal, and in a shorter amount of time.
 - The Knolls greens were vented in early September.
 - Next week a soil test will determine if a fall lime application is necessary.
 - Fairfield County sprinkler replaced another section of corroded sprinkler pipe in the ceiling above the porch area.
 - Mr. Nagashima informed the Commission that the roofing contractor for the Miklus Training Center strongly recommended removing the pine trees and one oak tree next to the center as they were dropping sap on the roof that was causing damage. After removing the trees, a fence would be installed around the propane tank and the side of the Center will be painted. The work is to be accomplished prior to spring opening. The Commission gave consensus to move forward with the projects.

Mr. Nagashima asked for approval to rent a \$3,500 Bobcat Excavator for one month to improve the 8th and 9th Knolls teeing grounds as well as expand all of the forward tees. In addition the equipment would be used for other drainage projects on #9 Knolls.

Mr. DeLuca made a motion seconded by Mr. Evans, to rent a Bobcat Excavator for one month at a cost of \$3,500 to assist in various work around the course. Motion carried unanimously.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- Mr. Evans distributed the current Green Committee work list showing the open actions being worked on, and the numerous actions completed recently. He covered the work Mr. Guzzi has been coordinating with Mr. Nagashima and Mr. Lund on fixing fairway depressions, stating progress has been made but more work still is required. Mr. DeLuca was then asked to describe the work he was doing identifying if existing drains were either too high and/or were overgrown.
- Mr. Evans then distributed a handout with pictures of the asphalt paving done today at the side of the cart barn staging area; the two greens practice area turn around and drain, the Knolls 7th tee area water station, filling the hole on the Glen 3rd cart path, and the cart path enlargement at the Knolls 18th green.
- **Director of Golf Operations/Head Professional Report (Bobby Brown):**

Golf Operations:

- Fall 2015 specials were implemented on Tuesday, October 13th

- Mr. Brown asked for and received Commission consensus to begin weekend shotgun starts at 8:30 AM beginning on Saturday, November 7th.
- Mr. Brown asked for and received Commission consensus for this year's Thanksgiving shotgun start at 8:30 AM and closing for the day at approximately 2:00 PM to allow employees to spend Thanksgiving dinner with their families.
- Pro shop credits and rain checks for the 2015 season must be used by December 15, 2015.
- A possible closing date for the 2015 season of Sunday, December 20th was mentioned but no decision was made.

Marketing:

- Mr. Brown asked the Commission to consider a trial membership on the on-line marketing services of Golf Now. They are offering a 3-month (November, December and April) trial in their marketing services for Tashua Knolls. At the end of the trial, we would have the opportunity to sign a contract to continue with their services which would be for a no cost service but rather a barter deal for some tee times. The Commission gave its consensus for the trial.

House Committee (Ron Dray):

- Mr. Dray asked the Commission to consider allowing Mr. Brown to use the gas at the maintenance barn for his range vehicles. He would reimburse the golf course for the gas used. It would be less expensive and more convenient for Mr. Brown to use gas on site as he currently drives his personal vehicle to a gas station and uses gas cans to fill his range vehicles. The Commission will take the issue up at the November meeting for vote.

Concessionaire (Mr. Faustini):

- None – did not attend.

Finance (Jonathan Turk):

September Revenue from POS System

Total Income (including carts)		
2014	2015	Change
\$259,830	\$259,005	-0.3%

Knolls (including carts)

2014	2015	Change
\$209,541	\$208,637	-0.4%

Glen (including carts)

2014	2015	Change
\$46,793	\$47,319	+1.1%

September Round Analysis:

Knolls		
2014	2015	Change
5,149	5,165	+0.3%

Glen		
2014	2015	Change
2,261	2,386	+5.5%

Items of Note:

- Revenues for September year-to-year are down slightly. However, the total revenue for the fiscal year is up compared to 2014. Even with this positive trend, we will continue to monitor our expenses as costs continue to rise.
- The budget process has begun and we are 90% complete. There are still some line items that must be finalized before the budget can be presented to the Commission for approval. Mr. Turk reminded Commissioners that any large projects or purchases **MUST** be included in the budget. If they are not, the money to fund the project or purchase will have to wait until the following fiscal year. Please be prepared to present any requests during the November meetings. The Commission will then decide whether to include, postpone, or modify your proposal for inclusion in the budget.

Correspondence:

- None

Old Business:

- Mr. Brown gave a summary of the golf car bids received as a result of our RFP. We received three quotes:
 1. Yamaha – very high, no GPS
 2. Club Car - \$72,000 per year for cars; \$30,876 per year for Visage GPS system
 3. EZ-Go - \$68,022 per year for cars; first year free, years 2 – 5 \$21,120 for TKV GPS system with right to refuse additional GPS at end of 1st year.

Mr. DeLuca made a motion seconded by Mr. DeLibro, to accept the bid from EZ-Go for our 5-year lease of their golf cars and TKV system. Motion carried 6 – 0 (Abstain: Evans)

New Business

- None

Executive Session:

Mr. Dray made a motion seconded by Mr. Evans, to move into Executive Session to discuss pending mediation. Also invited to attend was Mr. Brown, Mr. Kokenos and Mr. Callahan. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mr. DeLuca at 9:15 PM and seconded by Mrs. Michaels. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk