

Bernards Township Golf Advisory Committee
Minutes –August 5, 2019 – 7:00 PM
Municipal Building, 1 Collyer Lane
APPROVED September 16, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

M. Conley called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of 1975. The Committee saluted the flag and the roll was called.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Michael Conley
John Gunning
Joan Harris
Ana McCarthy
John Meany
Timothy O'Rourke
Peter Tobia

Members Absent:

Michael Conley, Jr.

Non-Members Present:

Jen Gander, Director
Kelly Kellaway, Recording Secretary
Carmen Misale, Course Operations Supervisor
Matt Sullivan, Shearon Environmental

Steve Raff, 183 Riverside Dr, Basking Ridge
Chris Swanson, 31 Maple Terrace, Millburn

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

- i. Motion was made by M. Conley to accept the June 26, 2019 Minutes as amended and seconded by T. O'Rourke. All were in favor, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from Daniel Zugale regarding Tee Boxes—The Golf Advisory Committee reviewed D. Zugales letter and thought it was a great idea to use the different tee boxes for a new alternate score card for members to play something different. The Golf Advisory Committee will investigate seeing if they can get the alternate Score Card rated.

4. REPORTS

- A. Course Maintenance
 - i. Conditions Update from Shearon—Matt Sullivan
 - M. Sullivan updated the Golf Advisory Committee and stated that they were going to slit seed the greens and noted that the practice green seems to be taking. He will aerate the course, greens and tees, the week of 9/1. He is back full time at the course and mentioned that the fairways are looking good. C. Miscale mentioned he has seen improvement in the rough.
 - ii. Member Feedback—Jen Gander
 - J. Gander discussed the member feedback with the Golf Advisory Committee.
- B. Director's Report—Jen Gander
 - i. 2019 Membership and Revenue Update
 - J. Gander updated the Committee regarding the rounds played so far for 2019. Membership is down compared to last year.
 - ii. 2019 Gate Revenue Update—Jen Gander
 - J. Gander updated the Committee regarding the gate revenue to date compared to 2018.
- C. Operations Supervisor's Report
 - i. Tournaments
 - Discussed having a free member only tournament in the Fall.
 - ii. Rounds Played
 - J. Gander reported that rounds have been picking up. Having issues with members trying to play prior to 7:00am as stated in VA contract. Members are using the Solo Rider cart on a regular basis.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. None

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Course Conditions Letter to Membership
 - The Committee discussed sending a course conditions letter to membership and they want to include a copy of Dr. Linde's report, course aeration on

September 3 and seeded as well as verbiage regarding the temporary green closures. They would like to send a follow up status in October.

7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

- A. T. O'Rourke mentioned it is hard to see the courses current conditions when you know how pristine the course used to be.
- B. J. Meany wants to make sure the Veterans programs are continuing at the course.
- C. J. Gunning said its is a great facility and a great value, know how good it was and it is very frustrating to see current conditions.
- D. J. Gander reminded the Committee that the next meeting will be held on September 16 at 5:30pm at the Course. We will reserve the room at Town Hall as a backup in case of bad weather.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. S. Raff appreciates that we were able to bring the USGA in to consult. He suggested making temporary greens to allow greens to heal and to show we are making an effort.
 - Committee said we will make a temporary green on hole 9 and place a sign to read stay off green/Closed.

S. Raff asked about the ground under hole #3 and the trench across #9.

- Gander reported that they are pushing the VA to fix the sink hole under hole #3 and that they have received quotes to repair the trench across #9 and it will be completed soon.

S. Raff wanted to know if we were going to water the fairways as they are starting to brown.

- M. Sullivan from Shearon reported yes.

S. Raff wanted to know the status of the café and driving range.

- J. Gander reiterated that the Township has never had any involvement in the operation of the range and the café. The VA contracted with a separate non-profit on the operation of those areas. At this time, the VA has reported that they do not have an update on if/when a new contract would be issued. S. Raff asked if we should reach out to our congressional representatives. J. Harris said she was going to reach out to Tom Malinowski.

S. Raff suggested we find ways to increase play and membership such as coordinating leagues, partnering with the driving range and hosting outings

- B. C. Swanson said the staff is great and the drinking water on the course is always cold and containers full. He said the course numerous strengths and it is the best deal. Additional advertisement to non-residents may assist in building membership. He

thought the PR was good and that we should highlight in the newsletter regarding the status driving range.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by J. Meany and seconded by T. Gunning. All in favor; motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kelly Kellaway
Recording Secretary