

**GOLF COMMISSION MEETING  
MONDAY, May 9, 2011  
EUNICE POSTOL RECREATION CENTER  
75 MILL PLAIN ROAD  
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Members Present: Craig Curley, Fred Joseph, Jack Slane, Andrew Janis, Tammi Peterson and Ryan Morris

Absent: Jordan Lustig

Others Present: Gerry Lombardo, Jim Alexander, Peter Grace, Members of the Public

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

**I. Approve Minutes** – April 11, 2011

Mr. Janis made a friendly motion to amend the minutes adding the last name “Janis” to read “Mr. Drew Janis made a motion to adjourn the meeting.” *Jack Slane moved and Fred Joseph seconded to accept the amended minutes of April 11.* The motion carried 5 in favor and Mr. Ryan Morris abstained.

Chairman Curley took a minute to introduce and welcome new Commission member Ryan Morris who was appointed by First Selectman Sherri Steeneck on May 5. Mr. Morris takes the place of Susan O’Donnell. Mr. Morris gave his background and let the Commission know how pleased he is to be joining them.

**II. Communications:**

1. Mr. Curley shared a letter from the League of Women Voters regarding Freedom of Information rules. The letter reminded Town bodies to abide by all rules and it stated areas of improvement that it hopes to see in Town meetings, etc.
2. Mr. Curley shared a letter (see attached) that he wrote responding to Conservation Director, Tom Steinke’s December 2, 2010 letter addressing the mortality of birds he felt to be caused by the netting at the Driving Range. Mr. Curley explained in his response that it was decided by the Commission that this would be monitored because, at first look, they did not believe that there was merit to the claim. They also felt that raising and lowering the nets each day was not financially feasible. Peter Grace, Jim Alexander and staff have begun a twice daily monitoring and to date have found no evidence of the claim but they will keep a year’s log so that they will have documented findings.

**III. Staff Reports:**

1. Pro Manager Report- Jim Alexander reported that rounds and revenue are down at both courses due to the poor weather. He has communicated with other golf pros in the state that are experiencing the same result (25-40% decrease). On a positive note, ID sales are increased so that bodes well for play when the good weather returns. The topic of the website was raised and it was determined that the QScend software company will assist in updating the name of the Par 3 course to Carl J. Dickman on the site. That is not something that can be done in-house but he hopes it will be done within a month’s time. When asked by Ron Wayne why one can only book one tee-time at a time, Mr. Alexander responded that it was done intentionally so golfers can’t book a whole outing.

2. **Administration Report** - Gerry Lombardo reported that there will be no further cuts to either golf budget. The bids are out on the street to do the bunker work and the RFP for the other items

are being prepared by Peter Grace. It was stated that there is \$50K to do the bunkers and \$180K for the drainage work. The bunker work will be for labor and machines and it will be done on a priority plan as stated in the 10-year plan. Materials will be purchased in-house more economically. Peter Grace noted that he and Mr. Lombardo would be meeting with Laura Pulie of the Engineering Dept. on May 10 in order to create a plan to present to the Conservation Dept. for the permits to begin the drainage and bunker work. Mr. Janis will participate in the discussions. Mr. Lombardo expects the permit requests to be on the Conservation agenda on June 11. The earliest this work will begin is July but it can be done in-season.

**3. Superintendent's Report-** Mr. Grace raised the subject of the putting green that Rep. Tony Hwang discussed at last month's meeting. Jack Slane also stated that Mr. Hwang had again told him that he is willing to seek donations as soon as the Commission approves the concept. Chairman Curley stated that he felt it was important to see a plan and that this would also help in raising the funds. Peter Grace stated that he estimates the work that was discussed to cost \$30K. *Jack Slane made a motion to accept the concept of expanding the putting green with Peter Grace's \$30K estimate and to ask Rep. Tony Hwang to look for possible funding with the offer of naming it for the donor.* After discussion and the agreement that this may not mesh with the 10-year plan, there was no second to the motion. It was decided that rather than rushing into this it was important to see a plan between now and next season that would work well with the plans for a new clubhouse, cart barn and cart paths. With no action taken, Mr. Curley asked Mr. Slane to communicate to Rep. Hwang that the Commission, while grateful for his offer of assistance, feels it's important to be consistent with the course's long term plan and feels more time is needed to solidify a plan.

Jack Slane asked Peter Grace to look into the 8<sup>th</sup> green's signage of "ground under repair". Mr. Alexander feels that it was placed there mistakenly and it will be corrected the next day and placed at the 7<sup>th</sup> green. Craig Curley asked about the status of the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole's damage and pipe issue and was told that it would be part of the next day's discussion with the Engineering Dept.

**IV. Greens Committee Report-** Drew Janis reported that he and Peter Grace have been working well together on all the course issues and he commends him on his quick response to problems. He asked about the 9<sup>th</sup> hole grass bunker and was told by Mr. Grace that he continues to work on it and some areas just take longer to grow. Mr. Grace let the Commission know that he appreciates hearing where there are issues because he "can't see everything". Chairman Curley also stated that he appreciates the clear communication between Mr. Janis and Mr. Grace and asked that any maintenance issues be communicated to Mr. Janis who will take them up with Mr. Grace.

**V. New Business:** Fred Joseph stated that with the expiration of Susan' O'Donnell's term, the Commission should elect a new Vice-Chairman. Chairman Curley agreed and asked for any nominations from the floor. *Fred Joseph moved and Drew Janis seconded to elect Jack Slane as Vice Chairman. Motion passed with 5 in favor and Mr. Slane abstaining.*

**VI. Old Business-** Mr. Lombardo requested that, due to the new composition of the Commission, future agendas include a review of the plans for the clubhouse so that everyone is up to speed and the plans can remain in the forefront. He believes that the formal sub-committee, created by the First Selectman is still in place and can resume when needed.

Mr. Lombardo also reported that during his budget meetings, he was asked to give reports of both expenses and revenues for the courses over a 10 year period of time. Although he explained the weather-related decrease in revenue as well as the law of diminishing returns, the RTM made it clear that they will be looking for any ways to increase revenue. He felt it was important to relate this “mindset” to the Commission as they go forward in their request for the clubhouse. Chairman Curley agreed that while they take a closer look at their projects and requests that they always remember to improve their product in order to make the courses attractive to the users.

**VII. Public Input** – Ralph Butera asked if it was possible to create a Bag Drop in order to prevent people from driving their cars all the way down the access road to the starter shack. There was lengthy discussion and it was decided that Jim Alexander and Gerry Lombardo will look into possible alternatives to stopping the traffic that attempts to gain access there.

Chairman Craig Curley thanked those in the audience and others in the various men’s and women’s clubs for contacting their RTM members in support of the golf course budgets during the recent budget hearings.

*Fred Joseph moved and Jack Slane seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. The motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Ryan  
Recording Secretary