

**Golf Course Commission Meeting
January 24, 2022
Minutes**

Members Present: Don Espach (Chairman); Joe Gaudiano (Vice-Chairman); Tom Cerulli; Tony Ciccaglione; Shelly Dowling; Owen Evans; Diane Wheeler

Also Attending: Bobby Brown, Director of Golf Operations

Members Absent: Frank Squicciarro

Mr. Espach called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of December 20, 2021 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Cerulli; seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

Audience Participation:

- None

Assistant Golf Course Superintendent (Paul Lupo):

- N/A

Green Committee (Shelly Dowling):

Topics Discussed:

- Equipment Maintenance is ongoing. The dump truck, which has been re-wired and now has working lights, is now street legal.
- Clubhouse Winter Maintenance including ceiling tiles, cleaning, light bulbs and painting is ongoing.
- Tree Work including removing dead ash trees on #10, #11 and #17 is ongoing.
- Lightning Detection System has been received but the ground is now too frozen to install. It will be installed in spring prior to opening.
- Rocks were temporarily moved to the parking lot at the maintenance barn but will be moved to a dump site on the course.
- The wooden benches and pond aerators have been moved inside for the winter.
- Maintenance equipment companies are not honoring any quotes for any equipment prior to 60 days of actual delivery. It is estimated new equipment may not be available until 2024. This is a serious problem for Tashua as the age and condition of nearly all our equipment is very bad. Some of the equipment we ordered in July 2021 has still not been delivered. This is the paramount concern to both Mr. Lupo and the Green Committee.
- All avenues have been explored trying to find help in equipment labor due to our mechanic being on workers comp for 14 months to date. All of our efforts have been unsuccessful.
- The recent snow/ice storm has left the courses covered in ice. If the ice does not melt within 30 days, it may result in turf suffocation. After 60 days of ice, the turf will start dying. Fingers crossed for warmer weather. The snow mold application prevents a pathogen but does not help the ice problem. Ice does not allow for a gas exchange and kills the plant.

Director of Golf Operations (Bobby Brown):

Tashua Golf Operations

- Official closing day for 2021 – Wednesday, December 15th
- Discussions with Fore Up continue regarding a credit card processing unit, website and marketing capabilities.
- Mr. Ambrosini, Head Starter, has established a job posting for additional starters and rangers and will go live on the Town website as soon as the HR department can post it.

ATK Golf Services, Inc.

- ATK is currently looking for a new Assistant golf professional. Thanks to Mitchell and Matt for their many years of service to Tashua and the golf business. They are currently seeking new careers outside of golf.
- Due to the increasing costs of limited flight driving range balls (increase \$2 per dozen), cost to replace golf mats up from \$750 to \$1100 and minimum wage increase to \$14 per hour beginning July 1st, the price of range balls will increase to a modest \$7 per bucket. We are still one of the lowest around the area.

House Committee (Tony Ciccaglione):

- Front and rear entrance upgrades was completed on January 10th.
- Mr. Lupo installed a new gutter over the circle entrance to prevent a build-up of ice over the winter months. Kudos to Mr. Lupo.
- Mr. Ciccaglione is putting the final touches on a proposal to replace the complex indoor lightning with LED fixtures.
- Mr. Ciccaglione will work with Mr. Faustini to power wash the bathrooms and fix any plumbing issues in the restrooms prior to opening this year.
- The bid for the roof repairs is out. A walk-through is scheduled for Thursday, January 27 for all parties interested in bidding.
- The Glycol has been replaced in the main boiler.
- The replacement heat/AC supplemental unit has been replaced and is operational for heat. Main Enterprises will return to work on the AC portion - which is not a priority at this point.
- Mr. Ciccaglione will be meeting with Mr. Faustini's HVAC company to set up a detailed program of preventative maintenance.
- Mr. Evans asked that Mr. Faustini be asked to remove his product advertising signs by the outdoor window area as it is a violation of his contract.
- Mr. Brown asked if the Commission voted to approve the \$6,000 expenditure for the temporary roof tarp. Mr. Espach responded that it had not as we were only advised at the last minute. We are, however, involved in the legal process of the funding of the actual repairs.

Concessionaire (Domenick Faustini):

- No report given.

Finance (Joe Gaudiano):

- Income for calendar year 2021 stands at \$2,688,127. Even though rounds were up for December, the income was lower due to the reducing pricing which was necessary due to the late aeration.
- Expenses are in line with our budget.

- Mr. Gaudio presented the Commission with a rate proposal that was the result of meetings with himself, Mr. Espach, Mr. Cerulli and Mr. Brown. Taken into consideration were the funding needs of the golf course and the rates of our competitor golf courses.

A motion was made by Mr. Ciccaglione; seconded by Mrs. Dowling to approve a rate increase of \$1 for resident and \$2 for regular rounds for all 18-hole categories as well as a \$1 increase on cart fees for all 18-hole categories. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

Personnel (Diane Wheeler):

- Five applications have been received for the recent Director of Golf Course Properties position. They will be reviewed by Town Hall for qualified applications which will be passed on to the Commission.
- In order to facilitate the process, a Hiring Committee was proposed:

A motion was made by Mrs. Dowling; seconded by Mr. Cerulli to authorize the formation of a Hiring Committee, consisting of Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Dowling, Mr. Gaudio and Mr. Espach (ex-officio) to facilitate the hiring of a Director of Golf Course Properties. The Committee is charged with:

Reviewing the applications received from the Town’s Human Resource department
 Interviewing the top candidates
 Recommending the top candidate and salary to the full Commission for a vote.

Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0)

Correspondence

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Executive Session:

Mr. Evans made a motion seconded by Mr. Gaudio at 7:44 PM to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by Mrs. Wheeler at 8:09 PM and seconded by Mr. Cerulli. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Gaudiano at 8:11 PM; seconded by Mr. Cerulli to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk