

**Golf Commission Meeting
September 27, 2010
Minutes**

Members Present: Don Espach, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Ron Dray; George Furkiotis; Dave Galla; Tony Johnson; Jonathan Turk

Members Absent: Jim Steidlmayer; Bruce Gerstman

Don Espach called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Review and approval of the Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of August 23, 2010...A motion was made by Mr. Galla seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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Audience Participation:

- Mr. Bill Ruocco, starter/ranger at Tashua Knolls, asked if the Commission would consider installing some type of awning over the front of the starter area. He said that standing outside in extreme heat and rain can be very difficult. Some Commissioners asked if the job can be done from inside the shed. Mr. Ruocco reported that no one works in the shed because you cannot see either the Glen or the 9th hole from inside the shed. Mr. Espach said he thought it was a good idea and it could be installed in the spring if the budget permits or it could be budgeted for the next fiscal year.

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 greensman (Hoepfner, Markaj, Kearney, Goodwin, DeFrancisco, Rivera, Oleyar, Valuzzo, Main, Quinn)
- Four part-time Seasonal (Bowden, Reich, Edvardson, Messina)
- Three part-time Weekend (Plumeau, Meier, Bird)

Maintenance Department Outline:

- Overall the course has been in good condition all year.

- The 3rd green was aerified, topdressed, and seeded in September. It will be spot seeded and topdressed once more to allow it to fill in more.
- The fairways are holding up well. All tees have been aerated, fertilized, topdressed, and seeded. Fairway aerification has started on the Glen with a fairway aerifier borrowed from Bridgeport. The Knolls will be aerified when the rain subsides. All roughs and secondary areas will be aerified after that. Bare spots in the roughs will also be seeded.
- A low spot on #7 fairway was sodded. The Greens Committee has directed that several other depressions in the fairways be raised up as well.

Maintenance Department Follow Up:

- The Purchase Order was issued for a new Turf Tractor. The bid process resulted in a \$2,000 savings over three years in our annual lease/rentals account. The tractor was purchased using the town's lease-to-buy program.
- The drainage culvert behind #2 fairway has been re-dug. The Town's Engineering department measured the pitch of the trench and found consistent grade to the 15" inlet pipe. The area has been cleaned and sodded.
- Two spike cleaners for the clubhouse and four for the Knolls Par 3 holes have been installed.
- Replacement sprinkler yardage markers have been ordered.
- The vines and brush by the stone wall at the dogleg on #18 has been cleared and seeded.
- A gravel walk path from the cart path to the #3 tee has been started. The path will be widened at the entry point and tapered down toward the tee.
- Mr. Dray asked about the condition of #3. Mr. Nagashima responded that it was hit with the same disease that affected #6 last year. The area has been treated and a full recovery next year is predicted.
- Mr. Espach asked about the condition of #8 tee. Mr. Nagashima responded that despite the removal of some trees and brush to increase sun and air flow, the area remains wet and shady. The Green Committee will meet to decide on a course of action.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- Mr. Evans distributed an extensive projects tracking list of all of the work that has been completed or is in process around the course so that the Commissioners can see how much work has been accomplished. Mr. Evans will begin emailing this list to Commissioners prior to the meetings so any issues can be discussed in greater detail. The Green Committee also requests that any suggestions be brought to their attention.

Head Professional Report (Jon Janik):

Tournaments:

- September 14 – Newtown Rotary – 106 players

- September 21 – Knights of Columbus/St. Catherine's – 99 players
- September 29 – New Vision International – 50 players

Pro Shop:

- The second Patriot Golf Day Flag Tournament was held over Labor Day weekend. Tashua raised \$585 for the Folds of Honor Foundation which provides post secondary scholarships for children and spouses of military personnel killed or disabled while in service. Tashua has been provided with a certificate acknowledging its participation.
- The pro shop held a tent sale over the weekend of September 18 and 19. The event helped sell overstock merchandise and brought customers to the facility.
- All 2010 pro shop credits must be used by December 15, 2010.

Instructional Programs:

- Adult Programs:
 - The Couples Golf School was held on September 12 and had 11 couples participate.
- Junior Programs:
 - This season's USGA-LPGA Adult/Junior tournament was held on September 18 on the Glen. There were three shotgun starts with a total of 126 players.
 - The annual USGA-LPGA Girl's Golf Day Party will be held on October 9th on the Glen chipping and putting greens. The event is expected to have 200 participants.

General Manager Report (Bobby Brown):

Golf Overview:

- August 2010 rounds: 10,427 (Knolls – 6,986; Glen 3,441) vs. Knolls – 7,106 and Glen – 3,305 in 2009.
- The total number of rounds are almost equal to last year, however the rounds are down slightly on the Knolls but up on the Glen.

Plant & Facility:

- The Request for Proposal (RFP) for our new fleet of golf carts came in today. The three vendors who responded were Yamaha, Club Car, and EZ Go. The golf cart committee (Commissioners Galla, Turk, and Steidlmayer) and Mr. Brown will be meeting to determine the best proposal for Tashua. The committee will report their findings within a week.
- The club house attic insulation project will be revisited for fall.
- Bids will be obtained for work to be performed at the Maintenance Barn.

Golf Operations:

- The tee time rack ended on September 23 for play on October 3.
- All weekend morning tee times will be available seven days in advance via internet (live at midnight), phone, or walk-in.
- Weekend shotguns will begin the first Saturday in November which is consistent with past seasons. Depending on weather, an 8:00 or 9:00 AM shotgun will be utilized on Wednesdays for the seniors beginning as early as October 27.
- Mr. Brown asked if the Commissioners had seen the Connecticut Post article focusing on the alcohol policy at Smith Richardson and mentioning Tashua Knolls. A discussion and recap of Tashua's currently posted alcohol policy ensued. However, as not all Commissioners had read the article, it was decided that the article will be distributed to all Commissioners. If the article warrants any further discussion, it will take place at the next Commission meeting.
- Mr. Brown requested that we institute the same fall special that was in effect last season.

Mr. Espach made a motion; seconded by Mr. Johnson to institute a Knolls Fall Special effective October 27, 2010. 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 6 – 0 (Abstain – Mr. Turk).

House Committee (Tony Johnson):

- The winter maintenance on the clubhouse heating system will be performed shortly.
- Fairfield County Sprinkler repaired a tiny leak the sprinkler system.
- The Pro Shop air handler will be inspected to make certain it is operational for winter.

Finance (Dave Galla):

Monthly revenue for August (Reported by Munis)

<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$297,096.66	\$342,910.73	+15.4%

August Revenue - Up YOY

- Recovery from Heat wave.
- Rounds flat and cart usage up
- Tashua Glen up Rounds and income

2010 (August) MTD Sales (reported by C. Plumeau)

<u>Cart Sales</u>		
<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Change</u>
7,352	6,713	+8.69%

<u>Knolls Rounds</u>		
<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Change</u>
6,986	7,106	-1.69%

<u>Glen Rounds</u>		
<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Change</u>
3,441	3,305	+3.95%

<u>Total Income Comparison</u>		
<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$1,527,739	\$1,505,365	+1.49%

Revenue and Expenses

- Fiscal 2010-2011 recovering and normalizing, but receipts continue to trend 2009-2010 numbers.
- September Income trending ahead of 2009
- Currently, based on carryover projects, funding projects should be carefully considered and financially reviewed prior to approval.

Correspondence:

- Ms. Sue Pfannkuch and Ms. Ellen Garvey issued a letter to the Commission thanking the Tashua staff including Mr. Janik and Mr. Brown for their help in the Ladies 9-holers Member/Member held on August 26.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson at 8:20 PM, seconded by Mr. Galla to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk