

## **GOLF COMMISSION MEETING**

Monday, June 12, 2023

4:30pm, City Council Chamber, Gardner City Hall

**Present:** Jeff Gallant, David Noyes, Aleksander Dernalowicz, Ann Twohig

**In Attendance:** Bill Frank, Dan Berry, Linda Wujkowski, Bonnie Stewart, Mary Harris, Karen Deneen, Aileen Doyle, Judy Walker, Anne LeBlanc, Margaret Jaillet, Peter Jaillet

**Minute Taker:** Christine Meagher

Jeff Gallant called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM and noted that the meeting was being videotaped and will be posted to the City's You Tube account.

Gallant states the first item on the agenda is the approval of the meeting minutes from May 22nd meeting. Aleksander Dernalowicz makes a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ann Twohig second the motion for approval of the minutes. *3-0 vote granted.*

**Old Business:** Gallant asks if there is any old business to discuss. No response.

**New Business:** Gallant states after the last meeting, there was an open meeting law complaint filed at the attorney general office. Gallant continues to say he was informed by the City Solicitor of the open meeting law complaint. To rectify the complaint, Gallant immediately notified the Pro-shop manager and inform him the vote on the 'Tournament Time Change' was null and void and to resume play at the previous tee times.

Gallant asks David Noyes if he would like to start the discussion regarding tee time start times. Noyes states he would like to make a motion to move course member tournament times to start no later than 8:30. Aleksander Dernalowicz seconds the motion. Gallant asks if there is any further discussion. Ann Twohig states she would like to discuss it further. Twohig asks the Golf Pro Dan Berry, 'How many hours do you block off for tee times?' Berry states it depends but usually 2 to 2.5 hrs. Twohig states revising the Tee times should be for the major tournaments. She then lists a few of the tournaments and states they should start at 7:00 in the morning. Dernalowicz asks Berry if there are reports in the computer related to tee times and if that information will still be available with the new computer system. Berry states there should not be a problem getting the information. Discussion continues regarding changing tee time specifically Course Member Sponsored Tournaments. Gallant opens meeting up for public comments.

Judy Walker- States some people she has discussed this Tee Time issues with have expressed their thoughts of not purchasing Full Memberships next year. Walker states this Tee Time issue may impact the Golf Course financially. Noyes explains where he has collected his information.

Karen Deneen- Asks if this Tee Time change would go into effect this season. Noyes states that is his hope. Deneen states that many members purchased their memberships with the expectation of certain Tee Times and seems unfair to make a change mid-season.

Peter Jaillet- Brings up the idea of surveying all the members of the Golf Course. Expresses ideas regarding competitive vs social golfers.

Gallant asks Noyes, maybe change the Tee Time for one or two times and see what happens. Noyes states he doesn't think one or two times will be enough to cause people to change their minds. Comment from the public, states this change is going to affect a lot of people and in her opinion, it will affect the Golf Course financially. Gallant asks if there are any other questions or comments. No response.

Dan Berry reviews different memberships and explains the possible financial effect this Tee Time change may have at the Golf Course. Aleksander Dernalowicz and Berry have a conversation regarding their personal views on this Tee Time change. William Frank enters the conversation and points out, at this point if Tee Times stay the same no members are lost, if changes happen there is a strong chance that members may leave or lessen their memberships. Discussion continues. The conclusion is to table the vote, at this time and to create a survey in order to gather members opinions and ideas. Discussion regarding the survey commences regarding whether the survey should be on-line or on paper, how many questions and what topics should be covered.

(At this point in the meeting, most of the Golf Course Members left the room.)

Gallant states the next order of business is Golf Cart lease bids. Gallant individually reviews the five-year bids for Golf Cart lease bids from New England Golf Cars Yamaha, Club Car and Fire Star Golf Cars. Berry and Frank talk about the use and service received with the correct Yamaha golf carts with positive and negative points. Gallant states the vote on which Golf Cart lease, is tabled until next week.

**Dan Berry Update:** Dan Berry states his update is related to the new computer system and that more training is going to take place, but things are going well.

**Bill Frank Update:** William Frank states he has no update.

**Correspondence:** Gallant states there is only one correspondence, a request for a donation for the Chamber of Commerce. Berry states the typical donation is a Foursome with golf carts. Aleksander Dernalowicz makes a motion to accept the donation of a Foursome with golf carts and seconded by Ann Twohig. *3-0 vote granted.*

**Commission Members Comments and Reports:** Gallant asks if there are any other comments. Ann Twohig asks if there could be a rake at hole #11 and Frank states it will be taken care of. Twohig asks about the mats at the driving range, Frank explains the rotation of the mats to grow grass.

Dernalowicz asks about the VIPs worker for the Golf Course. Gallant states that it needs to be tabled for now, he states he must speak with Deb Pond first.

Dernalowicz asks Berry about the cancellation of the Member Guest Tournament. Berry states it was a difficult decision. Dernalowicz states people arrived and then found out it was canceled, yet some members were able to still play their Tee Time.

Gallant asks Frank if there could be more grass grown on hole #7. Frank states he is trying.

**Financials:** Gallant moves onto financials. Gallant reviews the financials out load with the commission. Gallant mentions new piece of equipment has been paid for. Gallant asks if there are any questions on financials. No comments. Motion to accept the financials from Dernalowicz and seconded by Noyes. *3-0 vote granted.*

Noyes asks who is going to be responsible for creating the survey. Gallant states he will be putting it together with Christine, and Dan and it will be presented to the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>,2023 at 4:30 pm in the Mayor's Conference Room (if it is available for reserving).

Motion to adjourn by David Noyes, seconded by Aleksander Dernalowicz. *3-0 vote granted.*

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted.  
Christine Meagher  
Administrative Coordinator