

**MUNICIPAL COUNTRY CLUB COMMISSION a.k.a. FARMINGBURY
HILLS REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014
WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00 P.M., PAGE 1 OF 6
MINUTES**

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

Vice Chairman Solocius called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chairman Greg Solocius, Joan Kane, Lou Polzella and Paul Garland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairman Robert Larson

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Cullen, Facilities Administrator and Craig Kealey, Golf Pro (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- April 28, 2014 Regular Meeting

Upon **MOTION** by Joan Kane, seconded by Paul Garland, it was unanimously voted to **approve** the minutes of the April 28, 2014 regular meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There were none.

PUBLIC REQUEST LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA:

There were none.

GOLF PRO/CONSULTANT'S REPORT:

Mr. Kealey was present and came forward to report that before the economy problems they were able to charge anything that they wanted and they were charging a lot more than then they are charging now. If they had a really good week they could make \$15,000.00 or more. He noted for the first eight days of June they've taken in over \$18,000.00, which is certainly good news and that doesn't even take into consideration what they collected from Groupon. He also indicated that Mr. Garland will report on Groupon. He noted that they are off to a good start with Groupon and it's been pretty much

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what Mr. Garland said; it is very easy to manage, so it is a really a good thing for the golf course. He noted that it is good news and they have a good golf course and it is in good shape and the weather was good and people are coming out every day.

Mr. Polzella stated that he spoke with Mr. Kealey about this issue the other day. He stated that he noticed a gentlemen driving inside the ropes on the 4th where he was inside the traps near the green. Then he drove on the 8th where he was inside the cart path towards the green side "quote on quote" he is supposedly handicapped. Mr. Polzella inquired if they have a policy, at which time Mr. Garland replied yes they do.

Mr. Polzella inquired if the policy is in place at which time Mr. Garland said it is in place and they have cart markers.

Mr. Polzella said do the people know that because they know where they have to stop but he is not stopping. He asked if he needs a flag, at which time Vice-Chairman Solocius replied there are no more flags. They moved the signs up. Mr. Polzella said could they inform him again.

Mr. Garland said they will have to post a sign in the Pro Shop because that was the reason why they said no carts beyond this point.

Mr. Polzella questioned why the flags were eliminated, at which time Mr. Solocius said because they were encroaching more on the greens and fringes.

Mr. Kealey said that people were taking advantage of it and it went beyond a few warnings which didn't help. He noted that they had yellow lines for a couple of years which they saw at another courses and they had a sign stating not to go inside the yellow lines. He added that they lost a few people and there is no easy way to figure this out. He indicated that they lost some handicapped people but on the other hand they were driving up to the green so what do they do to balance it. He pointed out that Mr. Polzella has a good point. Mr. Kealey said he will have to speak to the people again.

Mrs. Kane suggested that they should get are rover, at which time Vice Chairman Solocius said that he has found out that it is people who know the rules and they break them, at which time Mr. Kealey agreed.

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Vice Chairman Solocius mentioned that it is not the guy who comes off the street, they respect their lines but these other people think that they can do what they want and he added that he called a couple of people on it and it wasn't nice.

Mr. Polzella questioned do they, as commissioners, have the right to say anything to anybody on that golf course.

Mr. Kealey said there are times when he goes out ranging the golf course. He added that they had rangers before. He also mentioned that he would like to get volunteers to range the course.

At which Mr. Solocius said they will have to get in touch with this individual and speak to him about it.

FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Cullen was present and came forward to report that they had some building issues that they have been addressing over the last few weeks. The lights on the cart path, in the back of restaurant, the flag pole light. He noted that everything has been taken care of except for the first light on the cart path. He noted that he received the bill for the work that was done and the cost was high. He added that he sat down with the fellow who has taken over the business and they got the bill reduced from \$1,200.00 to \$860.00.

He also informed the commission that on May 31st he received a call from the police department regarding a break in at the maintenance building. He noted that they came in through the window and the alarm went off which scared them away. They broke the glass which they were able to put back in place for now. He indicated that he is waiting for prices to replace the windows and he believes he has one and he is waiting for the other one.

He also noted that someone mentioned that they should have a double lock on the doors which he received a price from Leo's Lock.

He also mentioned that Mr. Kalinowski came to the golf course to talk about what they should do on the 15th tee. They came up with a plan which everyone has seen. He indicated that they altered the plan. He noted that they could do some things prior to public works coming up there. He stated that the cart path that they have now will be eliminated. Mr. Kalinowski recommended that they should move the whole cart path in and taper that

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edge and place a swale from the men's tee all the way down to the cart path with drainage going across the 6th fairway up to the woods. He said they will be moving forward with that and Mr. Kalinowski will be helping them out when he can schedule the work. He added that Mr. Kalinowski is working on the road construction now.

Mr. Cullen directs this question to Mrs. Kane. He indicated that no one has approached him on the memorial triangle on the 7th. He noted that he cleared that area out and the weeds are growing in.

Mrs. Kane stated they lost several women and they were going to get help from the families but there are family issues. She stated that she will mention it again to their president.

Mr. Polzella said he would like the 7th and 9th fairway cut back.

Mr. Polzella mentioned that some of the greens are smaller and they are not cutting them as large as they were. Mr. Cullen said he doesn't believe they are, he thinks the fringes are wider; at which time Mr. Polzella said could they bring them back a little bit.

Mr. Polzella noted that he is hearing complaints about the cups, at which time Mr. Cullen said they move them twice a week. There was a brief discussion about moving the cups more than twice a week. Mr. Cullen stated that he will have to speak with Mr. Carey.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Review of Line Items.

Mr. Garland informed the commission that he found money to pay for the lights and telephone bills. He noted that they did have some unexpected expenses with electrical and the break in. He noted that most of the bills are paid. He added that he has a meeting with Mrs. Bruce to see what is outstanding and to see what they could liquidate.

He also informed the commission members that they launched off Groupon Thursday and as of five o'clock today they have 100 sales. He added that seven people have redeemed their tickets.

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Mr. Polzella inquired how much are they charging for Groupon, at which time Mr. Garland said they are offering the following:

- 1) A round of 18 holes for two players with a cart and the cost is \$45.00
- 2) A round of 18 holes 4 players with a cart and the cost is \$84.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Utility Vehicle
Mr. Garland noted that the vehicle is gone.
- Sprayer barrel
Mr. Garland noted that they will discuss this after the new fiscal year
- ATM Machine

Mr. Garland noted that he received one quote so far from Wells Fargo which is outstanding for a monthly fee of \$750.00. He has two others that he is still waiting on.

Mr. Garland inquired if Mr. Cullen received a quote on the alarm system at which time Mr. Cullen said he received one.

NEW BUSINESS:

There were none.

PUBLIC REQUESTS

Richard Tiso, 105 Wedgewood Drive, Waterbury, CT, was present and came forward to thank Mrs. Kane and Mr. Polzella for speaking about some of the issue that he had. He stated that he started at Chase Country Club and up until this day he has been a standing member on this golf course since 1962. He noted that they cut the greens 6 days a week and they did change the cups 6 days a week. He said he is not asking for the greens to be cut every day and the cups to be changed every day. He agrees with Mr. Polzella that

two times a week is not enough. He said there is no reason for them not to have the same green cuts and cups as they do on Sunday's. He said that Saturday and Sunday should always have been up until the past several

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years as a main stay of new cups and the greens cut and at least those two days especially and one or two times during the week. He said it is ludicrous that they have to play under these conditions at times. It is not fair to the golfers they comment about it. He said he doesn't want to see it done every day but Saturday and Sunday should be treated as equal days. He said it is time to make the place player friendly. He stated the other issue is about the roughs around the greens it is ludicrous that they have stuff they cannot hit out of. He added that it was never like that why it is now one of the problems. He noted that he spoke with Mr. Carey about this and he said when he fertilized the greens it is impossible to stop the fertilizer going off into the heavy stuff and it grows thicker and quicker. Mr. Tiso said the solution is cut it don't leave it. He noted that golf is a game of skill and depending on their handicap or their skill level. He stated if they want to promote faster play, he thinks they should make this course player friendly.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION** by Paul Garland seconded by Lou Polzella, it was unanimously voted to **adjourn** the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

**Vice -Chairman Greg Solocius
FARMINGBURY HILLS COMMISSION**

**Dolores Distiso
COMMISSION SECRETARY**