

**Golf Commission Meeting  
October 28, 2008  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Tom Galla, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Sue Casey; Ron Dray; Don Espach; Bruce Gerstman; Tony Johnson

**Members Absent:** George Furkiotis; Jim Steidlmayer

Chairman Tom Galla called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

**Review and approval of the Minutes**

Review and approval of the Minutes of September 22, 2008... There was a motion made by Mr. Evans seconded by Mr. Espach to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

**Audience Participation**

- Mr. Al DeWalt of the Sr. Men's Club asked if Tashua Knolls would be relaxing its dress code now that the cold weather was here. The Commission responded that the dress code is in effect throughout the year.

**General Manager Report (Bobby Brown)**

**Previous Meeting Follow-up:**

- DaVinci Paving has not completed paving the cart paths. The last date they worked at Tashua was October 7<sup>th</sup>. After numerous phone calls from Mr. Brown and Mr. Nagashima, the owner of DaVinci has assured us the work would be completed before the asphalt plants close for the winter.
- The water leak into the mechanical room was traced to broken conduit located outside the building. Mr. Ray Lupkas of the Engineering Department will inspect the problem to determine a course of action.
- It was reported that the pond aerators should be maintained annually at a cost of \$300 - \$400 each for four aerators. In addition, one of the aerators has a blown motor, which is estimated at \$900 to repair. The cost to fix them all is at least \$1,500. A discussion ensued as to whether or not to proceed with the work. Most Commissioners agreed that the aerators were aesthetically pleasing to the ponds, but all were aware of the challenging economic conditions. It was agreed

to wait a few months before sending the aerators out for repair to better determine the budget situation.

- Mr. Faustini has done a better job of keeping the area outside the kitchen free of garbage so the smell and appearance has improved.

### **Golf Course Operations:**

- September income totaled \$241,796 with 5,055 rounds on the Knolls and 1,814 rounds on the Glen. Two days were lost to rain and inclement forecasts for three days caused numerous cancellations.
- Outings came to a close for the 2008 season with United Healthcare (45 players), Trumbull Democrats (99 players), Consumer's Petroleum/MDA (113 players), PGA Playing Ability (37 players), Bridgeport Soundtigers (28 players) and the Shieffer Family (28 players).
- The J. Borck foundation has confirmed that a potential conflict has been avoided and it would like to keep its previously approved request for its 40<sup>th</sup> annual tournament on July 20 – 22.
- A new tournament package is being developed for the 2009 season and will be distributed to Commission members prior to the November meeting.
- During the construction of the new stop light and traffic patterns on the corner of Tashua Road and Route #25, the white sign marking Tashua Knolls Golf Course was taken down. Town Hall will be contacted to determine if the sign has been put away for safekeeping. Town Hall will also be contacted to see if a sign can be placed on the other side of Route #25 as well.
- There have been an increasing number of geese on the course trying to bed down for the winter. A meeting will be set up with Connecticut Goose Solutions to determine a course of action based on the available budget.
- Mr. Evans asked Mr. Brown about the status of the on-site massage therapist. Mr. Brown reported that he has conveyed to the therapist that he is not interested in pursuing the project. Mr. Shopick, town attorney, has been contacted regarding the issue of handicapped access.

### **Golf Course Maintenance:**

- Director of Operations – Golf Course Properties (Hidalgo Nagashima); Superintendent (Ed Zenisky); Mechanic (Rich Plaveck); Four full-time greensmen (Jeff Cook, Jerry Cook, Chris Gallant, Craig Romano)
- Seven part-time greenskeepers (Joe Goodwin, Bryan Woznikaitis, Mike Valluzzo, Bob Hoepfner, Bob Walton, Lou Cocozza, Dan Ebert)
- The greens were verti-drained on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Even with a 2-hour frost delay, there was minimal disruption to the course and the course was in good shape for weekend play.
- The tees on the Knolls and Glen were aerated and seeded.
- Yellow speed bumps and corresponding warning signs were installed on #1 on the Glen.
- A plan to have matching wooden safety rails on the steep part of the hill on Glen #1 was discussed. A cost for the project is needed ASAP and Mr. Nagashima will work on it.

- Also the planting of shrubs in the back of the green on Glen #1 was also discussed. The cost of the project is \$2,400. The Finance Department was contacted to ask about the spending freeze and to inform them that the area was determined to be a safety hazard. Permission has been given to proceed with the project. A discussion of the current budget situation took place. However, given the fact that the area has been determined as a safety hazard, the planting will proceed immediately.
- Mr. Gerstman took the opportunity to state that he felt that Tashua Knolls was one type of course and Tashua Glen was another type of course. He said the Commission should bear in mind that we will never be able to completely prevent golfers from entering places that potentially pose a problem. The Glen contains hills and valleys, trees and rocks, and it would be impossible for us to police every aspect of the course. In these trying economic times, we should be looking at ways to save money rather than preventing people from doing things they shouldn't be doing in the first place.
- The Sandboni is on facility for use on the bunkers. However, the recent rain will require the to bunkers dry out prior to proceeding with the project.
- Pruning of the trees previously identified by the Greens Committee is proceeding. Several trees have been marked for removal either in-house or by Long Hill Tree Service in accordance with the budget.
- The irrigation system is scheduled to be blown out for the winter on November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- A gate is on-site to be installed next to the pump house to allow access of maintenance vehicles on the course but prevent access by unauthorized vehicles and snowmobiles in the winter. The gate should be installed this week.

#### **Plant and Facility:**

- Fairfield Sprinkler will be contacted regarding flushing out the sprinkler system before the winter. Research will be done to determine who is responsible for maintaining the sprinkler system.

#### **Food and Beverage:**

- Mr. Fausitini has decided not to offer the Sunday brunch this winter.

#### **Greens Committee (Owen Evans)**

- Mr. Evans reported that the maintenance department was doing a good job in the trimming of trees per the Greens Committee List.
- Mr. Evans also commended the maintenance department in placing rocks no more than 30" apart near the ball field to prevent unauthorized vehicles from entering the course.

### **House Committee (Tony Johnson)**

- Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Brown to determine if the annual winter maintenance work on the heating system had taken place.

### **Executive (Tom Galla)**

- None

### **Finance (Don Espach)**

- Mr. Espach brought up the fact that we have already used 85% of the budgeted funds in the water expense account which represented a significant increase over the 2007 water usage. A discussion was held and Mr. Galla reported that research indicated that there was actually more rainfall in 2008 than in 2007. Mr. Nagashima reported that even though that was true, the rain came down in large amounts on single days and not over the course of several days. When it rains that hard, the ground cannot absorb the water and it merely runs off. Mr. Nagashima stated that June was unusually warm and that we began to water earlier than normal. Also, August was cooler than normal, but it was not humid and humidity helps keep the water in the ground. Also it was reported that the water rate in 2008 was up almost 40% from 2007.

### **Correspondence**

- Both the ladies 9- and 18-holers presented their requests for tournaments for the 2009 season.

Mr. Gerstman made a motion; seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the Women's Golf Association 18-holers requests for the 2009 season as follows: 1) Thursday, June 18, Southern Tournament, 8:00 AM start, resident rates; 2) Thursday, July 16, Member/Member, regular rates and; 3) Thursday, July 30, Member/Guest, 8:00 AM start, resident rates. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Casey made a motion; seconded by Mr. Dray to approve the Women's Golf Association 9-holers requests for the 2009 season as follows: 1) Thursday, July 9, Invitational, 8:00 AM start, resident rates; 2) Thursday, August 27, Member/Member, regular rates and; 3) Thursday, September 13, Couples Tournament, regular rates. Motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

- Mr. Johnson asked if we were going to be advertising our Fall Rate Specials. Mr. Brown indicated that we significantly cut our advertising budget this year and that he was planning on using the available funds to promote the course opening in 2009. Mr. Brown also stated that our numbers for October look good and we are making our rounds so we don't have an urgent need to spend the money on advertising.
- Mr. Dray asked that the Commission make it a policy that if a Commissioner is at the golf course and becomes aware of someone displaying behavior detrimental to the course, that the behavior be brought to the attention of appropriate staff at Tashua Knolls. The staff, rather than a Commissioner, should deal with the situation. He also stated the policy should be to not mention a Commissioner's name to the offending party so as not to create an antagonistic atmosphere on the course. All Commissioners agreed to this policy.

## **Old Business**

- None

## **Executive Session**

A motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss on-going negotiations was made at 8:35 PM by Mr. Evans seconded by Mr. Dray. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 PM was made by Mr. Espach; seconded by Mr. Evans. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn at 9:10 PM was made by Mrs. Casey; seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Plumeau  
Golf Commission Clerk