



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION

DIVISION MANAGER

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Town of Barnstable Golf Committee Meeting Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds September 14, 2010 Minutes

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

Attendance: Terry Duenas – Chairperson, Richard Aliberti, Daniel Ginther and Mary Creighton

Minutes from the August 10, 2010 meeting were accepted and approved.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

Old Business:

Transmission of the lightening warning system – Mike Ghelfi

Spoke with John D – representative from Thorguard (lightening warning system) the system can read storms going from West to East up to 12 miles away by reading the energy (dynamic index) are the air with an 8 – 20s minute before arrival of lightening hits. It runs on radio frequency (OBF is AM radio). Cost to install at Hyannis \$16000 -\$17000. Another option is having a receiver installed at OBF using a remote horn (with FM radio frequency) and the horns would go off at both courses – cost \$3500.

Terry Duenas asked the staff to see if the installation of lightening system be added as a line item in next year's budget. The potential liability far outweighs the cost of the system.

Dan Ginther – played at Taconic has the golf staff bull a horn in the middle of golf course and at the neighboring college, they have an automated system. People ignore it. The golf courses listens to the college system and uses them as their warning system

Mike Ghelfi says basically that is what Hyannis does now. OBF calls Hyannis and the staff have a couple of air horns they use to warn golfers on the course a storm is coming.

Dave Miller said he recently played at Hyannis and a storm came out of nowhere and there was little of no warning.

Dan Ginther - Taconic uses multiple systems weather channel, accuweather to monitor bad weather.

Terry Duenas says that as long as the golf courses use best practices, we have fulfilled our obligation and be absolved from liability.

Status of staff training on the defibrillator – Mike Ghelfi

Mike is working with Dave Curley who has 2 or 3 staff members who are certified who can teach the staff. To maintain teaching certification, they need to teach the class. This helps both sides – keep certification

and save money. Currently Mike is trying to set up dates, with both golf courses open it is challenging. Hopefully by November 2010 all staff will be trained.

Mary Creighton asked when the defibrillators were delivered to the courses.

Mike Ghelfi – July. **Terry Duenas** – in defense of the training, the defibrillators are basically self explanatory. **Mary Creighton** asked how often staff to be certified. **Mike Ghelfi** says basically each year. But if someone was going down, we would be able to use them. They don't let you use it if it is not necessary. **Dick Aliberti** – asked Mike if you are supposed to be certified. **Mike Ghelfi** stated yes you are supposed to be certified (card) each year. **Dick Aliberti** – asked Mike if staff are not currently certified and something went wrong would the town be responsible? **Mike Ghelfi** replied I would have to say yes. If you are not certified and using equipment but the equipment will not let you override the staff.

Terry Duenas stated that there are degrees of liability – if we have a defibrillator and we use it wrong is better than no defibrillator at all. **Mike Ghelfi** says in next year's application, there will be a blanket statement re golf cart liability and public customers will need to sign a waiver.

Status of golf cart liability policy – Mike Ghelfi

By the end of October, the golf course should have a process in place. The golf courses are waiting for the town procurement for specific wording on the forms. The wording has to be approved by the town's legal department.

Mary Creighton – the season is almost over and this was first brought up at the beginning of the season. She asked if Mike has a record of the times he has met with the town on this process. **Mike Ghelfi** says he has e-mail correspondence re meeting topic discussions.

Options and days available for televised Golf Committee meetings – Terry Duenas

Terry met with Mr. Klimm to discuss the golf committee meetings being televised options. There are some days open but Terry Duenas does not want Mike Ghelfi to have to come in on a day off. **Terry Duenas** does not think that is a good precedent to set. Mr. Klimm wants us on TV but we could take our time in getting on TV. We should be ok and there may be a situation where we can have someone tape it at OBF and then air it on TV. It is now done for the airport (an enterprise account) as we are one too.

Dick Aliberti asked why does it have to be aired every month? Why can't we air the important meetings – budget and rate meetings? Those meetings should be on TV. Is it possible to make a change during the important meetings to change the day and then go back to the Tuesday date? Terry D said he could get someone to tape it. So as it stands, we will continue with the second Tuesday of each month at OBF (the most optimal place). The town wants to do the meeting "live". If taped, the town will need to send someone to OBF.

Terry Duenas also discussed rolling in with the Recreation Committee...he shared the golf committee does not want to be rolled into the Recreation Committee because the golf items will be buried. Until further notice, the Golf Committee will be a freestanding committee. Mr. Klimm does not know when a 5th member will be joining us. It is up to Town Council. Almost all appointments have been made. **Terry Duenas** will follow up with Janet Joakim is the Appointment Chair.

New Business

Initial Discussion on proposed 2012 fees/rates

Terry Duenas Fees and rates are recommendations from the management and the Town Manger decides on the rates. He has autonomy on the rates even with fee rates meetings.)\

Mike Ghelfi (hand out – Town of Barnstable – FY 11 Fees and Increases for FY 12 reference)

Terry Duenas – based on the state of golf – guest rounds are down everywhere. We are running golf specials at both courses. Weekends at this time of year sell themselves. Public green fees can go up during certain times. **Dick Aliberti** asked how golf rounds compared to last year. Mike Ghelfi states OBF went up 110 rounds (even with it closed for the winter); the member rounds are a greater %. OBF is 50-50 and Hyannis is 70-30 tee time percentage distribution. Therefore, more of our rounds are becoming member rounds and less guest rounds. **Terry Duenas** says our money is in guest rounds. We need to backfill our revenue once our expenses have been listed. Members are going to have to pony up this year. We are taking less money with golf specials for increased guest play. **Mike Ghelfi** says maybe increase \$2-4 dollars on fall weekends. We have not had a member increase in 3 three years. **Terry Duenas** says we should have gone incremental increases yearly instead of no increase for 2 years and then hit members with a larger hot. He asked if we are max'ed with guest rounds. Will guests from off Cape drive over the bridge to play at OBF? **Mike Ghelfi** says there are repeat groups annually and then there are smaller groups. But the group size is also getting smaller. In season public fee – should we have different rates for the weekends?

As a working discussion leave public play rates alone, range fees will not impact bottom line significantly.

Dan Ginther - To keep range open longer will impact labor costs. Is there any possibility of getting a ball dispenser for the driving range? It was in the capital plan for 5 years on a row but was always first cut. Need to look at adult, family and junior pass rates – non-resident pass decrease increased the non-member doubled but this rate is more in line with our competition.

Dick Aliberti - what was the bottom line? - Ended up in the black \$30000. **Mary Creighton** stated the golf courses ended up in the black because the course took expenses out of their budget in line with revenue, you met your expenses.

Dan Ginther – If you go up on second member of family – it needs to be incremental to non-resident rate

Dave Miller – is there a possibility to develop a new class of membership – 18 – 26 year old non-student at \$500/year?

Terry Duenas – will continue this discussion next month.

Tess Retirement

Bruce McIntyre shared Tess's retirement announcement with the committee. There was discussion about getting another dog for Olde Barnstable.

Election of Officers

Dick Aliberti asked to be added to next month's agenda.

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

Respectfully submitted by Mary Creighton