



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION

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Town of Barnstable Golf Committee Meeting Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds April 13, 2010 – Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Attendance: Terry Duenas – Chairperson, Richard Aliberti, Jim Lawson, Daniel Ginther.

Absent: Mary Creighton – Vice Chairperson.

Minutes from the February 9, 2010 meeting were accepted and approved.

Public Comment:

Dave Miller informed the committee of the Members' Association Annual Meeting on May 5 at Hyannis. There will be a Taylor-Made driver given away and those in attendance will receive free golf balls from Taylor-Made.

Old Business:

Terry Duenas informed the Committee members that there is still no liaison to the Town Council. **Terry** offered an option that the golf committee could be rolled into the Recreation Committee. **Terry** will be discussing this with the Town Manager in the coming weeks. May golf committee meeting is TBD, but may be taped wherever it is. **Terry** asked for thoughts on this. **Jim** thinks it is a terrible idea as there is too much to cover at our meetings. We would be one piece of the Recreation agenda and that would take a lot of focus and attention away from golf. **Richard** agreed with **Jim** and said there is too much money in golf and being combined with recreation would minimize our importance. **Dan** also agreed that it would be too watered down and we wouldn't have the time to discuss our issues unless the Recreation meetings were lengthened. **Terry** said one of the positives is that we go over the budget every month and the committee is the tool that the public can go to make comments and be justified. The golf committee is represented in hiring upper level golf management and also bringing in our food vendors. **Jim** made a motion that the committee's opinion is that the golf committee should not be merged in with the Recreation Committee. **Jim, Richard, and Dan** voted in favor. **Terry** abstained.

Starting in June, there will be one golf committee position open. **Richard** will be continuing, but **Jim** will not. Thus, **Jim's** position will need to be filled. The town council's appointment committee is responsible for filling the position. The town's website has a section with information for appointments if members of the public would like to volunteer for any committee. Interested people need to send a letter to the town's

appointment committee. **Jim** said **Mike** should send an email to the membership about the opening on the committee.

Dick submitted for the record 2 letters from The First Tee in appreciation of support for the program. **Jim** talked about the mission and objectives that will be in the 2011 Town Report. **Mike** felt we did not need 2 sets of these and that we should agree on one set that is to be drafted up by management. **Jim** felt there are too many; they should be kept to only 5 or 6 and focus only on those. Short term objectives should be measurable and specific. **Dan** agreed about being specific and having a time frame to complete tasks.

Mike told the committee that the town's Administrative Fee for 2011 has been lowered by \$50K. OBF will be paying \$200K, not the original \$250K. **Jim** thinks the land trust charge is wrong and that the golf course shouldn't be paying it back. He said that we are a small business that is operating with the overhead of the town. He wants the town to outsource the golf course to be more like a small business, not a municipal entity. **Dick** disagreed and that there should be some give and take. Taxes and fees are very reasonable and golf is a part of that picture. **Mike** said a golf management company would be a bad idea; fees could go way up.

New Business:

Jim brought up that the greens at OBF are in excellent condition and that was caused by closing OBF over the winter. **Bruce** agreed that the lack of traffic and the weather combined to put the course in its current condition. Hyannis drains better and has a better chance to have carts out and have players out in the winter. **Jim** thinks we should close the "A" course (OBF) each winter if conditions turn out like this.

Merry stated that we should not be labeling our courses "A" and "B" as we very hard with both courses, not one over the other. **Jim** disagreed with **Merry's** opinion.

Jim thinks credit cards should be used all year for purchase of annual passes, not just the first couple of months. **Lisa** stated it is our early season incentive to get annual pass money in the slow, winter months and inject us with some cash flow. **Mike** added that it helps to get the annual pass money in a timely manner in January and February, when decisions need to be made regarding cutting expenses. It gives a better picture of where we're going to be budget-wise. **Lisa** added that we may have to charge a service fee for credit card use if it's done all year for annual passes, as we pay just about 3 percent now.

Jim wondered if we were losing outside players because they can't get a tee time in the early morning.

Mike and **Merry** said no as there is not a large calling for early tee times and that by having tee times in blocks allows for larger groups to play together which they desire. We do have early tee times available for outside play at Hyannis. The current system is working well.

Jim asked the committee if driving range passes should last all year. **Merry** added that we do close one course in the winter and plan to continue to do so. If it snows, players are unable to hit balls. Also, that if we have snow on the ground and then get a nice weather day, the balls can not be picked up. The price would also go up, and will people be willing to pay the higher price if any of those reasons happen? Staffing is also an issue to a lesser degree. **Lisa** added that when the range has been closed, players wanted an extension on the range pass. If we knew we'd have nice winters, there wouldn't be any problem.

Jim wondered why we don't have any senior rates anywhere. **Terry** said our demographic is such that the majority of our players are seniors and that our rates are quite reasonable already.

Public Comment:

Dave Miller asked about the defibrillator. **Mike** said it has been ordered, but has not come in yet. **Dave** also brought up that there have been many bottles on the golf course. **Bruce** said much of it happens in the

afternoon after the maintenance crew has left for the day. Also, we only have had about 4 maintenance employees working, making it tough to get to everything.

Bruce brought up that the members' association would be helping to purchase a goose repellent mechanism. It is a sleep disruption product that puts out an amber strobe light in the evening which doesn't allow the geese to sleep. This then causes them to leave.

Mike added that **Mary Creighton** wanted to know if we have golf cart insurance in case of accidents that happen on the course. He said we do not have anything in place currently. Problems have been minimal over the past few years. We are working with our procurement office to put something in place to go forward with.

Terry Duenas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Jim Lawson**, the committee voted and it was passed unanimously at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Ghelfi