



## **South Hadley Municipal Golf Commission**

Meeting Minutes 05/09/2016

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

Board Members absent: George Francis, Kyle Steinbock

Staff Present: Mike Fontaine, Andy Rogers

Visitor: Chris Collins

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

Len Finkowski made a motion to accept the minutes from the 04/11/16 Golf Commission Meeting. Marc Dubois seconded the motion. The vote to accept was unanimous.

Announcements / Open Forum:

The Golf Commission has been invited to attend the Bike/Walk committee meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm, at the South Hadley Public Library. Bill Foley and Len Finkowski are planning to attend.

“Speaking of South Hadley”, the golf show featuring Bill Foley and Jim Falco will be airing on SHPTV channel 15 beginning May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Marc Dubois introduced Chris Collins who is scheduled to be interviewed by the Selectboard on June 7<sup>th</sup> as a prospective new member of the Golf Commission. Bill Foley discussed the possibility of reducing the number of people on the Golf Commission from nine to seven, eliminating the two Associate (non-voting) members. Bill noted we have not had a full complement for over a year. Andy Rogers noted the Selectboard has only five members, and he agreed a Golf Commission with seven members would be fine.

Mr. Foley stated the three year terms of Golf Commission Members Jeff Millard and Kyle Steinbock are due to expire. Both members stated they would like to stay on the commission. The information will be forwarded to the Selectboard.

General Managers Report:

Andy Rogers reviewed his Memo to the Town Administrator, dated May 3, 2016. It outlined the progress made at the course since its opening in March.

The first month financials look good, and the staff is hoping to build on the early season momentum.

Andy and Jim are working to have an open two-ball or four-ball tournament. They want to make it a “class event”.

High top tables have been added to the dining area, and have been well received by the golfers. Andy hopes more golfers will stop in after golf for a burger and beverage.

The Pro Shop will be selling off dated golf merchandise, and adding Nike, Red Sox, and Patriots clothing.

An issue with a bill from Titleist Golf for merchandise for a former staff member has been resolved. Andy has created a new account with Titleist Golf.

David Diaz has been hired as a new cook. Additional kitchen staff is being interviewed. Andy is also looking for several bartenders, and additional wait staff. Andy also explained the town's hiring practices. It involves five people doing the interviewing, and it does take several weeks to bring new people on board.

The plan to over-staff assures there will always be adequate staff available in the Grille room. It is expected staff will be lost when school restarts in the fall. Some will leave on their own accord too. Food service staff will be paid \$10.00 per hour. Cooks will earn \$15.00 per hour. The kitchen should be open by the end of the week.

There are three events planned for May 13, 14, and 15. There will be staffing in place to cover these events.

Beginning May 14<sup>th</sup>, tee times will start at 7:00 am.

Andy is looking to staff the Pro Shop to work 40 hours per week, at \$10.00 per hour.

Andy is reviewing "discounted" golf options. He does not want to "give away" golf, like the coupon from Val-Pak last year. There were too many discount coupons available. He is favoring the WEEI Golf Card, and Golf Now, which is on the internet.

The Monday morning gold league, (the Easy Rides), has requested a mini shotgun start. Andy would like to see this group accommodate the course by staying for lunch, as an example.

Golf Course Superintendents report:

Mike reported that the course is in good shape, and will continue to improve.

Additional staff will be arriving when schools are out for the summer. The hope is to have 17 people on board by the end of the month.

Nine flag poles have been stolen, as have some 100 and 150 yard markers. Some yardage posts have been run over by golf carts as well. Dog poop is all over, as owners are not picking up after their animals. A fishing pole and line was thrown into the pond on hole #4. There is a general disregard of the cart path only rules by some golfers, who continue to drive in wet and posted areas.

Some Driving Range tokens have been stolen, forcing Jim and Andy to buy more. No range ball thefts have been reported yet this year.

Jim Falco continues to police all golf activities on the course. He is asking the golfers to stay on the cart paths, and to not drive on the tees, or near the greens. He is also discouraging reckless driving, and encouraging golfers to repair their divots and ball marks.

Mike said "the rain is killing us". It is limiting the projects that need to be done. He is planning to fertilize and spray when good weather is projected.

45 tons of sand has been put on the course so far.

The Connecticut section PGA championship is scheduled for June 7 and 8. Mike is working hard to make sure the course is in top shape for the event. The irrigation

system is still being worked on. A diver will be needed to clear the intake pipe that feeds the irrigation pond.

New Business:

The next Golf Commission meeting is scheduled for June 13th.

Old business:

At 8:15, Marc Dubois made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Brough. The vote to accept was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Len Finkowski.