

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

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

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

**Members Absent:** Owen Evans; Frank Squicciarro

Mr. Espach called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:**

|  |
|--|
| Review and approval of the Minutes of October 25, 2021 . . . A Motion was made by Mrs. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Cerulli, to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0). |
|--|

**Audience Participation:**

- Mr. Neil Sullivan, Men’s Club member, stated he submitted an email to the Commission regarding advanced tee time booking for Town residents. He thanked the Commission for bringing the matter to discussion. He is optimistic the change will be made. He also noted that at the March meeting the Golf Commission had a consensus that we would eventually implement some type of policy.
- Mr. Jim Daly, Men’s Club member, also stated he submitted an email to the Commission supporting advanced tee time booking for Town residents.
- Mr. Jim Galasso added his support for advanced tee time bookings for Town residents.
- Mr. Paul Kennedy, President Men’s Club, also supported the policy of advanced tee time bookings for Town residents and submitted an email.
- Mr. Chris Lenzen, Men’s Club member, stated he has been a Town resident since 1972 and has been a long-time golfer at Tashua. He believes that the golf course is the biggest gem in Town. He also voiced his support for advanced tee time bookings for Trumbull residents.
- Mrs. Janet Arena introduced herself as the in-coming President of the Ladies 9-holers. She also introduced Janice Miko who would be attending the meetings on behalf of the club.
- Mr. Espach asked the men’s club members for clarification at this point on whether they were asking for advanced tee times exclusively for Trumbull residents or the ability for Town residents to make reservations that could include non-residents. The members agreed that they were looking for advanced bookings by Trumbull residents that could include non-residents.

**Assistant Golf Course Superintendent (Paul Lupo):**

**Tashua Glen**

- The crew has been blowing and grinding the leaves daily.
- The Glen greens are beginning to go dormant and have been treated with a snow mold application.

## **Tashua Knolls**

- The Knolls greens have recovered for the most part with the exception of #2 - 3 and #10 – 13, which have less sunlight and are colder. Trees near the wood line will be cleared in coming years to increase sunlight and airflow and increase performance and playability on these holes.
- The increased amount of play has prevented aeration on some of the fairways, but the remaining fairways will be aerated weather permitting.
- Snow mold and spring seed head applications have been made. Top dressing will be added to the greens for winter protection.
- Solid tine aeration will be performed to de-compact the subsoil of the greens in coming weeks.
- Mr. Romano has been and will continue to clear brush on #7 and 8 for course improvement.

## **Updates**

- Irrigation system and on-course bathrooms have been shut down for winter.
- Paving projects are concluded. Thank you Mr. Ciccaglione for all your help with the project.
- Mr. Sarosky has started as a full-time greenskeeper and is already a tremendous help. Thank you to the Commission and the Town for getting the Maintenance Department some much-needed help.
- The Mechanic remains out on workers' compensation.
- A big thank to the Commission, Mr. Brown, Mr. Bove, Mrs. Plumeau, the staff and the entire Tashua community in helping us active the CSGA Distinguished Club of the Year Award.

## **Green Committee (Shelly Dowling):**

- In addition to the updates above, the Maintenance Department is also going to concentrate on edging the bunkers.
- Winter work will include tree work (weather permitting) and equipment maintenance including filters, oil, sharpening, bearings, washing and painting.
- The sinkhole on #11 was discussed. It was agreed it is not a high priority item. However, because repairs were attempted in-house three times but failed, it would be necessary to bring in outside vendors to get to the source of the problem.
- The issue of delayed delivery of new equipment as well as replacement parts is causing major problems in time needed to fix the equipment as well as maintain the course while fixing the equipment.

## **Director of Golf Operations (Bobby Brown):**

- Happy Thanksgiving to All
- Play remains consistent into November with frost delays prevalent.
- Both courses are clean and in nice shape.
- Congratulations to the Tashua team for being named CSGA 2021 Distinguished Golf Course. Special thanks to CSGA Tashua volunteers, Mr. Jim Daly, Mr. Owen Evans, Mr. John Button and Mr. Marshall Briener.

## **Golf Operations**

- Holiday gift cards can be purchased on the website at [www.tashuaknolls.com](http://www.tashuaknolls.com).
- Fall specials are in effect, 18-hole: \$5 off resident/\$10 off non-resident; 9-hole: \$3 off residents/\$5 off non-residents.

- Thanksgiving Day 8:30 AM shotgun nearly sold out (course closes approximately 2:00 PM after shotgun). Friday after Thanksgiving double tees already sold out.
- All junior golf programs have concluded for the season. Special thanks to ATK staff Mr. Matt Zampano, Mr. Mitchell French and Mr. Tommy Downing for a great season. All three will be moving on to further their careers.
- All pro shop credits and rain checks for the 2021 season must be used by December 15, 2021.

**House Committee (Tony Ciccaglione):**

- Front and rear entrance upgrades are in progress and are scheduled for completion by the end of November
- Drainage and paving around the complex are complete
- Front roof and gutter repairs are awaiting pricing
- Lightning protection system approved awaiting delivery and installation
- UI has submitted a report on rebates for LED Lamps for the entire complex. Mr. Ciccaglione will review and submit to the Commission.
- Architect has begun work on clubhouse roof scope
- Work approved to add ethylene glycol to clubhouse boiler
- AC/heat unit to portion of clubhouse quote approved and unit on order. Scheduled for replacement after Thanksgiving.
- The Commission thanked Mr. Ciccaglione on his hard work on all of the above projects. It is good to see them being taken care of.

**Concessionaire (Domenick Faustini):**

- No report given.

**Finance (Joe Gaudiano):**

- Income and play for October were comparable to last year and over the 5-year average.
- Expenses are in-line with the budget
- Several transfers were requested for vote:

A motion was made by Mrs. Dowling; seconded by Mrs. Wheeler to approve a transfer of \$4,105 from retained earnings to the maintenance account to add glycol (antifreeze) to a boiler at the clubhouse. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Wheeler; seconded by Mr. Cordone to approve a transfer of \$37,926 from retained earnings to the maintenance account to replace a boiler/ac unit at the clubhouse that is broken beyond repair. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Dowling; seconded by Mr. Ciccaglione to approve an internal transfer of \$26,00 (\$2,400 job board app; \$1,200 water monitoring app; \$2,400 program use app; \$10,000 tree removal; \$10,000 water) to \$10,000 Programs and \$16,000 Maintenance. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

- A draft of the budget for FY 2022-2023 was presented to the Commission. The total amount of the budget was \$2,379,698 and included increases in the areas of supplies, program and equipment, which took into consideration the deteriorating condition of golf course equipment and mechanicals, as well as the astronomical rise in supplies, equipment and chemicals. We have two

years left of remaining higher bond payments which will then drop dramatically. The final budget will be voted on at the December Commission meeting.

**Personnel (Diane Wheeler):**

- An Employee Appreciation Reception is being held at the clubhouse on December 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM to thank all employees and volunteers of the golf course for all their hard work and dedication particularly over the last two difficult years.
- There has been no update from the Town on the posting of the Golf Course Property job. An email has been sent to Mr. Tom McCarthy, Director of Labor Relations, expressing the urgency of the situation.

**Correspondence**

- Letters and emails in favor of allowing Town residents preference in booking tee times were submitted by Mr. Neil Sullivan, Mr. Paul Kennedy, Mr. Jim Daly and Mr. Ron Fitelson. Commissioners held a discussion and, in the end, consensus was reached to not consider such a policy change at the present time for the following reasons:
  1. In our 45-year history, residents have never been given preference in obtaining tee times. We have always been a public golf course open to all and, as a matter of policy, may simply want to remain that way. (Residents have always been given a discount on rates).
  2. The golf course is an Enterprise fund and Trumbull taxes do not support it. The administrative services we do receive from the Town (e.g., financial, HR and legal) is a small percentage of our budget and are reimbursed annually to the Town as “Reimbursable services.”
  3. A new automated tee time reservation system was implemented this year with great success. We are approaching 50,000 rounds this year compared to our pre-pandemic average of 39,000. This indicates that many, many customers, including residents, are obtaining tee times.
  4. Giving residents preference in obtaining tee times would be a major change that demands careful consideration as to its financial and customer satisfaction impacts. As a Commission, we have pressing issues to be addressed in the coming months including certain building repairs and the hiring of a Director-Golf Course Properties that preclude giving this issue our full attention.
  5. The change would ostensibly result in more resident play and thus a loss of revenue. While at present it is difficult to accurately gauge the financial impact, resident rates would ultimately have to be increased to make up the difference. Having no way at present to accurately measure the financial impact, this is not a good time to risk a loss of revenue as we are facing several pressing financial issues including equipment replacement and facility repairs.
  6. It is not clear if the high demand for prime tee times would actually be reduced by eliminating non-residents from the queue. First, if residents who obtain tee times can play with non-residents, we would only be eliminating “non-resident only” groups. Hard data as to how many of such groups play at the course has been difficult to obtain but a cursory review of the tee sheets shows that there are not a high percentage of such groups in peak times and many of these groups are long-standing good customers. Second, if demand for tee times did slack, it is entirely possible that more residents will simply backfill the gap.

Although it was agreed to not implement a policy giving residents preference in obtaining tee times at this time, we should continue to monitor play, the effectiveness of our automated tee time system and customer satisfaction as the pandemic subsides (hopefully).

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- Mrs. Plumeau presented a proposed Golf Commission Meeting Schedule for 2022.

Mr. Cerulli made a motion seconded by Mrs. Wheeler to approve the Golf Commission meeting schedule for 2022. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

- The following two tournament requests were made for 2022.

Mr. Gaudiano made a motion seconded by Mrs. Wheeler to approve the CSGA’s request for Tashua to host the 2022 Women’s Amateur Tournament on July 6 and 7 with tee times beginning at 7:00 AM. In addition, Mr. Lupo will be given consideration for potential delayed play on Tuesday morning, July 5 to prepare the course for the tournament after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday play. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

Mr. Gaudiano made a motion seconded by Mr. Ciccaglione to approve the SCTWGA’s request for Tashua to host their 2022 tournament on Monday, September 22 with an 8:00 AM shotgun start at preferred rates. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. Gaudiano at 8:05 PM; seconded by Mr. Cerulli to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously (7 – 0).

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau  
Golf Course Commission Clerk