

**Golf Commission Meeting
April 25, 2011
Minutes**

Members Present: Ron Dray, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Teri Deal; Tony Guzzi; Jim Steidlmayer; Jonathan Turk

Members Absent: Tony Johnson; George Furkiotis; Dave Galla,

Ron Dray, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of March 28, 2011 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.
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Audience Participation:

- None

Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima):

Labor:

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Cook, Gallant, Romano)
- Nine part-time groundskeepers (DeFrancisco, Goodwin, Markaj, Oleyar, Hoepfner, Messina, Balkun, Quinn, Valluzzo)

Maintenance Department Overview:

- The Knolls greens were aerated on April 11th and 12th and are healing nicely. The recent rain has washed in the remainder of the sand and the greens should be in mid-season form in a few weeks. All the tees on the Knolls were aerated, seeded and fertilized. The fairways are in good condition and work has begun on the bare spots to get them into shape.
- The 5th green on the Knolls is coming along. It has been aerified, topdressed, seeded, fertilized, and slice seeded. The grass germinates in 7 – 10 days and we should be seeing the results shortly.
- The maintenance crew will concentrate on seeding and aerifying secondary areas in the rough, along cart paths and other bare or thin areas to achieve the goal of 100% turf coverage in all playable areas.
- The returning part-time crew will concentrate on the bunkers by edging, weeding, picking rocks, and fixing faces.

- The Glen greens were verticut and the tees will follow. The verticut was done in place of spring aeration due to less soil compaction on the Glen. The Glen is looking pretty good.
- The two main gate valves in the pumphouse failed over the winter. They have been replaced and the process of starting up the irrigation system has begun.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- The white stakes on the right side of Knolls #4 have been removed and the stone wall now serves as out of bounds. The purpose of this was to reduce man hours involved in weed whacking around the stakes.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer; to fill in the 3rd bunker (closest to the green) on the left on fairway #4 on the Knolls and make it a grass depression. Motion approved 5 – 1 Against (Turk)

Head Professional Report (Jon Janik):

Golf Operations:

- Mr. Janik distributed a draft of a Tashua Knolls play card to the Commission. The purpose of the card is to advise golfers of some of the policies in effect at the course and to provide tips for improving pace-of-play. The Commissioners agreed with the concept and suggested that we use an email blast to distribute the message to customers as well. The play card will be printed up and given to golfers when they begin play.

Tournaments:

- Tournament deposits have been received from six organizations to date.

Pro Shop:

- Demo days are scheduled this week for PING, Cleveland, Bridgestone, and Nike.

Instructional Programs:

- Adult programs:
 - o April 9th – Short game school – 12 participants
 - o April 10th – Ladies golf school – 5 participants
- Junior programs:
 - o LPGA-USGA Girl’s Golf registration was held at the club house on March 20th. Approximately 172 registrations have been received to date.
 - o April sign-ups have been excellent

General Manager Report (Bobby Brown):

Golf Operations:

- March rounds 2011 - 17 all Knolls vs. 2010 – 323
- March income 2011 - \$13,952 vs. 2010 - \$32,343

- Due to the extremely rainy weather in April, rounds, cart usage and income are down significantly.
- Season ID's to date 898 in 2011 vs. 1,077 in 2010
- The erratic weather has impacted our play and activity for the season. Opening day was March 31st and with 25 open days, we have had five nice weather days. The Seniors played two of three weeks, the Ladies 18-holers had two weeks of play, and the Ladies 9-holers had one week of play. Saturday April 23rd was a complete wash out.
- The Seniors are conducting their pace-of-play study. This past week the average pace-of-play for 88 players was 4 hours, 13 minutes. Great job! Both ladies groups are also responding well to pace-of-play initiatives.

Marketing:

- Three ads ran in the Trumbull Times promoting Tashua Knolls IDs
- Five email blasts have been sent out to date.

House Committee (Bobby Brown):

- Mr. Brown met with the Health and Building departments to discuss the Miklus Indoor Training Center.
- The UI has been notified about some burnt out lights in the parking lot
- The valve on the water booster in the kitchen has been replaced.
- The on-course bathrooms and ice machines are back in operation.

Finance (Jonathon Turk):

Monthly revenue - March Munis

<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$12,592	\$30,382	-58.6%

2011 March/April MTD Revenue – Through April 20, 2011

Course opened March 31, 2011. No income to report for March from Munis.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Total income	\$ 99,500.00	\$ 147,800
Rounds*		
Knolls	1856	2795
Glen	759	1279
Cart Usage		
Knolls	982	1586
Glen	453	673

*Weather conditions a major factor impacting number of rounds YOY.

2011 Annual Revenue Fiscal YOY

<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$1,243,218	\$1,325,046	-6.18%

Sales April to Date

Reported by Point of Sale System - through April 18, 2011

<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$55,829	\$100,264*	-44.32%

*Munis report shows \$197,860 total income, Fiscal 2009

Expenses

Items of Note:

- A spending freeze has been instituted – only absolute essentials should be purchased pending further notice.

Budget

- Budget approved by Town Council for 2011-2012 fiscal year

Sales Tracker

All sales at Tashua Knolls Golf Facility excluding sales taxes. Reported by Point of Sale System

Fiscal Income Comparison

	2009/2010	2010/2011	Net Change	% Change
July	344,149.00	\$311,308.50	-32,840.5	-9.54%
August	325,218.50	\$324,575.00	-643.5	-0.20%
September	277,855.00	\$271,419.00	-6,436.0	-2.32%
October	147,526.08	\$174,005.00	26,478.9	17.95%
November	80,697.05	\$74,961.24	-5,735.8	-7.11%
December	13,416.00	\$12,343.00	-1,073.0	-8.00%
January	381.00	\$60.00	-321.0	-84.25%
February	3,197.00	\$4,765.00	1,568.0	49.05%
March	32,343.00	\$13,952.00	-18,391.0	-56.86%
April to date (April 18, 2011)	100,264.00	\$55,829.00	-44,435.0	-44.32%
TOTAL	1,325,046.63	\$1,243,217.74	-81,828.89	-6.18%

- Mr. Nagashima asked for clarification as to how he should handle his part-time labor account and if he should cut back on labor to save money. He was advised by Mr. Dray that he should manage his labor the same as in past years and that no reduction in labor is necessary at this point.

Correspondence:

None

Old Business:

- Mrs. Deal reported that she met with the town attorneys regarding enforcing a smoking policy at the golf course. She stated that we are free to enforce a local policy. If it is not followed we do have the option of passing an ordinance at the course. It is our preference that we designate specific areas away from the front doors where smoking is permitted. Mrs. Deal will also work with Mr. Faustini to make sure the front doors facing the circle are maintained as well.
- Mrs. Deal also reported that the ladies locker room was progressing slowly.
- Mr. Steidlmayer asked about the maintenance crew's fertilizer policy for the coming months. He was concerned about a statement in the March minutes regarding the possible switch to cheaper fertilizers or lesser coverage. Mr. Steidlmayer was concerned about a negative impact on the quality of the course. The Commission and Mr. Nagashima responded that the statement was a reflection of a "possible" scenario should the cost of fertilizers rise too high. It is not the intention of anyone to sacrifice the conditions on the course.

New Business:

- Mr. Turk asked that we review the Rules and Regulations of the Tashua Knolls Golf Course to modify the responsibilities of the Green Committee to require that the Committee bring any changes to the look or topography of the course before the full Commission for approval. A discussion was held as to the feasibility of such a policy. Both Mr. Steidlmayer and Mr. Evans felt that the change was in effect a micromanagement of the Committee. Mr. Guzzi felt that the definition in the policy be worked on to draw a line over what a change in the architecture of the course entailed. It was decided that in the future, Mr. Evans as Chairman of the Green Committee would make Mr. Dray, Chairman of the Commission, aware of any changes to be made to the course. Mr. Dray also took the opportunity to express his gratitude to Mr. Evans, Mr. Steidlmayer, and Mr. Guzzi for their dedication and hard work as members of the Green Committee.
- Mr. Dray also requested that any work to be done by the Green or any other Committee be given a dollar amount for completion. Any work involving funding must be looked at from a budgetary perspective before proceeding.
- Mr. Dray stated that he is requiring that all unnecessary spending be stopped at this time. Only essential spending is permitted. There was no disagreement from all other Commissioners on the matter.

Executive Session:

Mr. Evans made a motion at 8:35 PM, seconded by Mr. Guzzi, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Mr. Jon Ponzio, Town Treasurer, was invited to attend the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mr. Evans at 9:30 PM and seconded by Mr. Turk. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mrs. Deal at 9:35 PM; seconded by Mr. Evans; to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk