

**Golf Commission Meeting
June 28, 2021
Minutes**

Members Present: Don Espach (Chairman) Joe Gaudiano (Vice-Chairman) (arrived 7:55 PM); Tony Ciccaglione; Tom Cerulli; Angelo Cordone; Shelly Dowling; Owen Evans; Frank Squicciarro; Diane Wheeler

Also Attending: Bobby Brown, Director of Golf, Paul Lupo, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

Members Absent: none

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

Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of May 22, 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 (Paul Lupo):

- Brush Clearing/Course Improvements:
 - Sand screening has been attempted to remove rocks from bunkers but efforts have failed. The rocks are the drainage stones at the bottom of the bunker. Significant amounts of sand must be added to the bunkers after years of inadequate replenishment.
 - Garden native plantings were designed by Benedict's Home and Garden. The crew installed the plants in the clubhouse front beds, cart barn entrance, flagpole garden and front circle. The circle trees were extensively trimmed in the front circle. All areas were mulched as well.
 - Stumps on #5, 9 and 16 were ground down and soil will be added to the areas.
 - Greensman, Mr. Craig Romano, has been hard at work clearing the overgrowth between Glen #4 and 5. Wind can finally be felt in the area which will significantly improve the health of both greens.
 - The hydraulic leak on Glen #7 has been aerified, renovated and seeded.
- Equipment Maintenance/Irrigation System:
 - The full-time mechanic is still out on worker's compensation.
 - Resulting equipment maintenance challenges remain, but the staff is making it work.
 - Irrigation system woes continue. Broken pipes on Knolls #1, 5, 7 and 8 greens have been repaired. Knolls #15 fairway still requires repair. Glue at the bell fittings are deteriorating after over 10 years in the ground. Broken sprinklers have been replaced on #2 and 18 Knolls fairways, #5 Knolls green, #4 Glen tee and # 7 and 8 Glen greens.
- General Updates:
 - The course is showing signs of wear from the tremendous amount of play. The areas of greens where players walk on/off are significantly stressed. The practice areas are showing the most stress from constant foot traffic from dawn to dusk.

- Needle tine aeration will be done on all greens when weather permits with extremely thin tines and with no sand or playability issues,

Green Committee (Shelly Dowling):

- There were some customer concerns regarding hole placement and rough, slow greens. Mr. Lupo was aware of the issue which was the result of training issues for new employees who have been re-trained. The slower greens are a result of a flare up of Anthracnose (disease) and Hyperodes Weevil (beetles). The greens have been treated for both and Mr. Lupo is keeping a close eye on weather conditions and water amounts which can lead to additional flare-ups.
- A discussion was held on the condition of the irrigation system. It was acknowledged that the system is nearing the end of its life expectancy. Replacement of the system is on the Golf Commissions long-term planning list. Green perimeter heads have been removed due to failure and greens can now only be watered with an employee using a hose.
- Mr. Evans asked about the long-standing drainage issue behind the cart barn. The issue has been added to our short-term project list.
- Mrs. Dowling thanked the 18-hole ladies club for their donation toward the gardens on the course.
- Mrs. Dowling took the opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous job Mr. Lupo and the entire maintenance staff are doing under very trying conditions including low manpower, budget issues, equipment problems along with the high number of rounds being played.
- Mr. Squicciarro commented that when he played on Father's Day he was concerned about hole placement and the improper replacement of hole turf. Mr. Lupo responded that it was a training issue that has been corrected.
- Mr. Squicciarro also asked about the one pond aerator that is not working. Mr. Lupo responded that it needs repair, however, there are numerous equipment issues which are more critical to daily operation that must be addressed first.
- Mr. Espach asked Mr. Lupo to add the issue of bunker sand to the project list

Director of Golf Operations (Bobby Brown):

- Mr. Brown began by commending Mr. Lupo and the entire maintenance staff on their dedication to the course and the quantity and quality of work they are performing. The course was in great shape for the CT Open Qualifier. Mr. Lupo did an amazing job in turning the course over for public play after the qualifier. Mr. Brown also commented that he felt Mr. Lupo was doing a remarkable job on the Glen course and that it hasn't looked this good in many years.
- Play remains strong the month. Customers who are used to booking a tee time 2 – 3 days in advance are expressing concern that they are unable to get tee times; due to the high volume of play, tee times are filling up 7 days prior.
- Tournaments were light in June with the exception of the Men's Club event which saw great attendance for their event.
- A Drive, Chip and Putt event was held this past Friday for 7 – 14 year olds. Individual players who made it through must now compete at several other area courses with the eventual opportunity to compete in the finals held at Augusta. Mr. Brown wished all participants good luck.
- Issues with customers being double charged on their credit cards emerged in May. Slow download speed of our internet as well as frequent, short term internet outages could be to blame. We are working with the Town's IT department to solve the problem.

House Committee (Tony Ciccaglione):

- Safety Projects:
 - Several quotes have been obtained for the railing and cement re-surfacing at the front entrance. Estimated cost is \$2,000 to \$3,000
 - The gutter over the front entrance and the chimney cap need immediate replacement. Mold remediation may be required in the basement. Estimated cost \$10,000.
 - There is a leak into the basement at the front of the clubhouse which will be investigated
- Priority Project:
 - We have obtained quotes on the porch ceiling replacement and cement resurfacing. A spreadsheet will be prepared to compare bids.
- 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 availability of solar energy incentives.
 - A plumber was called in for several issues. The cart barn spigot and the on-course men’s room faucet were repaired. The clubhouse men’s locker room and clubhouse fountain are still open issues due to difficulty getting parts. It may be necessary to purchase a new water fountain.
 - Mr. Ciccaglione has been working with Mr. Faustini to correct ladies room issues brought to our attention in a letter from the 18-hole ladies group. The issues are 75% completed. The floors still need to be polished and the walls need to be painted.
 - An electrician will be called in to install a 240 volt receptacle at the maintenance barn for an air compressor.

Concessionaire (Domenick Faustini):

- No report given.

Finance (Joe Gaudiano):

- Income for May was above-average and is trending very good for June. We are on a very positive trend for the fiscal year end.
- Expenses are in-line for the ending of the current fiscal year and we have currently used approximately 93% of our budget.
- A financial comparison was made on average Monday income on tournament vs. non-tournament days. It was determined that with the exception of one or two of our very large tournaments, the course makes less money with tournaments than with public play. As tournament rates have not been adjusted in many years from the current \$60 for the first 100 players and \$40 for 101+ players. Mr. Gaudiano proposed a change to the rates which was discussed by the Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Gaudiano, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler to establish the rates for Tournament play as follows:

\$65 per player flat fee for groups teeing off up to 9:00 AM from Memorial Day through Labor Day, or up to 10:00 AM otherwise

\$8,500 flat fee for groups choosing to tee off after 9:00 AM from Memorial Day through Labor Day, or after 10:00 AM otherwise

Motion carried 7 – 0 (Abstain: Evans, Squicciarro)

Correspondence:

- A letter was received from Mrs. Julie Jenkins, president Ladies 18-holers, regarding various condition and cleanliness issues in the clubhouse ladies room on a recent Thursday. The topic was previously discussed by Mr. Ciccaglione above.
- Mr. Squicciarro shared an email from Mr. John Deigan, PGA, regarding the recent CT Open Qualifier. He thanked Tashua for hosting the event and having a diligent golf course operation. Check-in was smooth and Mr. Deigan was very grateful for the tons of cold water on the course

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Mr. Brown advised the Commission that he had been approached by Mr. Faustini about the idea of providing a beverage cart at Tashua. Mr. Brown asked the Commissioners if they were receptive to the idea prior to pursuing the project. The idea was brought up several years ago but the Commission did not have consensus to proceed at that time. A discussion was held regarding some of the concerns about how the cart might affect pace-of-play, training issues of the cart staff and the general operation of the cart. In the end it was agreed to ask Mr. Faustini to present a proposal for the beverage cart operation to the Commission.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Squicciarro at 8:20 PM; seconded by Mr. Cordone to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk