

**Golf Commission Meeting
January 27, 2020
Minutes**

Members Present: Richard DeLibro (Acting Chairman); Angelo Cordone; Don Espach; Shari Elias; Frank Squicciarro; Diane Wheeler

Also Attending: Bobby Brown, Director of Golf; Doug Snyder, Director of Golf Course Properties

Members Absent: Tom Cerulli; Joe Gaudiano

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

Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of December 16, 2019 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Espach, seconded by Mr. Squicciarro to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers:

Mr. DeLibro moved to nominate Don Espach as Chairman for 2020, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler. There being no further nominations, the clerk cast one unanimous ballot for Don Espach.

Mr. Espach thanked John Chiota for the calm, level-headed manner he displayed in his 4-year tenure as Chairman of the Golf Commission. Mr. Chiota accomplished great things for Tashua Knolls Golf Course under his leadership. The entire Commissioners and audience joined in a round of applause.

Don Espach then asked and received consensus that the Commission take the agenda out of order and begin with a New Business Item.

Audience Participation:

- Mr. Ray Baldwin, Trumbull resident, submitted a proposal to the Commission for the donation of a plaque in memory of Mr. James Steidlmayer. Mr. Steidlmayer, who recently passed away, was a 52 year Trumbull resident who served on the Golf Commission for six years. Mr. Steidlmayer grew up on a farm in California, had extensive knowledge of irrigations and drainage which he brought to his role on the Green Committee. Mr. Steidlmayer made a big impact on the lives of everyone who knew him. He is fondly remembered as a kind hearted, hard-working and thoughtful man who was a friend to everyone he met. The plaque will be paid for and maintained by friends of Jim and will be marble engraved 24" x 18" and would be placed between two trees on the right side of Knolls #5 fairway. It was a long standing joke that anytime that Jim played the course, he would inevitably hit those two trees. His many friends feel that is the perfect spot to remember him.

Mr. Squicciarro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Wheeler, to accept the donation of the 24" x 18" plaque in remembrance of Mr. James Steidlmayer to be placed on the Knolls #5 fairway. Motion carried unanimously.

Director of Golf Course Properties (Doug Snyder):

- No formal meeting was held in January for the Green Committee, but Mr. Squicciarro and Mr. Cordone did meet with Mr. Snyder to review the course and the on-going work.
- The drainage project on #16 is complete except for sodding.
- Tree removal work is continuing on #14 and 16 in addition to trees damaged by storms or disease.
- Clearing is continuing on the stonewall between #1 & 9 and #6.
- Knolls #14 tee has been regraded and sodded.
- Glen # 4 is restored to its original size.
- The new Assistant Golf Course Superintendent position will be posted shortly.
- All equipment and amenities are being cleaned, refurbished and repaired.
- Future projects include #7 Knolls drainage, #8 Knolls creek grading and #3 Glen Hill clearing

Green Committee (Frank Squicciarro):

- Mr. Squicciarro added that the wooden wall on the back of #2 Knolls tee will be removed.

Director of Golf Operations (Bobby Brown):

- Mr. Brown and several of his employees recently attended the PGA Show in Orlando, FL where they were able to meet with various vendors and meet with industry professionals.
- The bid for new golf carts will go out shortly.
- The weather was very sunny and warm on a recent January weekend so Mr. Brown opened the range for those days. He stated to the Commission for consideration that several area courses did open that day and although we have not done so in the past, maybe we should consider opening as well.
- Mr. Brown reports that there will be no staffing changes to the senior staff in ATK Golf Services.
- Mr. Brown spoke with Smith Richardson golf course and learned that their clubhouse project is now scheduled to be completed in June.

House Committee (Dick DeLibro):

- Mr. Faustini was asked and complied in the removal of some of his benches that were stored outside blocking an emergency exit.
- Mr. DeLibro, Mr. Gaudiano and Mrs. Plumeau met with Mr. Faustini to review expectations for the 2020 season and to improve lines of communication.
- Mr. Faustini cleaned the common area carpets, installed new ceiling fans in the grill room and fixed leaking faucets in the ladie's room.
- The septic clean out to the maintenance barn must be located as it has not been cleaned out in several years. The Town's Health Department will be contacted for help.
- The Town's IT department is upgrading computers and servers at the golf course over the winter. Upgrades and or changes are also being made to the web site and the point of sale system.

Concessionaire (Domenick Faustini):

- None

Finance

- The 2021 budget meeting was held with the First Selectman where no changes were made. The budget meeting with the Board of Finance is scheduled for March 16th.
- The outside audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019 was completed. Although the golf course essentially broke even in fiscal year 2020, the amount in our retained earnings was up due to some debit being paid off.
- Mr. Espach presented the Commissioners with a recommended rate schedule for the 2020 season. As discussed during the budget process, the minimum wage increases over the next several years will result in an approximately \$20,000 expense increase in the golf course budget. The Commission discussed the rates and then voted.

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion seconded by Mr. DeLibro, to change the following rates for the 2020 golf season:

- \$1 rate increase for all Knolls resident weekday rates with the exception of 9-hole jr. and sr.
- \$1 rate increase for Knolls 9 and 18-hole non-resident rates
- \$4 decrease for non-resident weekend rate on the Glen
- \$2 decrease for non-resident weekday rate on the Glen
- Glen Early Bird Special changed to Glen Weekday Special with rate of \$22
- Knolls Back Nine Early Bird Special changed to \$22 Monday through Friday
- Replay Rates Knolls set at 9 walking \$5, 9 riding \$15, 18 walking \$10, 18 riding \$25
- Replay Rates Glen set at walking \$5, riding \$15

Motion carried unanimously.

Tee Time Reservation (Bobby Brown):

- Mr. Cerulli will be joining the Tee Time Reservation special project and will be brought up to speed. The survey has been modified to include demographic information. The survey will be posted as soon as possible.

Correspondence:

- None

Old Business:

- Mrs. Plumeau reported that the internal audit from the Town is nearly complete.

New Business:

- None

Executive Session:

Mrs. Wheeler made a motion seconded by Mr. Squicciarro at 7:45 PM to move into Executive Session to discuss two contractual matters. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive Session was made by Mrs. Wheeler at 8:23 PM and seconded by Mr. Squicciarro. Motion carried unanimously.

- After exiting the Executive Session, the following motion was made:

Mr. Squicciarro made a motion seconded by Mrs. Wheeler to authorize the Chairman of the Golf Commission to transfer up to \$150,000 in calendar year 2020 to ATK Services for the transfer to their payroll and associated costs of starters, rangers and cart assistants. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Mrs. Wheeler at 8:30 PM; seconded by Mr. Cordone to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk