

**MUNICIPAL COUNTRY CLUB COMMISSION a.k.a. FARMINGBURY  
HILLS REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013  
WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
6:30 P.M., PAGE 1 OF 8  
MINUTES**

**Note: These are summary minutes. A tape recording of this meeting is on file in Wolcott Town Hall, Commission Secretary's Office.**

Chairman Larson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance was taken.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Larson, Greg Solocius, Chris Vastola, Michael Perrone and Anthony Marino

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Craig Kealey, Golf Pro

**ALSO ABSENT:** David Caisse

**ALSO PRESENT:** Paul Garland and Michael Marcelynas

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- March 11, 2013 Regular Meeting

Upon **MOTION** by Chris Vastola, seconded by Greg Solocius, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2013 regular meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

There were none.

**PUBLIC REQUEST LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:**

Michael Marcelynas, 197 Catering Road, Wolcott, CT came forward to indicate that he has concerns with the fence on the left side of 1<sup>st</sup> hole. He noted that there is a lot of damage to it from snow plowing. He advised the commission that the residents across the street are plowing their snow into the fence and as a tax payer he would rather not be responsible for that.

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At which time Chairman Larson inquired if they knew what their names were. He pointed out that he has written letters to them before regarding other issues. He added that they will address this issue. He also mentioned that it is a state road and it is a state highway fence.

Mr. Marcelynas also indicated that he has concerns with the guardrails on County Road and he was told that there is nothing that can be done with the guardrails on the right hand side of the 4<sup>th</sup> green where the trees were taken out.

Chairman Larson pointed out that they have had meetings with the Town of Southington's road foreman and David Kalinowski. He added that they have chosen not to do anything with that location.

Paul Garland, 8 Tunxis Road Wolcott, CT 06716, came forward to state that he would like to elaborate on the fencing issue. He noted that he has spoken with the state representative Sampson on Thursday of last week and he has also spoken with the Mayor as of this morning and he said that the Mayor was going to talk to the Town manager in Southington and to State rep and they are going to push it to get it done. He added that he did include the safety of the golfers.

He also noted that he is going to visit some of the nurseries in Cheshire to see if they will donate some bulbs to the course.

He added that Farmingbury Hills Men's Golf Association would like to extend a unique offer to advertise their business. The signs will be placed on the course for all of their tournaments (see attached).

Chairman Larson added that he wanted to thank him for his efforts on their behalf.

**GOLF PRO/CONSULTANT'S REPORT:**

Mr. Kealey came forward to inform the commission that when they opened a week and half ago, he took the cart fleet out and power washed them. He noted that Hawks recommended that he power wash the engines. He added that he took the carts out and cleaned them and from the winter time they were left with 9 dead carts. He noted that Hawks came last week and no one has not been without a cart. He was able to repair 8 of them and six of them

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needed batteries and one of them he didn't have the parts. He pointed out that he has seven carts down again. He noted that they have talked about the carts in the past. He noted that this maybe an ongoing issue with the carts breaking down. He noted that he called Mickie Hawks and he said from his point of view that it is not unusual. He said they are lucky if they get six years out of the batteries. He noted that they have replaced 20 batteries since last year and they might have 3 more that they have to replace. Mr. Kealey added that they might have to go in another direction like purchasing new carts or a lease program. He said that Mr. Hawk said they have very valuable golf carts and if they decided to sell them and go back into a lease they could out bid anyone for their golf carts. He said he will give them a \$100.00 more than anyone else. He said that he thinks the carts are still worth \$1,500.00 each. He said if they need repairs Hawks will be there.

Mr. Vastola mentioned that they have spent so far \$7,000.00 in cart repairs and that is not counting all of the batteries that they need now.

Mr. Kealey noted that they should be thinking about what they want to do.

Chairman Larson stated that they have talk to the finance officer about this issue. He said they wouldn't rule anything out.

Mr. Kealey advised the commission members that he will keep them updated on the cart repairs.

Mr. Perrone asked did they ever put a formal proposal on how much they might get and how many carts they need and maybe entertain a lease program.

Chairman Larson said they put a formal bid in before and the last time they lease the carts and the cost was \$26,000.00 for the carts. He added that they will have to look at this. He noted that it is a financial issue.

Mr. Kealey noted that he spoke with Mr. Larson regarding slow play at which time he handed out the commission members a policy that they would like implemented (see attached) at which time they had a brief discussion and the commission members said it is ok.

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Mr. Perrone inquired if they have done anything with the mandatory cart issue. At which time Mr. Kealey noted that they are not going to do it on Saturday and Sunday just for the tournaments and leagues.

Mr. Perrone pointed out as a commission they made a motion on that which they voted.

Chairman Larson pointed out that he sent out a letter to the commission members stating that they are putting that on hold pending some other efforts. He noted that there was a lot of feedback on it. He pointed out that they can rescind the motion.

Upon **MOTION** by Michael Perrone, seconded by Greg Solocius, it was unanimously voted that they put on hold the original motion of making carts mandatory for weekend play and tournaments and league play and that they alter it to stay.

Mr. Kealey noted that he has one last issue. He noted that they have not placed any ads as of yet. He advised them that they have had some good days. He noted that play is slow. He also stated that today they were slow. He also stated that they can do better and he would like to do something with the Monday special. He indicated that he received some phone calls about the Monday special and they wanted to know if they were going to do it again. He recommends that they do some advertising.

Mr. Vastola pointed out that they have \$52.00 in the advertising line item.

Mr. Kealey noted that he was looking for \$400.00 to \$500.00 for advertising.

At which time Mr. Marino said his opinion its worth for them to advertise. He added that they can let them know they are open and inform them about their specials.

Chairman Larson said they could make some transfers from some other line items and the commission members agreed.

Chairman Larson said he is looking for a motion to suspended the rules to have Chris DiNunzio came forward.

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Upon **MOTION** by Chris Vastola, seconded by Chris Vastola, seconded by Greg Solocius, it was unanimously voted to suspended the rules and have Chris DiNunzio come forward.

The commission members had a brief discussion regarding where they were going to place their ads and what advertisements they were going to advertise.

Mr. Perrone suggestion that they make the motion to transfer \$500.00 for advertising or whatever they need.

He also added that he doesn't think it is too late for them to come up with a plan regarding which newspaper they would like to place the ads, or how many ads, and the size of the ads. He indicated that they will see how much it will cost and then they will come back to the commission.

Chairman Larson said there is not anything wrong with coming up with a plan. He added that he doesn't want to wait.

Mr. Kealey referenced the Monday special and he wanted to know what they were going to do.

Chairman Larson mentioned that the Monday special has been approved at a previous meeting. The commission made a motion to approve \$24.95 for the Monday special.

Mr. Perrone pointed out that there is a motion on the table to approve advertising.

Mr. Vastola added that they passed a previous motion that Monday's special would be \$24.95 with the special it was \$20.00 with \$4.95 add on it and it was passed two months ago.

Upon **MOTION** by Chris Vastola, seconded by Michael Perrone, it was unanimously voted to transfer \$500.00 into the advertising budget to start.

Mr. Marino pointed out that he wasn't there when they voted on the Monday special for \$24.95, so it is done and they determined the price.

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Chairman Larson mentioned what he would like to happen is have the same committee as last year which consists of the following: (Mr. Perrone Mr. Kealey, Mr. DiNunzio and Mr. Marino) come up with a plan for the commission to review at their next meeting.

The commission members had a lengthy discussion regarding the Monday specials. The committee will make recommendations at the next schedule meeting.

**GOLF SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

No report given.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*Review of Line Items.*

Mr. Vastola noted that he has one thing a transfer has been issued by the finance officer and the Mayor which was forwarded to the council members for their approval tonight and it is for the sum of \$9,700.00 that will be transfer from their line item "course expansion" and that will be transferred to superintendent's wages. It has been issued and that was done by the Mayor's and the finance office.

Chairman Larson pointed out the \$9,700.00 is so that they can bring aboard Mr. Cullen within two weeks to start. And that was the intent of the money to cover his salary during that period through the end of this current fiscal year.

At which time Mr. Solocius said they are paying for his salary.

Chairman Larson noted that their budget for 2013-2014 will contain his salary.

At which time Mr. Solocius said where did they cut?

Chairman Larson said they are not cutting them. The town obviously has got to contribute as they always do to this. He indicated that they had discussed the budget at length with the Mayor and the finance officer.

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Mr. Vastola pointed out that his salary will be in their budget and it increases from the general government which a portion will be reimbursed, subject to an approval from the town council when their budget is presented to them.

Mr. Solocius stated that they are nickel and diming for money and to just come in and take the \$9,700.00 he is not happy. He also questioned where his salary is coming from for next year. He also questioned why they didn't hire another superintendent when they let the other one go. What was the reason why they didn't replace him?

At which time Chairman Larson said they were asked by the people who were working on the course if they could assume the responsibility for it and they took advantage of it for seven years.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Specials

Chairman Larson said they have a committee now.

- DeVito's monument

Chairman Larson advised the commission that Mr. DeVito has not contacted him as of yet.

- Pump

Mr. Solocius inquired where they stand on the pump. At which time Chairman Larson said the pump is at the course and they decided that they were going to work on it there.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There were none.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS**

There were none.

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**ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:**

There were none.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Upon **MOTION** by Chris Vastola, seconded by Michael Perrone, it was unanimously voted to adjourn 7:55 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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**Chairman Robert Larson  
FARMINGBURY HILLS COMMISSION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dolores Distiso  
COMMISSION SECRETARY**