

MINUTES

Golf Course Advisory Committee Meeting February 20, 2025

In Attendance: Chris Mulleavey (Chair); Councilor Nathan Fennessy; Councilor Jennifer Kretovic; Linda Mattlage; Fran Hunt; Roger Jobin; Jim Tanner; Mack Bean; Charlie Randall; Phil Davis; Pat Lanman; and Brian LeBrun.

Excused: Gary Darby and Bob Whatmough.

1) Approval of Meeting Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2024 meeting. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote. Chris Mulleavey abstained, as he was not in attendance at the December meeting.

2) Pro Shop Update:

- Phil noted that the course is in week 7 of its simulator season, which is currently comprised of 80 teams.
- Simulator bookings in the mornings have been light. Phil plans to run some specials to try to get those slots filled. He expects an uptick in simulator use as the start of golf season approaches.
- Total Pro Shop revenue for the month of January was \$40,000, about \$1,000 less than last year. February revenue, as of today, is at \$28,000.
- Councilor Fennessy asked how things were going with the new restaurant vendor. Phil indicated that the new vendor is doing a great job, despite a couple of setbacks (the walk-in refrigerator broke down and the hood fan motor needs to be replaced). Phil noted that the repair/replacement of these items are in process.

3) Course Update:

- The course is in full swing of winter operations.
- Grooming of ski trails has been the priority of late.
- Staff are also tuning up the equipment so it will be ready to go when golf season starts.
- A small amount of tree work was completed in January.

4) CIP Program:

- Phil Davis provided an overview of the golf course's proposed CIP projects for FY 2025 and the outyears.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend the above-mentioned CIP projects for inclusion in the proposed FY 2026 budget. The motion was approved with a unanimous voice vote.

5) 5 Minutes of Public Input:

- Councilor Stacey Brown asked who is responsible for the general maintenance of the clubhouse building. Phil indicated that he is. Councilor Brown also mentioned the handout that was provided to committee members, an excerpt from a book entitled, "The Architects of Golf", by Geoffrey S. Cornish, which notes that Waumbek Golf Course opened in 1896, and Beaver Meadow opened in 1897, thus proving that Beaver Meadow is not the oldest golf course in New Hampshire.

- Mark Coen spoke in support of the Golf Course Advisory Committee and shared his concerns that the committee and its members have been under constant attack for the past year, undeservedly. He pointed out that he used to serve on the committee and has never felt that any of the committee members are self-serving. They are simply an advisory committee that makes recommendations to the City Council, who then makes the final decision on the committee's recommendations. He expressed that the perpetrators of these attacks don't seem to be interested in making things better – just attacking.

Deputy City Manager Brian LeBrun noted that Phil and Pat do an exceptional job managing the golf course. He indicated that the negative attacks on the management of the golf course are unfounded, and that Phil and Pat are doing exactly what they are instructed to do by City Administration, and doing it well. He said they deserve credit and any criticisms should be made against City Administration, not the golf course staff.

6) Other:

- Councilor Kretovic suggested that a comparison be done of the Library, Pools, Parks & Recreation, and Arena CIPs.
- Charlie Randall iterated his opinion that the golf course needs a public relations person. He volunteered to take on this endeavor and provided a handout as to how he would go about providing information to the public.

7) Adjournment:

- A motion was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 AM with a unanimous voice vote.