

AS SUBMITTED

**Golf Commission Meeting
August 24, 2009
Minutes**

Members Present: Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Sue Casey; Ron Dray; Don Espach; George Furkiotis; Tony Johnson

Members Absent: Thomas Galla, Chairman; Bruce Gerstman; Jim Steidlmayer

Vice-Chairman Owen Evans called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Review and approval of the Minutes

Review and approval of the Minutes of June 22, 2009... There was a motion made by Mr. Furkiotis seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Evans asked the Golf Commission to allow the Long Hill Fire Department to speak to the Commission before audience participation as part of New Business. The commission accepted Mr. Evans' request.

Chief Peter Rousso, Long Hill Fire Department, informed the Commission of an access problem for the fire department on Cal Drive located directly behind the golf course parking lot. It seems that there is only one fire truck in Trumbull (located in Nichols on the opposite side of town) that can make the turn at Haviland onto Cal Drive. There are four houses on Cal Drive. Mr. John DelVecchio, Director of Public Works, presented a proposal where an access road would be constructed from the golf course parking lot to Cal Drive. The "road" would be 12 feet wide and would have a locked access gate on the end closest to the golf course. Only specified town departments would have keys to the lock. The area would be marked to prohibit parking. The golf course would not lose any parking spaces and all work would be done at no expense to the golf course.

Mr. Johnson made a motion; seconded by Mr. Espach to approve the construction of an access road with locked gate from the golf course parking lot to Cal Drive at no expense to the golf course. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation:

- Mrs. Joyce Michaels of the Ladies 9-holers thanked the Golf Commission for promptly fixing the problems at the on-course ladies room.
- Mr. Al DeWalt of the Sr. Men's Club thanked the golf course staff for all of their help for their very successful junior tournament.
- Mr. Al DeWalt also asked several questions of the Commission:
 1. Was it still a requirement that clubs must eat at the Tashua Restaurant rather than on off-site facility when they have a tournament with a meal? There has been no changed to the policy. A club must have its meals at the Tashua Restaurant when there is a tournament with a shotgun start unless there is a scheduling conflict with the restaurant.
 2. Can the clubs bring in outside bulk coffee in the morning? Individuals may bring in their own cup of coffee but may not bring in bulk coffee for their event.
 3. The senior men's club has approximately 25% non-resident members playing regularly on Tuesdays. Is there going to be a rate reduction beginning in September? Rates have not yet been discussed for the fall.

Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima)

Labor:

- Director of Operations – Golf Course Properties (Hidalgo Nagashima); Mechanic (Rich Plaveck); Four full-time greensmen (Jeff Cook, Jerry Cook, Chris Gallant, Craig Romano)
- Ten part-time greensmen (Latham, Oleyar, DeFrancisco, Goodwin, Walton, Markaj, Valluzzo, Main, Hoepfner, Meier) have been hired to date.
- Four summer seasonal (Bird, Kish, Ebert, Messina)

Maintenance Department Outline:

- Mr. Nagashima is generally pleased with the conditions. The greens are in great shape and we exit the summer with the most grass in the fairways we ever had. September and October are big months for renovations and aerations. A meeting will be held with Mr. Brown and the Greens Committee to discuss fall plans.

Tashua Knolls:

- The early July aeration helped the greens to breathe during the stress of the saturating rains. The next aeration will be a solid deep tine around the 3rd week of October.
- The height of the grass on the temporary approach on #11 is slowly being lowered. The area is scheduled to be cut down to a height of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch by this weekend. It will then be rolled and aerated. After that it will be monitored with the goal of having it at regular green height by the second week of September.
- The tees are showing some wear, but the maintenance department is being aggressive with the divot mix. The tees will be treated for goosegrass prior to aeration.

Tashua Glen:

- The Glen is showing some wear and some of the greens have experienced thinning in the wet, humid conditions. The greens on #5 and #8 were solid tine aerated on August 10 and then core aerated. The weak approaches were core aerated as well. The areas will be seeded and topdressed.
- The fairways have shown improvement over the past week. They were sprayed for a fungal disease, which has resulted in some improvement. The stress season is almost over and the fairways should improve in the fall.

Projects:

- The guardrail on #1 Glen is complete.
- All bunkers have been edged and rock picked. Sand was added to most bunkers.
- Sod has been added to better define and separate the bunkers on the left side of #10 Knolls.
- The “drag out” bunker areas on #2 and #12 Knolls will be sodded in the fall.
- The garden on #2 Glen is complete.
- The areas behind #8 and #18 tees are being cleared to allow more air and sun.
- The drainage area by #16 green and #14 hole is being cleaned and defined.

Miscellaneous:

- More rocks have been added to the speed bumps on Glen #1
- The area behind #2 Knolls has been sodded.
- The ponds were treated for algae on August 17. However, due to a thunderstorm that night, the ponds are not responding as well as expected. They are being monitored and will be re-treated if necessary.
- The trees on both sides of #11 Knolls fairway have been pruned.

Mr. Evans asked about the progress that was being made inspecting the sprinkler heads. Mr. Nagashima reported that the course has over 1,100 sprinkler heads and John Markaj is working in order on the more important ones first. He is making notes and repairs as necessary.

Mr. Espach asked about the condition of the tees on the Glen. Mr. Nagashima responded that the tees on the Glen are undersized for the amount and type of play it receives. Also the valley does not get enough sun and air for the grass to generate a deep root system.

Mr. Furkotiis asked if there was a disease in the front of the green on Glen #7. Mr. Nagashima has treated the area and reports that it is dry, but he does not think that there is a disease.

Mr. Johnson asked about the drainage on the left of #15 Knolls green. Mr. Nagashima will be lowering the level of the creek when the ground firms up in the winter.

Greens Committee (Owen Evans):

- None.

Head Professional Report (Jon Janik)

Tournaments:

- The following tournaments were held since the last Commission meeting:
 - June 29: U.S. Kids World Championship Qualifier – 120 players
 - July 20: Borck Jr. Tournament – 112 players
 - July 27: Brian Tvardzik Memorial – 82 players
 - August 3: Don Miklus Memorial – 98 players
 - August 10: U.S. Kids Local Tour – 54 players
 - August 17: Southern Women's Golf – 83 players
 - August 17 – EWGA 9-Holer Invitational – 30 players

Junior Instructional Programs:

- 162 participants in 179 spots for Summer Camp
- 30 July and 24 August participants in Instructional Programming
- Five events with 37 participants in Junior Golf Club
- 16 pairs in July and August Adult/Junior Event
- 22 July and 11 August Advanced LPGA-USGA Girls Golf
- 22 July and 14 August Futures LPGA-USGA Girls Golf

Adult Instructional Programs:

- Three participants in Get Golf Ready Program
- 13 July participants and 7 August participants in Weekly instructional programs

Mr. Espach asked how customers find out about all the programs that are offered. Mr. Janik responded that there are flyers outside the Pro Shop and on the outside bulletin board. The programs are also covered on the web site.

General Manager Report (Bobby Brown)

Overview:

- June 2009 Knoll rounds were 5645 compared to June 2008 at 6162.
- June 2009 Glen rounds were 2398 compared to June 2008 at 2961.
- July 2009 Knoll rounds were 7203 compared to July 2008 at 6745.
- June 2009 Glen rounds were 3622 (a record) compared to July 2008 at 3277.
- Poor weather in June was the major factor in the low rounds for June with rain on 26 out of 30 days.
- Positive customer comments are being received regarding the condition of the Knolls. Many first time customers continue to visit the course.

Plant and Facility:

- The new 15-ton air condenser is installed with an added low ambient kit at \$10,099 compared with the budgeted \$15,000.
- A doorway to the storage rooms has been added at the bottom of the stairway.
- The Tashua Lane front entrance improvement project is underway.

- The UI Efficiency light program was completed. New lights were installed in the clubhouse, cart barn, and maintenance areas. The Concessionaire is discussing options with the UI for the restaurant and Grill Room.
- The on-course bathrooms were retrofitted with manual flush options.
- The town installed the golf course sign at the bottom of Tashua Road and will trim the brush at the side of the road shortly.

Other Notes:

- Tashua's own Lauren Gregory (a sophomore at Trumbull High School) won the girls division of the Borck Junior Championship and a reception is being planned in her honor.
- The irrigation satellite on #13 Knolls was elevated to prevent water damage.
- Some of the winter work money budgeted to Long Hill was utilized when a big tree fell during a recent windstorm.
- We have experienced some nighttime damage on the course due to vandalism. The security staff has increased patrol of these areas.
- New trees will be added to the left of #4 on the Knolls due to a pine tree dying.

House Committee (Tony Johnson):

- None.

Executive (Tom Galla)

- None.

Finance (Don Espach)

- Mr. Espach reported the following preliminary numbers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 over the fiscal year ending 2008:
 - 3.43% increase in revenue
 - 0.83% increase in expenses
 - An operating profit of \$66,685 vs. \$17,688 in 2008. The operating profit will go to retained earnings.
 - -0.73% decrease in rounds on the Knolls due mainly to a reduction of 500 rounds in the rainy June.
 - 12.59% increase in rounds on the Glen
 - 1.14% increase in cart usage

Correspondence

- The Commission received a letter from Kristine Miklus thanking them for its support in creating the Miklus Training Center. Mrs. Miklus also enclosed a copy of a letter she received from John Kondub, Finance Director for the Town of Westport. Mr. Kondub's letter was addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Sharlop who are the

parents of Conor who was the junior who played in Mr. Kondub's foursome at the recent Miklus Memorial tournament. Mr. Kondub stated that it was a privilege to play golf with Conor and in addition to playing and enjoying golf; he was a well-mannered and all-around fine young gentleman.

New Business

- None.

Old Business

- None.

A motion to adjourn at 9:36 PM was made by Mr. Furkiotis; seconded by Mr. Espach. Motion carried unanimously.
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Respectfully submitted,

Christine Plumeau
Golf Commission Clerk