

## **GOLF COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 19, 2010**

**7:30 pm**

**Eunice Postol Recreation Center  
75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, CT**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

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

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

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

#### **I. Act on Minutes September 13, 2010**

Jack Slane made a motion to approve the minutes. Fred Joseph seconded the motion. Mr. Joseph made a friendly amendment to add the word "license" after patio in the first sentence in the second paragraph in the Alcohol Policy section. The motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

#### **II. Correspondence**

Neither Mr. Curley nor Parks and Recreation Director Gerry Lombardo received correspondence. However, Mr. Curley said he was copied on a letter Michael Duke received from the Senior Golf Association thanking him for successful lunches.

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

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

Referring to the Income and Play Comparison handout, Jim Alexander said rounds for H. Smith Richardson were down about 200 compared to last September yet greens fees went up. The driving range income was down a bit, but up for the year by about \$1000. Par 3 was down about 400 rounds compared to last September. New England's golf course use is down about 4 % the last two months. Fairfield falls right around that number in terms of golf course usage. Mr. Curley asked about the middle school turkey trot. Mr. Alexander said they played at Fairchild Wheeler because they had an issue with the cost even though it was the same cost when they played last year.

##### **2. Administration Report**

Mr. Lombardo said the budget packet is coming out soon and he foresees no big changes. Mr. Curley asked about the truck. Mr. Lombardo said he had budgeted \$12,000 for a used vehicle in this year's budget and will call DPW to bid a used vehicle if he does not hear from John Johnson. Mr. Curley asked about rates. Mr. Lombardo said that he usually has the booklet by November 27, 2010 so any increases should be discussed at the next meeting although Mr. Lombardo foresees no increases. Mr. Curley asked the Commission if they had any opinion on rate changes. Drew Janis suggested earmarking funds into a capital fund but he was told the Commission cannot do that. Mr. Curley said rates were raised a few years ago.

Vice-Chair Susan O'Donnell noted the Commission had a long-term plan on rates, but the bad economy has put a hold on any possible increases. Mr. Lombardo mentioned that he will be seeking design funds this year for the clubhouse renovation.

### 3. Superintendent Report

Peter Grace said his number one priority starting this week is to dig out and resod #11. The conservation area near #18 is almost complete. They looked at removing leaves off the course. As soon as #18 is finished, they will install the last bench at the third tee in honor of the late Selectman Ralph Bowley. The Tree Warden will be cutting down trees to shed more light on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> tees. Regarding Fairway nine, that area will be sod. Mr. Grace said he's trying to install a cart path on two and other areas will be addressed in the next budget. Two is all puddled up, curbing was put up; and if there is enough money left in the budget, a new cart path will be installed.

### IV. Greens Committee Report

Mr. Janis said there will be leveling off of some tees if possible. The fairway bunker on 17 may be leveled off. He is hoping for savings on drainage work. Mr. Curley said \$50,000 for ponds and \$48,000 for bunkers will be needed for the next fiscal year. Mr. Curley asked Mr. Janis to stay in close contact with Mr. Grace. Mr. Lombardo said Mr. Johnson reported to him that they started ripping up where the practice greens are being placed at Par 3. Mr. Curley asked if all this work is being done in-house. Mr. Grace said yes.

### V. Old Business

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

Mr. Lombardo is waiting for the Engineering Department to finish the layout of the drainage work, then the conservation process can begin. He anticipates no issues regarding the enlarging of the ponds. There will be a retention basis by the creek on 18. They are building a pond the right side of 18 which will connect to the existing pond using culverts. Mr. Lombardo said the bridge will not be built in this area. Mr. Curley asked if the work on the ponds is going to take place the same time as work on the fairways for 10 and 18 and if the work will all be done by April 1, 2011. Mr. Lombardo said a lot of work is involved and he'd have a better answer at the next meeting.

#### 2. Concessionaire Bid

Mr. Lombardo said the bid will open November 16, 2010. It will be advertised by the end of this week or by early next week.

### VI. New Business

Mr. Janis said that since fall afternoon tee shots are spotty, he would like to see programs to entice people to play more in the afternoon. Mr. Curley said this issue had been raised by the public at many meetings last year but nothing was ever put in place. Mr. Curley said non-residents should be encouraged to use the course in the afternoons with a plan in advance with advertising. Mr. Curley said he will table discussion on this item until next June. Mr. Janis Asked if the Commission has any input in what goes into the proposal for the concessionaire bid. Mr. Lombardo said that he had Mr. Curley review the bid which is pretty standard. The Chairman and one Commission member will be asked to sit in on the interview process.

VII. Public Input-None

Mr. Slane made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Mr. Janis seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter  
Recording Secretary