

THE GUILFORD LAKES GOLF COURSE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, July 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Zoom Conference

Attendees: Chair Brittany Mirles, Patrick Pascale, Chris Hodgson, Laura Hartmann, Phil Maltese, Robert Cuzzo, Steve Berry

Others: Ted Tighe, GLGC Superintendent, Brian McGlone, Economic Development Coordinator for the Town of Guilford.

Chair Brittany Mirles opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

1. Public Forum

None.

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

a. June 16, 2020

Motion made by Pat Pascale to approve the June 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes as written.

Seconded by Robert Cuzzo and unanimously accepted.

3. Superintendent Report

a. Clubhouse

- July Revenue to date total \$29K.
- May revenue was \$49K and June \$45K. These were two of the best months in the history of the Golf Course.
- Two out of 3 Tee Sponsor has been paid for. The third being donated to Pat Pascale. The Hartmann Group will be submitting an application for a Tee Sponsor. Laura Hartmann will be following up with the other previous sponsors. New Hire Tom Caruso for the pro shop will start tomorrow.
- Two clubhouse attendants will be returning to College on August 15 and August 18. Will need to fill these positions through the fall. Sally Berezowskyj to address with Human Resources.
- Ted purchased hats with embroidered logo for \$10 and sells them for \$15 each. Golf shirts with embroidered logo purchased for \$20 and selling for \$30. Includes Men's and Women's. The clubhouse has them displayed in the window and have sold 2-3 of each to date.
- Clubhouse and course hours have been extended; opening at 7:00 am. due to demand.
- The clubhouse computer is old and is getting progressively slower. IT will be looking at it but anticipate it will need to be replaced sooner than later. Britt Mirles commented that the clubhouse staff should refrain from saving things to the hard drive which reduced performance. Instead save to a thumb drive.

b. Course Report

- The course has been on the dry side with the recent heat. Watering has been needed.
- Several irrigation problems have arisen and have been repaired
- Large branch on 1st tee had to be removed; it was hanging and a safety issue. Tree service required.
- Dead tree removed on Tee 4 by golf course staff. As well as a dead pine tree taken down on hole 8.
- Down 1 employee with a broken foot. Expect him to return in 3-4 weeks (Saturday Maintainer).

Steven Berry asked if the heightened use of the course has had a negative impact on the course conditions. Superintendent Tighe responded that the tee boxes have been impacted. The staff is replacing divots daily with sand and seed and moving the markers. This is additional work for the staff, however due to COVID-19 we do not want golfers to repair their own divots and touching a public shovel. Commissioner Pat Pascale said he played the course last week and it was in spectacular condition.

Brian McGlone asked if changing the tee times from 10 minute intervals to 8 minute intervals would assist in managing the increase traffic. Superintendent Tighe stated that this has not been a problem. The question of adequate supply of pull carts available was raised. Superintendent Tighe responded that we have 12-14 pull carts available currently and we usually run out on Saturday & Sundays. Brian McGlone stated that the Clinton Country Club has leased their carts out to members this season and he does not anticipate them being prepared to sell used carts in the near future. Chairman Mirles suggested that the course purchase a couple of pull carts to make available for sale to customers. If they do not sell, they could be used as raffle items for fund raising events.

- Superintendent Tighe informed the Commission that he has been 3-4 kids weekly on Tuesdays from 9-10:30 am. The charge of \$20/hr is added to the Club House accounts. The question of continuing these lessons was discussed. Commissioner Hodgson commented that as long as Superintendent Tighe does not advertise himself as a Pro, there should be no problem. Several concerns were raised by the Human Resources Director; Mitch Goldblatt including the superintendent's job description does not include this activity. Commissioner Hodgson to discuss the matter again with Mitch Goldblatt. Chairman Mirles said she has been contacted by families with 8 kids interested in participating in the program. Superintendent Tighe said 2 families who played the course with their children also expressed interest in joining the program.

4. Finances

a. Approval of Warrants

Motion made by Steven Berry to approve the June Warrants in the amount of \$13,544.63. Seconded by Chris Hodgson and unanimously approved.

b. Approval of Invoices

Motion made by Pat Pascale to approve the Secretarial Invoice of \$70.00. Seconded by Laura Hartmann and unanimously approved.

Motion made by Pat Pascale to move Old Business up prior New Business. Seconded by Laura Hartmann and unanimously approved.

5. Old Business

a. Caddies

Commissioner Pascale inquired about the liability between Caddie's as independent contractors vs. Town employees. Will the Town Liability Insurance cover the caddy should they get hurt and put required COVID-19 processed in place for them? Commissioner Berry suggested that we require the caddy's to wear masks and gloves. Their duties would be pulling a cart and/or carrying clubs.

Motion made by Pat Pascale to allow caddies as independent contractors to provide caddy services at the Guilford Lakes Golf Course dependent upon approval by the Town. This was seconded by Steve Berry and unanimously approved.

b. Chamber of Commerce Meetings

No meetings have occurred since the last time this Commission met. The Chamber Calendar was reviewed and do not see anything scheduled thru September.

c. COVID-19 Process Update

Nothing new to report.

d. Paving of Parking Lot Update

Commissioner Pascale stated that the presentation of the Rotary went very well. Laura Hartmann added that Chairman Mirles presentation was fantastic and she will be following up with the Rotary on our application and request for \$3K funding. The Rotary has previously granted \$3K to the Park & Recreation Disk Golf Course. The rotary will be voting on our application at their next board meeting.

Commissioner Pascale said he would like to contact Arrow paving to see if he could renegotiate the price previously provided.

Dr. Barry Sutherland, PHD proposed raising funds by selling custom bricks; Mr. Pascale was not in favor but would rather see a sign erected prior to the first tee with donor's listed in no particular order. Chairman Mirles said that she has received

interest by 3 people who would be interested in purchasing a custom brick. The bricks would then be used to create a small patio. Chairman Mirles to investigate the cost of engraving the bricks. Commissioner Maltese inquired as to what the proposed sign would look like. Mr. Pascale said it would be a simple sign/plaque and require less labor than laying a brick patio. Mr. Pascale went on further to say that the Commission is raising funds to improve on Town owned property and does not understand why the Town is not willing to participate in funding this project. Commissioner Hodgson said that the course has been mobbed this year; this may support the request for funding for the parking lot. Commissioner Hartmann suggested the best way to get money from the Town is to have Selectman support; only half support exists today. Ms. Hartmann suggested adding a 'donate now' button to the course website. Commissioner Hodgson said that when the BOS sees what the course has done this year, it will put it in better shape for requesting funding for the parking lot. Chairman Mirles suggested that fundraisers are being held via zoom and may be a possibility for the course should the October Tournament not be possible due to the COVID-19 situation.

Chairman Mirles asked Commissioner Hartmann about adding the link to online booking to the course websites. Commissioner Hartmann said she would include it in the newsletter as well as adding it to the website. Chairman Mirles asked Commissioner Berry to procure an invoice from Christine Berry for hours worked on the website to date. Commissioner Hodgson committed to sending an independent contract format to Mr. Berry for Christine's use for services provided to the Golf Course.

e. Purchase of Used Pull Carts

Discussed under Superintendent's report.

6. New Business

a. Resignations

Both Eric Hedberg and Phil Maltese have submitted their resignations to the Commission. Chairman Mirles addressed Mr. Maltese and thanked him for his service to the Commission. Mr. Maltese said he has been overwhelmed by the commitment of the Commission and their work. He said he will be spending his winters in Florida and feels he will no longer be a contributor to the Commission.

Commissioner Steve Berry left the meeting at 6:52 pm.

Chairman Mirles said that she had been approached by Gregory Brodroick to join the Commission. He served as Chairman at one time. He has been approved by the BOS and invited to the meeting. However, he has gone radio silent and has not responded to any of Chairman Mirles emails. Chairman Mirles was expecting him to join the meeting tonight. There are three open seats on the Commission; 1 regular and 2 additional alternate seats.

Motion made by Chris Hodgson to recommend to the BOS that alternate Laura Hartmann be moved to regular member of the Guilford Lakes Golf Course Commission. This was seconded by Brittany Mirles and was unanimous. Commissioner Hartmann abstained.

Brian McGlone told the Commission that he will be retiring from the Town of Guilford in his role of Economic Development Coordinator August 1, 2020 to pursue a more full retirement. Pat Pascale complemented Brian on his devotion and contributions to the Town. Chairman Mirles wished him well and expressed how much he will be missed. Chairman Mirles additionally suggested that Mr. McGlone consider a seat on the Guilford Lakes Golf Course Commission.

b. Complaints against Clubhouse Staff

Motion made by Chris Hodgson to enter into executive session at 7:07 pm to discuss personnel as it pertains to the complaints against the clubhouse staff. Invited into executive session was Superintendent Tighe, Economic Development Coordinator Brian McGlone and recording secretary Sally Berezowskyj. This was seconded by Pat Pascale and unanimously approved.

Motion made by Pat Pascale to exit executive session at 7:23 pm. This was seconded by Robert Cuzzo and unanimously approved.

Upon exiting executive session, no action was taken.

Chairman Mirles informed the Commission that she has ordered 2 banners and 250 cards for use at the Driving Range which should arrive tomorrow. Ms. Mirles will deliver them to the Driving Range.

Motion made by Robert Cuzzo to adjourn the meeting at 7:304 pm. Seconded by Laura Hartmann and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted
Sally J. Berezowskyj
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Recording Secretary