



South Hadley Municipal Golf Commission

Meeting Minutes 09/12/2016

Members present: Bill Foley, Len Finkowski, Jim Brough, Mark DuBois, George Francis, Kyle Steinbock, Mike Wozniak, John Lavin
Staff Present: Andy Rogers, Mike Fontaine, James Falco

Mark DuBois called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm
Len Finkowski made a motion to accept the minutes from the 08/08/16 Golf Commission Meeting. Jim Brough seconded the motion. The vote to accept was unanimous.

Announcements / Open Forum:

Mike Fontaine reported that the divers have been working on adding four feet to the intake pipe in the river. The estimated time for completion is 9/20. There has been no pumping from the river for a while. The irrigation pond is at capacity. The new splash boards have been installed in the pond. Mike Wozniak asked about using chains to secure the splash boards. Mr. Fontaine did not think it was necessary at this time as this was the first incident involving the splash boards.

General Managers Report:

The club 2 ball event has been cancelled. Only four teams signed up. A glow ball tournament is being planned for October 14th. The last glow ball event had 42 players. It is expected to top that number this time as it was a very popular event. There will be some fall events, including scrambles, an event for the USO with 120+ players, an event for Dockside Marina with 100 + players and an event for Balston Spa with 40 + players. Annual pass holders are generally understanding when events prevent their playing. Bill Foley suggested an e-mail be sent to members advising them of event schedules a week in advance.

Adding a set of gold tee markers for senior players would cost about \$900, and there is no room currently in the budget. Mike Fontaine said he may try to make some. Mr. Wozniak suggested the new high school carpentry program be contacted to see if it is something they would do for us.

Jim Falco reviewed the new MGA course ratings. Andy stated the new ratings will be added to the score cards for 2017.

Andy stated the social media is gaining popularity. Facebook is very popular, but not too many are following the Ledges on Twitter. Andy is responding to all comments (positive or otherwise) on Facebook.

Players are still not repairing ball marks on greens. Because our greens are soft, they really show the wear.

Andy said the Golf Advisor reviews are outstanding right now.

The speed of food service has improved significantly.
Andy reviewed the financials for August. We are down about 200 rounds from last year for the month. FY16 final financial figures are not yet available.
Mark DuBois made some very positive comments regarding the marked improvement in the level of customer service, and its contribution to the success at the Ledges this year.

New Business:

Rates to October and beyond were discussed. The prices will drop around \$5.00 for the rest of the season. The moonlight rate will be dropped as it is too dark to play. There will likely be an aeration special when the greens are aerated in the beginning of October.

There will be no fall annual pass holder specials this year.

Rate for next season are TBD. A lengthy discussion took place with no decisions on rates made yet. The number of different rate categories needs to be reduced. Andy will send out the current rate sheet, and data compiled by Mike Wozniak on local course rates for comparison, so commission members can review them prior to our next meeting. The rates will be discussed again in the October meeting. Early tee times will be moved out to 7:30 beginning 10/1 due to later sunrise and potential frost delays.

The beverage cart hours have been reduced to Fridays, and weekends.

The August Birthday Bash was packed.

Golf Course Superintendents report:

Mike reported that the irrigation system is leaking. Pump repairs are ongoing. There was \$800 to \$1000 in damage to sprinkler heads this past weekend, due to people driving golf carts over them. A lightning strike last week caused an alarm system failure. A number of trees were blown over (root balls uprooted) due to the high winds and rain last weekend. Downed trees that interfered have been removed. Bunkers and cart paths were also washed out. All have been repaired. Greens have been seeded, and tees are being aerified and seeded as needed. The fairways are being spiked. The greens will be fertilized soon. There are a lot of ball marks that need to be repaired on the greens.

Old business: None

The next meeting will be October 11th, 2016.

At 8:43, George Francis made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bill Foley. The vote to accept was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
George Francis