

MINUTES

Beaver Meadow Golf Advisory Committee Meeting
April 21, 2022

In Attendance: Chris Mulleavey (Chair), Ruthann Bradley, Gary Darby, Dick Holden, Bob Norton, Mark Coen, Fran Hunt, Jennifer Kretovic, Nathan Fennessy, Roger Jobin, Bob Whatmough, Corey Schofield, Mayor Jim Bouley, Phil Davis, and Brian LeBrun.

Absent: Linda Mattlage.

- 1) **5 Minutes of Public Input:** There was no public input.
- 2) **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2022 meeting. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote.
- 3) **A Pathway to Golf at Beaver Meadow:** Phil Davis discussed with the committee that, for the past 6 months, he has been working with the New England PGA and its Diversity and Inclusion Program, with a focus on introducing the game of golf to youth of diverse backgrounds in the community. He indicated that he applied for a grant through the NEPGA and that Beaver Meadow was awarded \$2,000 for the first year of this program, which will provide transportation to the course, lessons, clubs/equipment, and refreshments, for free, to youth of diverse backgrounds who enroll. This grant provides the opportunity to apply for two additional years of funding. Phil indicated that once the grant funds have been accepted and appropriated by City Council, he will roll out the program to the New American and other diverse populations in the community. The program will be available to youth under the age of 18, and will run every other Wednesday in June, July and August, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
- 4) **Pro Shop/Operations:**
 - Adult, Senior, Young Adult, and College memberships are up slightly. There has been a big increase in Junior memberships, from 23 at this time last year to 38 as of today. Phil expects that this number will continue to increase, as many Junior memberships aren't purchased until after school gets out.
 - April rounds are down from 1,990 at this time last year, to 1,397 to date; mainly due to a cold, wet April. Rounds are expected to increase to normal levels, provided the weather cooperates in May and June.
 - All leagues have steadily increased and there are 40 people on the list waiting to sign up for lessons.
 - New Full-time Assistant Golf Pro, Josh Lacasse, to start on Sunday, April 24th.
 - The course is fully staffed – with all temps starting in May.
- 5) **Course Update:**
 - Clean-up from the tree project is underway. Hole #5 has been cleaned up and cart paths are being shaped. Seeding has occurred to the left of Hole #1.
 - Tees, greens, and green surrounds are being fertilized and beginning to look really good.
 - Sodding on #5 will take place next Monday.

- Phil gave kudos to Pat Lanman, who, with the same amount of staffing, has made the course look the best it's looked in years.
- Phil discussed with the committee the available storage options for the Snow Rabbit (the groomer for the ski trails). One option would be to store it near the pump house, which is a bit far away and isn't very secure; a second option is at the back of the range; and the third option is to store it to the left of Hole #9, where the fence will hide it from view. Option three will allow the groomer to be near all the other maintenance equipment, in a more secure location. Phil and staff would prefer the latter option, and asked committee members for their feedback. The consensus among committee members was option three, to store it by Hole #9.

Nathan Fennessy and Corey Schofield each mentioned some negative feedback they've received from greens fee payors about the length of time it is taking for the course to be cleaned up from the trees that were taken down. Phil thanked them for the comments and noted that progress is ongoing, it is still April and the course will be back to "normal" by Memorial Day. He also noted that the clean-up is weather dependent and the back nine, where most of the work was done, is still quite wet. Corey also mentioned that some golfers have expressed concern to him that too many trees were taken down. Jennifer Kretovic mentioned that US Forestry was involved in the project and that they actually recommended taking more trees down than we did.

- 6) **Financials:** Deputy City Manager Brian LeBrun provided a financial update through March 31, 2022. Revenue is down by \$22,000, and after deferring a portion of the revenue from season passes, we are down by \$100,000. However, that is in comparison to what was a very strong year last year. He explained that the course is also behind on the net by \$87,000, but the next three months, provided we have decent weather, should help get closer to last year's revenue comparison. He also reminded the group that, at the end of the fiscal year, deferred revenues of this year's memberships will level out. He noted that the course is managing expenses well.

Nathan Fennessy asked how the financials were expected to look at the end of FY 2022. Deputy City Manager LeBrun indicated that he anticipates being in the black at the end of this fiscal year.

- 7) **Other:** There was a brief discussion about the condition of the clubhouse. Fran Hunt asked if there were plans to paint and repair some of the run-down areas of the clubhouse, to which Phil and Brian indicated some painting will occur, as the weather cooperates, to try and keep the building in a presentable state. Dick Holden asked if some of the pot holes in the parking lot could be filled in. Brian indicated that he would get in touch with the General Services Department and ask them to get them filled.

Mayor Bouley was in attendance and thanked committee members for their service.

- 8) **Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote.