

## **GOLF COMMISSION MEETING**

**Monday, August 9, 2010**

**7:30 pm**

**Eunice Postol Recreation Center**

**75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT**

### **FINAL MINUTES**

Members Present: Craig Curley, Susan O'Donnell, Fred Joseph, Jordan Lustig, Jack Slane, Andrew Janis

Members Absent: Tammi Peterson

Others Present: Jim Alexander, Peter Grace, Kevin Baker, Mike Duke, Ralph Butera, Members of the Public

Chairman Craig Curley called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

#### **I. Act on Minutes July 12, 2010**

Jack Slane made a motion to approve the minutes. Fred Joseph seconded the motion. Jordan Lustig noted the correct spelling of Joan Barbarich's last name. The minutes, as corrected, were approved unanimously.

#### **II. Correspondence**

Mr. Curley reported that Director Gerry Lombardo, who could not attend the meeting, had received no correspondence. Mr. Curley said he received an email from Joan Barbarich, President of the Women's Golf Club concerning two items. One item related to the calendar on the HSR website. It does not post any major events. Jim Alexander said Liz Gentile is working on putting major events on the front page of the website. He said the website will have information more prominently located and notices will also be placed on doors at the courses. Mr. Alexander said he needs a better calendar on the website and a better board for posting notices outside. Ms. Barbarich's email also expressed concern about the messiness of tee areas. She pointed out that most courses have boxes to put broken tees in. Mr. Curley asked Peter Grace if he has ever looked into getting these boxes. Mr. Grace said there are trash cans to throw away the broken tees. He felt boxes are one more thing to move and not worth it. Mr. Curley said he had asked Mr. Lombardo if there was room in the budget to cover the cost of buying these boxes and was told by Mr. Lombardo that he thought there was room in the budget to purchase them. Peter Grace said he'll look into purchasing boxes.

#### **III. Staff Reports**

##### **1. Pro Manager Report**

Mr. Alexander said numbers were down in July because of the three large tournaments hosted by HSR along with bad weather, but numbers went up the first week of this month. Courses were up in revenue by \$50,000 between January and July of this year versus last year because of an increase in IDs. Cart fees have been up this summer because of the heat. Mr. Alexander said the Make a Wish Tournament cost some rounds in the afternoon. Mondays are the days that the Commission had set for outside events to be held starting at 10 am, however, a previous Commission allowed starting time to begin at 1 pm for Make a Wish, hurting afternoon times. Mr. Alexander also said that he hopes to have better communication next time with Bork.

## 2. Administration Report

Mr. Lombardo was not able to attend the meeting.

## 3. Superintendent Report

Mr. Grace said the Connecticut's Superintendent's Association will hold a tournament on October 4, 2010. He also said the weather has been tough this summer. He will continue airifying and over seeding the fairways and will start spraying the crab grass. Everything has been put back out to bid because the soil at the ninth hole, which had chips and glass in it, is not good. The bid, which has a lot of disclaimers, will open on August 11, 2010. Mr. Curley asked the status of the cart path work. Mr. Grace said he talked to George about getting millings up there. Mr. Slane asked about the greens. Mr. Grace said the day after Labor Day—the front side will be done on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the backside done on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. Mr. Curley asked for an update on the memorial benches. Mr. Grace said 16 is almost done—the benches are there; Fitzgerald is going on the 6<sup>th</sup> hole on the left side of the tee; the 16<sup>th</sup> will be done this week so three are completed and one is left on 6. All the plaques are in. Mr. Curley said Tony Hwang would like a memorial bench named in late Selectmen Ralph Bowley's honor. Mr. Curley asked if there's a plan to bolt the benches in place. Mr. Grace said no. He had discussed this with Mr. Lombardo and they have no concerns on leaving the benches as is.

## IV. Greens Committee Report

Drew Janis asked about fixing divots. He said players aren't doing a good job and asked if the rangers are looking out for this problem. Mr. Grace said this is a recurring issue. He's heard the rangers remind players. Mr. Alexander mentioned that there is non-revenue practice and play occurring after hours which is likely a contributing factor in the deteriorating course condition. Mr. Alexander noted that Tashua Knolls in Trumbull has hired an after-hours security guard to patrol and limit after-hours trespassing. Mr. Janis thought it was a good idea to consider hiring an after-hours security guard since there are some issues at the courses at night. Jordan Lustig suggested putting up a no trespassing sign and having high school students fix the divots.

## V. Old Business

### 1. Conservation IWPA 2004-11 –Report

Mr. Curley said he received an update from Mr. Lombardo on this item. He explained the original plan that was to build a berm to slow the water runoff going into the Grace Richardson Preserve but that was nixed to the heavy dump truck traffic that would need to travel on the course. The second plan was to dredge two ponds in Grace Richardson, but one of the two ponds is contaminated from the runoff from Congress Street so the new plan will be discussed this Friday to expand the water surface area and size of the pond in front of 10 and 18 so there is a slower runoff rate into the preserve.

### 2. Alcohol Policy

The Assistant Town Attorney sent Mr. Lombardo a letter regarding the policy on the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the golf courses. The letter states that the Commission has the authority to make such policy with respect to the course, but not in respect to the parking lot and public driveways. The letter recommends consulting with the police and the Town's insurance company. Mr. Lombardo is awaiting input from both.

Mr. Curley said it's prudent for the Commission to take action. He said some people who are bringing their own alcohol and not buying from the concessionaire are littering and being disruptive. Mr. Alexander said his biggest concern is drinking while driving the carts. He'll agree with whatever policy the Commission decides. Mr. Curley said it is unclear what the Town's current insurance policy covers. Mr. Grace asked if anyone checked with other towns on this issue. Mr. Slane asked if a policy would also pertain to tournaments. Mike Duke said that he believed there is no policy on how much alcohol he can sell per his contract. He has agreed to what he believes is a volunteer policy (selling no more than two alcoholic beverages per person, per nine holes). He said it's difficult to monitor people that bring alcohol to the parking lot. He suggested placing a sign that says, "No outside alcohol allowed on the golf course"; placing a sign that says golf carts are not permitted in the parking lots; putting up a fence around the parking lot since people have access to the parking lot from five holes. Fees should be paid by those that do not adhere to these suggested rules. Mr. Alexander said it is impossible to close off the parking lot and carts have to be let into the parking lot. Mr. Duke asked if the Commission has spoken to other golf courses regarding their alcohol policy. He strongly feels that if alcohol is prohibited on golf courses, that will end golf. Mr. Curley clarified that prior to June 14, 2010, there was inconsistency between the policy and the enforcement. The intent now is for the Commission to bring clarity to this policy and remove any ambiguity. He wants this clarified and implemented by the end of this season so that there is clarity on this issue for any potential bidders for the 2011 concessionaire contract or for Mr. Duke if his contract is renewed. Mr. Curley also stated that the policy of selling no more than two alcoholic beverages to one individual per nine holes is not voluntary and that staff is required to follow this rule. Mr. Curley said the Commission has purview with respect to this policy on the course. Mr. Duke said he didn't believe this is a binding policy on his business. Mr. Curley disagreed. Mr. Curley said he will ask Mr. Lombardo to look at the details of the contract of the concessionaire.

#### VI. New Business

Mr. Curley said he sent a note to the Commission and all golf leagues highlighting the benefits to the golf course and driving range if people supported the girl's softball field. Ms. O'Donnell said this field will benefit more than just girls—it will benefit others, including senior citizens.

#### VII. Public Input

Ralph Butera of Homeland Street said the entrance at Smith is blocked by trees. He suggested cutting them down or installing mirrors. Mr. Curley asked Mr. Grace if this was a job that his crew could do or would it be done by the Town's Tree Warden. Mr. Grace said his crew could do it, but it might be a job for the Tree Warden. Mr. Curley will ask Mr. Lombardo to speak to the Town's Tree Warden about this and determine which crew will do the work.

Mr. Slane made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm. Mr. Joseph seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter  
Recording Secretary