

AS SUBMITTED

**Golf Commission Meeting
September 28, 2009
Minutes**

Members Present: Thomas Galla, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Ron Dray; Don Espach; George Furkiotis; Bruce Gerstman; Tony Johnson; Jim Steidlmayer

Members Absent: Sue Casey

Chairman Tom Galla called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Review and approval of the Minutes

Review and approval of the Minutes of August 24, 2009... There was a motion made by Mr. Furkiotis seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Galla asked the Golf Commission to allow Mr. Chris Lenzen of the Men's Club to speak to the Commission before audience participation as part of Old Business. Mr. Lenzen presented a drawing of a scoreboard to be installed at an angle in the area where the old starter shack had been located. The cost of the project would be limited to \$2,000, which has already been donated by the Kaulbach Trust. The scoreboard would be available for use by all the clubs and tournaments. The Commission asked that the location of the septic system be positively determined prior to beginning to dig.

Mr. Furkiotis made a motion; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer to install a scoreboard in the old starter shack area. Funding would be limited to the \$2,000 Kaulbach Trust donation. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation:

- None.

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).

Maintenance Department Outline:

- Mr. Nagashima is generally pleased with the conditions. The back tees on Knolls #8 and #9 have shown some decline. They have been aerated and heavily seeded and will be slice seeded with rye grass. The problem developed because the area does not get enough sun and the end of August was hot and humid.

Tashua Knolls:

- The height of the grass on the temporary approach on #11 is at .180. Regular green height is .125. The height is slowly being lowered to minimize scalping.
- The greens will be verti-drained (1/2" deep tine) on October 15th.
- All tees have been aerated, seeded and fertilized.
- Fairway aeration has begun and all fairways will be fertilized this week.

Tashua Glen:

- The Glen is showing some recovery. All of the greens, tees and fairways have been aerated. The Glen has been fertilized "wall-to-wall."

Projects:

- The ponds were re-treated for algae.
- Brush is being removed from #8 green Glen and #11 fairway for more air and sun circulation.
- The bunker complex on #16 Knolls will be rebuilt this fall.
- The "naturalized" areas are being mowed.

Miscellaneous:

- Town surveyors have located two 4" drains and a 15" pipe along the side of #2 Knolls fairway. A project will begin to determine if we can tie into these pipes to alleviate the wet area on #2.

Greens Committee (Owen Evans):

- Mr. Evans has reviewed a greens detail list with Mr. Brown and Mr. Nagashima and will go over the list with Mr. Steidlemyer.

Head Professional Report (Jon Janik)

Tournaments:

- September 14: Newtown Rotary – 127 players
- September 21: St. Catherine (Knights of Columbus) – 115 players

Junior Instructional Programs:

- Summer Camp: 204 spots (181 participants, 19 repeats, 142 boys, 39 girls)
- Instructional Programming September: 10 participants
- Adult/Junior September event moved to October due to rain.
- LPGA-USGA Girls Golf: Advanced 12 participants, Futures 20 participants
- LPGA-USGA Girls Golf Day: September 12th, 100 participants.
- LPGA-USGA Adult/Junior Tournament: September 26th, 108 participants

Adult Instructional Programs:

- Ladies Golf School September: 10 participants
- Weekly instructional program September: 3 participants

CTPGA Jr. Golf Tournament:

- Mr. Janik asked for Commission approval to pursue a 2010 August Monday date for a CTPGA Jr. tournament. An informational meeting will take place this week at Wethersfield Country Club. Permission was granted.

Pro Shop:

- End-of-season sales have begun on all summer clothing and selected golf clubs.
- Fall apparel is expected to arrive this week.
- New PING golf equipment will arrive in October.
- All Golf Shop Credits expire on December 15, 2009.

General Manager Report (Bobby Brown)

Overview:

- August 2009 rounds Knolls: 7,106; Glen: 3,305
- August 2009 revenue: \$325,218.50
- The rounds for August were up but the revenue was down. The reason for this was several rainouts on weekend dates and the date Labor Day fell last year.
- September to date is positive and we have already surpassed rounds and revenue from September 2008

Plant and Facility:

- A&B Mechanical was paid 10% less on their invoice per Bob Chimini, Town of Trumbull Purchasing Director, in order to cover an emergency repair from Added Comfort over the 4th of July. A&B took down the air condenser prior to receiving a signed purchase order from the Town. The condenser had to be put back on line due to business over the 4th of July holiday.
- The front entrance renovation project is nearly complete. A new curb has been installed and the security gate moved slightly up hill. We have been without a gate for the last two weeks while the project is underway and this has resulted in some cars driving erratically in the parking lots. Fortunately, due to golf course security, the park rangers were able to identify the cars.
- The sign at the bottom of Tashua Road fell victim to an accident in early August. The Town has re-ordered a new sign.
- The Miklus Center is moving along with continued fund raising events and building committee meetings to finalize plans to begin renovation.
- Mr. Brown presented a proposal from Mr. Domenick Faustini, Concessionaire, regarding additional storage. He is requesting a 4'-8 1/2" x 17' - 6 1/8" addition to his present storage area located between the kitchen entrance and grill room windows on the south side of the building. This addition would result in the loss of the walkway in that area. Several Commissioners expressed concern that this would result in a loss of too much space when outdoor tournaments are held. The area is extremely congested now when the grill or other food and/or beverages are set up in the area. It was requested that Mr. Brown go back to Mr. Faustini and ask him to consider using his present storage area downstairs or to present another proposal to the Commission.
- Mr. Brown presented an Inspection Service Agreement covering quarterly inspections of the fire sprinkler system from Fairfield County Sprinkler. Although we have not had a sprinkler service agreement before, the Commission felt that we should, as we are responsible for the system. Mr. Brown will contact the Town Purchasing Department to determine if the quote is competitive and to determine if there were any other options.

Golf Operations:

- The weekend rack will end this Thursday, October 1st.
- The Commission gave its approval to begin morning shotguns on Saturday, November 7th at 8:30 AM pending frost delays.
- With the Commission's consent, Mr. Brown will also give the Sr. Men's club the option of moving to a shotgun start in November.
- We currently have a Knolls Back 9 Special for \$15 with a cart on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Glen has a Tuesday through Friday special until 1:00 PM at \$15 with a cart.
- Mr. Brown proposed two Fall Specials that were similar to specials we have run in previous years. The Commission held a discussion as to the pros and cons of running the specials and when they should start.

Mr. Dray made a motion; seconded by Mr. Gerstman to institute a Knolls Fall Special effective October 26, 2009. The cost for greens fees and a cart for residents would be \$30 and \$45 for non-residents on the Knolls course and will be effective Mondays through Fridays. In addition the cost for greens fees and a cart for residents would be \$35 and \$50 for non-residents on the Knolls course and will be effective on Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Brown would have the option of putting the special in effect earlier if business declines. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Furkiotis made a motion; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer to institute a Glen Fall Special effective October 26, 2009 for a \$5 off coupon for the Glen course. Mr. Brown would have the option of putting the special in effect earlier if business declines. Motion carried unanimously.

House Committee (Tony Johnson):

- None.

Executive (Tom Galla)

- None.

Finance (Don Espach)

- None

Correspondence

- The Commission received a letter from the Women's 9-Holers thanking Jon Janik and Dave Bove for their help in their Member-Member held on August 27th.
- Mr. Galla received a letter from Mr. Peter Rousso and Mr. David Bogen of the Long Hill Fire District thanking the Commission for it's recent approval of the modification of the golf course parking lot to allow emergency access to Cal Drive.
- Mr. Thomas Hylan of the Men's Club requested a tournament for the NEPGA's 2010 Walter Kane/All-Net Tournament to be held on Monday, August 23, 2010. They are requesting an 8:00 shotgun start and will pay for the carts but are asking to have the greens fees waived.

Mr. Johnson made a motion; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer to approve the Men's Club request for the NEPGA 2010 Walter Kane/All Net Tournament on Monday, August 23, 2010 with an 8:00 AM shotgun start with green fees waived. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Galla informed the Commission of a meeting held between himself, Mr. Domenick Faustini and his attorney, Mr. Steve Wright, and Mr. Brown. The topic was an incident of misconduct by a patron of the restaurant. The individual was upset and, unfortunately, became very abusive, particularly to the waitresses on staff. Mr. Faustini asked the individual to leave the establishment and banned him from returning.

Mr. Wright and Mr. Faustini felt that this type of behavior was not only detrimental to his business, but to the entire Tashua Golf course business. There are women and children who use the Grill Room and restaurant they should not be subject to such behavior. Mr. Faustini asked that we deal with this situation the same way we would if this individual exhibited this type of behavior on the course.

A long discussion ensued and several courses of action were discussed. The entire Commission felt that this type of behavior should not be permitted anywhere on the course. However, several Commissioners were uncomfortable relying on possible "hearsay" statements. They also felt that since they did not witness the incident nor was anyone who witnessed the incident available that they would have trouble determining what was "over the top" behavior that would result in the suspension of golfing privileges for that individual.

Mr. Galla responded that he felt the behavior was egregious. Mr. Brown also said that he spoke to the individual who admitted to the behavior and expressed his remorse over the incident.

In the end, the Commission decided to send the individual a letter advising him that his golfing privileges have been suspended through the end of the 2009 golf season. The individual is encouraged to attend the October 19th Commission meeting where he will be given the opportunity to appeal the suspension.

Mr. Steidlemayer made a motion; seconded by Mr. Furkiotis to issue a letter to the offending individual to inform him that his golfing privileges have been suspended for the remainder of the 2009 golf season and afford him the opportunity to appear before the Golf Commission at their October 19th meeting. Motion carried (Abstain; Evans, Johnson).

Mr. Galla presented the Commission with a placard of the Alcohol Policy, which has been in effect at the golf course since March 23, 2009. The policy states:

1. No "outside" alcoholic beverages are allowed on the club premises (golf courses, parking lot, clubhouse)
2. All coolers must fit inside the basket on the back of the golf car and are subject to inspection at any time
3. All alcoholic beverages not purchased from the Concessionaire will be confiscated

Mr. Brown also informed the Commission of a separate incident involving a player who demanded a rain check in cash from the Pro Shop staff because he had not been playing well that day. The staff informed the individual that he was not entitled to a rain check in that circumstance. The individual became verbally abusive to the Pro Shop staff. The Commission agreed that the individual should be sent a letter stating that this type of behavior was not acceptable at Tashua Knolls and that another such incident could result in the suspension of his golfing privileges.

The Golf Commission felt very strongly that Tashua Knolls Golf Course has become a very “family friendly” course. It is imperative that all individuals at the course exhibit proper behavior.

Old Business

- None.

A motion to adjourn at 9:06 PM was made by Mr. Furkiotis; seconded by Mr. Espach. Motion carried unanimously.
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Respectfully submitted,

Christine Plumeau
Golf Commission Clerk