

**Golf Commission Meeting  
December 20, 2021  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Don Espach (Chairman); Joe Gaudiano (Vice-Chairman) (arrived 7:25 PM); Tom Cerulli; Tony Ciccaglione; Angelo Cordone; Shelly Dowling; Owen Evans; Frank Squicciarro; Diane Wheeler

**Also Attending:** Bobby Brown, Director of Golf Operations

**Members Absent:** None

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

Mr. Espach thanked Mr. Angelo Cordone for his service to the Golf Commission having served on both the Green and House Committees. The entire Commission wished him well in his future endeavors.

**Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:**

Review and approval of the Minutes of November 22, 2021 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Cordone, seconded by Mrs. Dowling, to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously (6 – 0); Abstain: (Evans, Squicciarro) (Not yet arrived: Gaudiano)

**Audience Participation:**

- None

**Election of Officers:**

Mr. Cerulli moved to nominate Don Espach as Chairman of the Golf Commission for 2022, seconded by Mrs. Wheeler. There being no further nominations, the clerk cast one unanimous ballot for Don Espach.

Mr. Espach moved to nominate Joe Gaudiano as Vice-Chairman of the Golf Commission for 2022, seconded by Mr. Squicciarro. There being no further nominations, the clerk cast one unanimous ballot for Joe Gaudiano.

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

- None

**Green Committee (Shelly Dowling):**

Topics Discussed:

- Edging of bunkers on Knolls nearing completion. Bunkers on Glen will be next but, as they were edged more recently, the process should be quicker.
- A deep tine aeration will take place next year as it was re-added to the budget.

- The greens were solid tine aerated recently to aid in drainage over the winter so ice will not sit on surface.
- Additional sand is being added to the greens that are more open and affected by wind over the winter to allow for better drainage.
- The soil has been amended for the winter.
- Snow Mold application has been performed for the winter.
- Winter projects include:
  - Outside work when weather allows
  - Inside equipment maintenance
- The right side of #2 Knolls and #7 will be scraped, have topsoil added and re-seeded in the spring.
- We have been informed by some of our program vendors that the cost of some products has risen 150% - overnight! Also, our equipment vendors will not quote on equipment for longer than immediate ordering as equipment prices are rising so quickly. In addition the delivery of new equipment can take as long as two years,

The maintenance practices mentioned above are slightly different than in previous years with the early winter aeration and the sand applications. Mr. Lupo stated that these practices will result in a more playable course with better conditions. However, it results in reduced rates for the fall due to less than ideal playing conditions. This led to a lengthy discussion of the need to determine exactly what type of course Tashua wants to be. Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Lupo feel that it is necessary for the Commission to determine its Vision for Tashua so that both of them can make the proper decisions from both the maintenance and customer perspectives. The Green Committee stressed that this is an important discussion as well.

Mr. Squicciarro asked if all the pond aerators were brought in. Mr. Lupo will be informed. Also, Mr. Ciccaglione asked about completing some of the landscaping that remains to be done after the paving project. Mrs. Dowling will inform Mr. Lupo.

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

- The last day of the 2021 golf season was December 17<sup>th</sup> due to the exceptional weather.
- Inquiries for tournaments have increased. Mr. Brown and Mrs. Plumeau will work on scheduling the tournaments after the holidays.
- Mr. Brown wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**House Committee (Tony Ciccaglione):**

- Front and rear entrance upgrades are complete with the exception of the ceiling light fixtures which were delayed in being ordered.
- Paving and drainage project is complete. Landscaping around the areas will be completed prior to next year's opening.
- The lightning protection system is scheduled for delivery this week. Installation will take place shortly thereafter.
- The UI has provided a cost/benefit analysis for replacing the golf course complex interior lights with LED fixtures. Mr. Ciccaglione will provide a written summary for discussion.
- The new AC/Boiler unit is being installed in the clubhouse this week. The glycol will also be added to the second boiler this week.
- The roof drawings are complete. We were contacted by the Town who asked us to fund \$6,000 to RAM Construction for a winter tarp on the roof. Permission was given.

- With all of the above, Mr. Ciccaglione notes that the infrastructure of the clubhouse is failing and many upgrades or replacements will be required.

**Concessionaire (Domenick Faustini):**

- No report given.

**Finance (Joe Gaudiano):**

- Income and play for November and December are above the 5-years average but not above 2020 numbers. Some contributing factors for this include:
  - More people are back at work
  - The fall weather was more erratic
  - We closed fully for two days to allow for aeration in early fall
  - Late fall aeration and sand application resulted in lower rates for several weeks
- A proposed FY 2022-2023 was presented to the Commission. The total amount of the budget is \$2,532,815 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.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dowling; seconded by Mrs. Wheeler to approve a budget of \$2,532,815 for the 2022/23 fiscal year with the understanding that there may be some adjustments in the salary, utility, and reimbursable accounts. Motion carried unanimously (9 – 0).

**Personnel (Diane Wheeler):**

- The job description for the Tashua Knolls Golf Course Property Director was just received from Mr. Tom McCarthy, Director of Labor Relations. After review and approval by the Commission, it will have to go before the Civil Service Commission for approval to be posted.

A motion was made by Mr. Squicciarro; seconded by Mr. Evans to authorize Mr. Espach and Mrs. Wheeler to review and authorize approval for the posting of the position for Tashua Knolls Golf Course Property Director. Motion carried unanimously (9 – 0).

- The Employee Appreciation Reception was held at the clubhouse on December 1<sup>st</sup> to thank all employees and volunteers of the golf course for all their hard work and dedication particularly over the last two difficult years. It was agreed by all that the event was a success and long overdue. It was also agreed that it should be made an annual event. The Commission thanked Mrs. Plumeau for organizing and the tremendous success of the event.

**Correspondence**

- None

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- None

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. Cordone at 7:40 PM; seconded by Mr. Squicciarro to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously (9 – 0).

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau  
Golf Course Commission Clerk