

**Golf Commission Meeting  
February 22, 2016  
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 Properties; Scott Lund, Golf Course Superintendent

**Members Absent:** 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 January 26, 2016 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Evans seconded by Mr. Turk to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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- Mr. Dray thanked all the Commissioners for doing an outstanding job and for volunteering their time and efforts for the betterment of Tashua Knolls Golf Course.

**Audience Participation:**

- None

**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 (Harrison, Riley)

**Maintenance Department:**

- Mr. Lund gave an update on the shape of the Glen after the major winter months. With the exception of snow remaining on #3, 4 and 5 greens, the Glen looks good. Mr. Dray asked Mr. Lund about the progress of marking trees for removal. Mr. Lund responded that he had not yet gotten to the project. Mr. Dray asked that it be done immediately and that some of the maintenance staff be earmarked to perform the work.
- All of the redesigned forward tees as well as the 9<sup>th</sup> tee have been completely sodded. Only the sides of the 8<sup>th</sup> tee remain to be sodded.

- Mr. Nagashima stated that the Knolls looks good with the exception of #13 which is still covered in snow.
- Winter equipment maintenance is ongoing. All the blade sharpening is complete. Work is continuing including checking the rollers and reassembling the machinery.
- The maintenance department has cleared an area behind the 4<sup>th</sup> tee and adjacent to the 2<sup>nd</sup> fairway. The area was cleared of all underbrush, leaves and low hanging branches. This should help with pace-of-play as it will be easier to locate lost balls.
- Mr. Dray requested that the Green Committee add a list of expected completion dates to all projects on their list. Mr. Dray felt that the dates were conveyed verbally but that solid completion dates needed to be written down.
- Mr. Dray asked that all Commissioners and employees take a good, hard look at all aspects of the course in anticipation of the CSGA Amateur next year. A few examples are the 18<sup>th</sup> tee, the right side of #5, landscaping between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, and the bridge on the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dray felt it was vitally important that the course put on its best possible appearance. When asked about the cost of some of these projects, both Mr. Turk and Mr. Dray responded that they were prepared to go before the Board of Finance if necessary.

#### **Green Committee (Owen Evans):**

- Mr. Evans reported that with the exception of members of the green committee, he received no feedback at all on any possible work to be done on both courses. Mr. Evans felt it was imperative that all Commissioners get involved regarding conditions on the course.

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

- Mr. Brown and his staff recently attended the 2016 PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando. The focus of the show was golf industry consolidation, positive optimism for the turnaround in player activity, growth of the game, PGA junior league, being valuable to your employer, Golf Now, Branding and reaching the millennials and Reputation Management on social media. Mr. Brown asked if the Commission would consider forming a sub-committee to look into the offerings of Golf Now. In addition to Mr. Brown, Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Michaels will make up the committee.
- The new EZ Go golf cars have been delivered and prepared to start the 2016 season. The TKV is expected to begin to be installed the first week in March and is expected to take four days for installation.
- The golf shop Point of Sale new equipment with EMV chip readers has been installed. Work is continuing on the programming necessary to start the season. A major upgrade to the Golf Now tee time reservation software is scheduled for the middle of March.

#### **House Committee (Ron Dray):**

- Mr. Dray reported that he had not received any feedback from Commissioners regarding the two pine trees remaining at the Miklus Indoor Training Center. At the last meeting, he had asked Commissioners for their thoughts in removing the trees. Mr. Dray surveyed the area and felt that it would not be a safety issue to take the trees down. He asked that the Commissioners view the trees as soon as possible so that a final decision could be made.
- Mr. Dray asked Mr. Nagashima to power wash and paint the side of the Miklus Center where the trees had been removed as soon as the outside temperature is conducive to

painting. Mr. Dray asked Mrs. Plumeau to look into fixing the crooked propane line to the building as well.

- Mr. Dray reported that the condition of the rugs in the common area of the clubhouse has deteriorated even more and in addition to the stains, it is now buckled with bare spots. The issue has repeatedly been brought to Mr. Faustini attention as he is responsible for 70% of the cost. To date there has been no response from Mr. Faustini.
- Mr. Dray also reported on the deplorable condition of the men's room at the clubhouse. The facility has not been updated in eight years and is showing its age. The floor, tile, stalls, and cabinet are in bad shape and a moldy smell permeates the room. Even though the room is the responsibility of Mr. Faustini, Mr. Dray asked that the Commission consider allocating up to \$8,000 to fix the room in time for the CSGA Amateur. A discussion between the Commissioners was held with the majority of Commissioners voicing the opinion that an attempt should be made to have Mr. Faustini fulfill his contractual requirements before committing any money to the project. Mr. DeLibro agreed to send a letter as House Chairman Mr. Dray then tabled the discussion.
- Mrs. Michaels reported that the anti-slip floor in the ladies room has been installed and looks good. The floor should go a long way in preventing slippery conditions in the room.
- Mr. Dray reported that the UI has submitted its proposal to re-wire the electrical supply to the Tashua Knolls complex. The agreement outlines the responsibilities of both the UI and the Town. The proposal is now with an electrical contractor to determine their costs. Mr. Dray stated that if it is necessary, the Golf Commission will have to go before the Board of Finance for the funds necessary to complete this emergency project.

**Concessionaire** (Mr. Faustini):

- None – did not attend.

**Finance** (Jonathan Turk):

- There is no revenue to report for the month of January.
- The golf course is currently tracking well against most expenses. However, we will be keeping a close eye on the water account which is currently at 91% of its budget for this fiscal year. In addition the program supplies account is currently at 71.5% of its fiscal budget due primarily to the work performed on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and forward tees.
- The Board of Finance meeting to review our 2016/2017 budget is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:15.
- Mrs. Wheeler asked Mr. Turk about how some of the expenditures are decided and the method Mr. Turk uses to follow the MUNIS report. Mr. Turk explained that even though some of the account categories seem to be running a little high, he does follow each category. He further explained that the bunker project and next year's CSGA Amateur were resulting in some unexpected expenditures. However, he was fully prepared to go before the Board of Finance should the Golf Commission run out of money. Mrs. Wheeler then asked at what point during the fiscal year Mr. Turk felt comfortable predicting how our expenditures would end up. Mr. Turk answered that he did not know that answer until August of each year.

### **Correspondence:**

- Mr. Kevin Butler, Assistant Principal for Athletics at St. Joseph High School asked for and received Commission consensus to allow the use of the Tashua Knolls Golf Course for its 2016 high school golf team.

### **Old Business:**

- Mr. Dray reported that the EZ-Go golf cars were delivered to the golf course without the proper wiring for the TKV GPS system. This resulted in approximately eight days of work from several EZ-Go technicians to install the wiring. Mr. Brown was called in for five days of work to oversee the project. Mr. Dray asked that the Commission vote on paying Mr. Brown \$300 per day for those five days.

Mr. DeLuca made a motion seconded by Mr. Evans, ATK Golf Services to be compensated \$300 per day outside of contract for five days for a total of \$1,500. Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Dray updated the Commission on the status of the Gralor Modification Agreement. He stated that the agreement is moving forward and the Town's legal counsel and Stuart McCarthy are working the language to be presented to Gralor's attorney.
- Mr. Dray also stated that regarding the ATK and Mr. Nagashima's contract that all the work that had to be done followed all proper procedure. The Commission voted on the changes, they were reviewed and re-written by legal counsel, voted on again by the Commission, forwarded to Mr. McCarthy, who then forwarded them to the First Selectman.

### **New Business**

- Mr. Brown began the 2016 rate discussion by distributing information to the Commissioners including the Tashua Knolls rate history from 2005 to 2015, a rate comparison of area courses, and Tashua Knolls rate tracking by category. Mr. Dray stated that he did not believe there should be a rate increase this year. Mrs. Michaels asked about the cart rate which has been at \$16 for the past eight years. She stated that we have new carts this year with a brand-new GPS feature that will cost more in the coming year. She also stated that since we were leaning toward not raising green fees, the potential existed that next year we would have to raise rates by \$2 – one for green fees and one for carts. Mrs. Michaels felt that might pose a problem for customers next year. Mr. Brown added that the national average for golf carts is \$18. Mr. Evans asked Mr. Turk's opinion and he felt that the budget would be met by current rates.

Mr. DeLibro made a motion seconded by Mr. Evans to leave the 2016 season rates unchanged. Motion carried 7 – 1 (Abstain: Wheeler)

- Mr. Brown then began a discussion regarding the special rates for the 2016 season. Mr. Brown felt that specials have proven to be very popular and he thought that both the

Knolls Back 9 and Glen specials could be raised by \$1 to \$19. A discussion was held among Commissioners.

Mr. DeLuca made a motion seconded by Mr. Turk raise both the Knolls Back 9 and Glen Special rates by \$1 to \$19. Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Evans asked the Commission to place an offer in the CSGA Playbook. The playbook was offered to golfers at a cost of \$29.95 with proceeds going to the CSGA. Approximately 30 to 40 Connecticut golf courses participated in the book with offers ranging from bye one/get one free to dollar amounts off rounds. The Commissioners held a discussion regarding participating in the program.

Mr. Turk made a motion seconded by Mrs. Wheeler to participate in the CSGA Playbook with the following incentive:

1. \$10 off non-resident 18-hole Tashua Knolls green fee
2. Good anytime Monday – Friday and Saturday and Sunday after 3:30 PM
3. One offer per player
4. Must call for tee time

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dray made a motion seconded by Mr. DeLuca to add an Executive Session to the agenda to discuss a contractual item. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Executive Session:**

Mr. Dray made a motion seconded by Mr. Evans at 8:30 PM to move into Executive Session to discuss pending mediation. Also invited to attend was Mr. Brown. Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Brown left the Executive Session at 8:40 PM.

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by Mr. DeLibro at 8:50 PM and seconded by Mrs. Michaels. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. De Libro at 9:05 PM; seconded by Mrs. Wheeler to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau  
Golf Course Commission Clerk