

**GOLF COMMISSION**  
**Monday, January 8, 7:00pm**  
**H. Smith Richardson Clubhouse Conference Room**  
**2425 Morehouse Highway, Fairfield, CT**  
**In person & Via Conference Call Bridge**

A recording of this meeting can be found here: [Golf Commission Meeting 1/8/2024 7:00 pm](#)

**DRAFT MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Peter Secrist, Vice Chair Mike Herrington, Michael Feinstein, Priscilla Schulz, Keith Varian

MEMBERS ABSENT: Liam Herron

OTHERS PRESENT: Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, Golf Professional Bob Bigonette, Golf Course Superintendent Peter Grace.

1. Call to order

Chairman Peter Secrist called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Secrist waived the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Secrist thanked former Chair Keith Varian for his dedication to the Golf Commission while he was Chairman.

3. Act on minutes of 12/11/23

Priscilla Schulz made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/11/23 as written. Keith Varian seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4. Staff Reports

a. Pro Manager Report

Golf Professional Bob Bigonette discussed the design and purchase of new score cards.

There are enough of the old cards if there is a delay in ordering the new cards.

There are 17 outings committed already and 11 of the 17 are all day events. There was a discussion about outings for the season, how many are booked and how many should be the maximum. Mr. Bigonette said the outings can be booked through October. During peak season, outings will be on Mondays only. Possibly different days in early spring and fall, but nothing was confirmed. All outings booked in 2023 were confirmed. There were no cancellations.

b. Administration Report

Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese talked about the golfing numbers from December. The course closed the same time as last year. Rounds were up for the month.

Numbers are the same as last year but a little short for Fiscal Year. That can be made up in spring, weather permitting. Keeping an eye on the breakdown of Resident/Non-Resident.

Discussion about opening up the shoulder season and offer to both Resident/Non-Resident at the same time. Revenue not trailing but could get there. There was a discussion about setting the revenue in the budget. Mr. Calabrese is also requesting money that he would have access to in July to be able to use it in January to make the necessary changes to the driving range which will bring in more revenue.

c. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Peter Grace said the tree work is happening. They started at right side of 16 and will return to finish. There have been 35 trees cut down so far. The crew is getting the equipment ready for spring. They have some new equipment but the next purchases will be in FY25.

5. Greens Committee Report  
Course closed for the season.

6. Par 3 Committee Report  
Course closed for the season.

7. To hear and or act upon old business:

a. Use of Bots Policy

Peter has some changes to the Bot Policy paragraph. “our goal” and “Town of Fairfield course.

Michael Feinstein made a motion to approve the change of language and add policy. Keith Varion seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Approved Use of Bots Policy:

*The use of any computer program, bot, offline reader, tool or process to circumvent the site itself and/or site search/retrieval application for obtaining a tee time at any golf course in the Town of Fairfield is prohibited. Violations of this policy will result in tee time cancellations and, at the discretion of the Golf Commission, loss of playing privileges. Our goal is to make the booking process fair to all golfers who wish to play at Town of Fairfield courses.*

b. Golf Commission Goals for 2024

Some goals were sent out by Chair Secrist regarding trees and cart paths. Peter Grace said some of the work is being done now. Cart path repair is in the operating budget and is done gradually. There was a discussion about where the repairs are needed now. Mike Herrington said most goals listed can be done in-house, but he questioned the draining work that needs to be done. Peter Grace agreed. Estimates so far seem low as they are from 2021 and costs have escalated in all areas due to inflation. Mr. Herrington thinks costs could be close to \$100,000. There was a discussion about the process of how to get the drainage repairs done. Anthony Calabrese will start the process by asking Engineering to walk the locations with him. Peter Grace the rest of the list.

8. To hear and or act upon new business

No new business was discussed.

9. Communications

a. Emails

There were no emails to discuss.

10. Public Comment

Don DiMartino – Sunset Circle -Cart path repair - ask engineering to look at pervious pavement because it will help with drainage and paving at the same time. To expand the play grade, cut into the hill toward the parking lot and go around the tree.

Peter Secrist felt it might be good to put it on the 2024 goal list. There was a discussion about expanding the play area.

11. Adjourn

Priscilla Schulz made a motion to adjourn. Mike Feinstein seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien  
Recording Secretary