



South Hadley Municipal Golf Commission

Meeting Minutes 03/14/2016

Board Members present: George Francis, Bill Foley, Len Finkowski, Jim Brough, ,
Marc Dubois, Jeff Millard

Board Members absent: Kyle Steinbock

Staff Present: Mike Fontaine, Andy Rogers, James Falco, PGA

Visitor: Selectboard member Bruce Forcier

Bill Foley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Len Finkowski made a motion to accept the minutes from the 02/08/16 Golf Commission Meeting. Jim Brough seconded the motion. The vote to accept was unanimous.

Announcements / Open Forum:

James Falco, the new PGA Pro for the Ledges introduced himself to the commissioners.

Golf Course Managers Report:

Andy Rogers, the new General Manager of the Ledges and town's long time Recreation Director, introduced himself, and stated his goals for the Golf Course, the Valley View Grill, and Golf Operations. Andy stated he hoped to open the course right after Easter if the weather holds out, and the Valley View Grille in May. He stated the importance of getting golf operations right before starting with the restaurant. Andy also told the commission that the camera system at the course is being upgraded to an 8 camera system, that will hopefully deter some of the vandalism, or help catch the culprits.

Golf Course Superintendents report:

Mike reported that three of his employees have moved on to other jobs, at the Orchards. He also stated he was looking forward to working with Andy again. They had worked together as coaches to youth teams in town previously. The drainage issues on the approach to hole # 8 are being addressed. Grass on the tees and greens is being cut. The gas pump is being repaired. IGM is bringing in a new office trailer. Some bunkers and cart path sections have been washed out after the recent heavy rains. The cart paths will require a lot of work to get them in shape. Vandals have destroyed some of the landscape lighting around the club house. Dog droppings are still being left behind. Four bags of trash were dumped on Mulligan Drive. The ropes and stakes put out to keep people off tees and greens for the winter have been stolen again. The irrigation system has not been tested yet. Mr. Finkowski asked if the report on the irrigation system had come in yet. Mike stated it has. Although Mike stated he has not finished going

through the entire report, it appears as if the cost to bring the system up to par will be in the \$100,000 range.

New Business:

Mr. Foley asked Andy and James to consider a Junior Golf league for the Ledges, perhaps next year.

Andy stated the Connecticut PGA championship at the Ledges is still a go for June.

Andy also stated that Comcast will be airing ads for the Ledges, starting May 1st.

Andy is hoping to have an annual pass holder / Golf Commission get together March 23rd from 5:00 to 7:00 so two groups can learn about each other.

There are some late season events being planned for marketing the course.

Facebook, twitter, and e-mail will be major communications methods used by the course to attract new players.

The club house is undergoing a professional cleaning, and current plans are to continue professional cleaning periodically through the season.

There were only two applicants for the Food & Beverage manager position.

James Falco is looking for an assistant pro, two part time pro shop helpers, and some starters and cart people.

Mr. Brough read a letter he wrote to Mike Sullivan stating his extreme frustration with the towns HR Manager, the lack of communication, regarding the hiring process for the PGA pro.

Mr. Brough inquired as to the ability of the PGA pro to supplement his income by providing lessons during his own time. He was told that basically, because he is salaried, and not hourly, the answer is no. The New PGA pro was made aware of this during his interview.

Mr. Dubois made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Finkowski. The vote to accept was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
George Francis