

**Golf Commission Meeting
May 22, 2021
Minutes**

Members Present: Don Espach (Chairman) Joe Gaudiano (Vice-Chairman); Tony Ciccaglione (arrived 7:50 PM)); Angelo Cordone; Shelly Dowling; Owen Evans; Frank Squicciarro; Diane Wheeler

Also Attending: Bobby Brown, Director of Golf

Members Absent: Tom Cerulli

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

Mr. Espach began the meeting by informing the Commission that Mrs. Dowling has taken over for Mr. Squicciarro as Green Committee Chair. Mr. Espach thanked Mr. Squicciarro for his years of dedication, energy and experience while on the Green Committee. Mr. Squicciarro remarked that his proudest accomplishment as Chairman of the Green Committee was also his first. He was instrumental in restoring the original practice bunker and was at the course over the past several weeks and took pride in watching the young golfers learn to hit out of the bunker.

Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of April 26, 2021 . . . A Motion was made by Mrs. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Cordone to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation:

- None

Assistant Golf Course Superintendent (Shelly Dowling for Paul Lupo):

- Brush Clearing/Course Improvements:
 - Sand has been added to #16 and 17 Knolls, #6, 7 and 9 Glen and the chipping green.
 - Sand screening rakes have been purchased and will be used to sift out rocks on all bunkers
 - Cart path edges washed out over the winter are being repaired. Players are asked to keep off these areas until the grass has been established.
 - Brush has been cleared on #3 and 11/13 Knolls and wood chips and seed will be added shortly. Patience is being asked for as the work is being done by a 1-person crew.
 - Due to the removal of a storm damaged tree on #4 Knolls last year, the area between #17 green and #11 Knolls will be cleared of brush to help reduce the presence of annual bluegrass weevil that persistently plagues the area.
- Equipment Maintenance/Irrigation System:
 - The full-time mechanic is still on disability which impacts the ability of the remaining staff to perform several tasks on both courses and impacts course conditions.
 - Equipment condition continues to be a problem due to age and lack of upkeep.
 - A 20-year old engine on one of our rollers is currently being replaced. We apologize for a lack of green smoothness over the last few weeks.

- A fairway mower had a front hydraulic hose and rear cylinder leak on #7 Glen. The unit has been repaired and speedy dry was put down on the cart path and sand and soil was put on the grass area to reduce the damage.
- Bearings on all triplex rollers have been replaced after they failed due to lack of yearly maintenance. Rough mowers blades have been replaced or sharpened and all fluids have been drained and filled to appropriate levels.
- The irrigation system continues to be problematic. The crew is currently fixing broken sprinklers, pipes and satellites from last season. New problems are being repaired as they occur.
- General Updates:
 - The dry conditions have made crabgrass control very tricky as the pre-emergents work best with significant rainfall.
 - Several new part-time staffers are currently coming on board. It was also decided not to hire a part-time mechanic as the technical experience required for the position is very difficult to find in a part-time seasonal employee. Mr. Lupo and Mr. Craig Romano are repairing the equipment in addition to their normal responsibilities.
 - The garden enhancement project around the clubhouse is being planned and the plants ordered. The next few weeks will show significant improvement of the areas. A big thank you goes out to both the Kaulbach Trust and the Sr. Men's club for their contributions to the project. Benedict's Home and Garden is helping us out tremendously with the design of the gardens.

Green Committee (Shelly Dowling):

- One day of stump grinding on the course is being scheduled.
- Mr. Evans is working on prioritizing the paving projects around the entire complex. We will be able to go out to bid on the projects very soon.
- The sod on #13 Knolls has not taken hold and will probably need to be stripped and replaced.
- George Estrada of the Town will be contacted to see if we can get some paving millings for use in several areas around the course.
- Mr. Estrada will also be contacted to see if the Town can assist us in removing tree debris in the maintenance barn parking lot.
- Many signs around the course have been replaced, painted and straightened. A few additional signs are still on order. The cart path speed bumps have been painted.
- The ponds have suffered from a lack of rain which has cause algae and orders. Additional rain will solve the problem.
- The replacement fence around the Miklus Center has been purchased and will be installed as time permits.
- Mr. Brown brought up a safety issue in the teaching area on the driving range. He will look into potential shelters to alleviate the problem.
- Mr. Brown also asked if we can look into a solution for the trees that fell down in recent storms on #15 Knolls. The current handicap on the hole is a 2 but is probably not accurate due to the lack of trees. The Green Committee has added that project to its agenda
- Mr. Lupo was acknowledged by all for the great deal of completed work that is happening throughout the complex – big project and small. It has made a huge difference in the appearance of the course and many customers are noticing the improvements as well.

Director of Golf Operations (Bobby Brown):

- The ForeUp tee sheets are working well and the reservation system has received positive customer feedback. A few customers have expressed frustration at setting up their accounts, but they are being helped by Pro Shop staff on a case-by-case basis.
- After holding no tournaments last year due to Covid, they have returned for 2021. Two tournaments were held in the month of May:
 - Trumbull Father's Club – May 10 – 160 players
 - United Way – May 17 – 69 players (paid for 88 player minimum)
- The 2021 season golf programs are already sold out. Staff is continuing to wear face masks outside when teaching youth programs. The high school golf teams have one more week of competitions.
- The first Men's Club tournament of the year will be held on June 6th. Over 100 players have registered to date.
- Mr. Evans commented that it is difficult to determine some information from the new tee sheets as the printout is very small. Mr. Brown responded that the starters will eventually be provided with and trained on ipads where they will have enhanced information.

House Committee (Christine Plumeau for Tony Ciccaglione):

- Safety Projects:
 - Two quotes have been obtained for the circle entrance railing as it is rusted and needs replacement at a cost of approximately \$2,000. We will also be looking at re-surfacing the cement in the area.
 - Asphalt repair required at back of cart barn was fixed with cold patch. This project has now been moved over to the Green Committee to be included with the total course paving project. Included in the project will be the drainage issue in the area.
 - The gutter replacement, ice shield, flashing and re-shingling of the clubhouse portion of the roof facing the circle have come in at \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Priority Project:

- The sprinkler heads were installed in the porch ceiling and passed inspection. We are working on getting quotes for the ceiling replacement.
- Other Projects:
 - The painting and wood replacement work on the east side of the clubhouse and at the cart barn is being compiled. Once complete, general contractors will be contacted for quotes.
 - The UI will be contacted for input on LED lamp change out and solar energy.
 - A plumber will be called in for an issue with the clubhouse drinking fountain and a cart barn faucet.

Concessionaire (Domenick Faustini):

- No report given.

Finance (Joe Gaudiano):

- Income for April was above-average and is trending above-average for May. We are on a very positive trend for the fiscal year end.
- Mr. Gaudiano asked the various committees meet and put together their lists of both short and long term projects. At this time, it is highly likely that we will be able to replenish part of our retained earnings. We anticipate being able commit some funding to projects and issues that have been put off for several years. We will get a more accurate financial picture once the fiscal year ends.

- Expenses are in-line for the ending of the current fiscal year.
- Mr. Gaudioano informed the Commission that it was necessary to go before the Board of Finance to ask that the money originally budgeted for the new golf carts and not used this year be transferred into the Equipment Maintenance account to pay for much needed repairs.

A motion was made by Mr. Gaudioano, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler to request the following transfer of funds from the Board of Finance:

From: GL# 522204, Golf cart lease, \$16,000

To: GL # 578802, Equipment Maintenance

Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Gaudioano also advised that the Kaulbach Trust requested that \$6,000 be transferred into the Supplies Account for tree trimming, plantings and mulch to be used in the various gardens around the clubhouse. In response to questions about the Kaulbach Trust, Mrs. Plumeau responded that the trust was established approximately 20 years ago by avid area golfer Ernie Kaulbach. The trust initially had \$100,000 and the purpose was for the continued beautification of Tashua Knolls. Over the years the trustees have approved numerous projects including the scoreboard, new tee markers, pond aerators, and more. The projects are presented to the trustees for approval and are generally in the \$5,000 range. Sometimes projects are done every two years at a cost of \$10,000. Initially when interest rates were high, the trustees only donated the interest amount earned, but as interest rates have fallen, they have had to dip below the initial amount.

Correspondence:

- A letter was received from Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Costa who expressed concern that the tee time cancellation policy was too harsh - in particular on the Glen. For example if they didn't feel well in the morning it would be burdensome on them to have to pay the cancellation fee particularly since demand for tee times on the Glen is not as great as on the Knolls. Mr. Espach responded that he completely understands the situation but the policy was implemented to protect golfers who are unable to play when other players fail to cancel their time. Mr. Espach also stated that individual circumstances (such as illness and other emergencies) are taken into consideration when implementing the policy.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mrs. Wheeler at 7:58 PM; seconded by Mrs. Dowling to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk