



**Town of Barnstable
Barnstable Golf**

Hyannis Golf Course, 1840 Route 132, Hyannis, Ma 02601 (508) 362-2606
Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds Golf Course, 1460 Route 149, Marstons Mills, Ma 02648 (508) 420-1141
Director of Golf: Jesse Schechtman

**Golf Committee
December 14th, 2021
05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Meeting Called to Order at 5:30pm
Minutes; Approved**

Chair Hochstein reads statement in accordance with MGL Ch. 30.A.S.20 regarding public taping at meetings- No one responds as taping the meeting. Chair Hochstein also reads the executive order on remote participation via zoom and that the meeting is being recorded and will air on channel 18 after the meeting concludes

Roll Call:	GEOFFREY CONVERSE	Absent
	JOHN COOKSON	Present
	KEITH HOCHSTEIN	Present
	SUSANNE CONLEY	Present
	MARK BUSHWAY	Present
	BILL SYLVA	Present
	JASON AUBEE	Present

ALSO PRESENT: JESSE SCHECHTMAN, WAYNE MALCOLM

Public Comments; NONE

Act on Minutes from the November 9th 2021 meeting – John Cookson suggested updating the minutes on page 2 to reflect February as the typical month canceled instead of March. Susanne pointed out also on page 2 Chair Hochstein was referenced and he was not at the meeting. Both changes agreed to be made by the secretary before posting.

Motion duly made by John Cookson to approve the minutes of the November 9th 2021 Golf Committee meeting with changes noted seconded by Bill Sylva

Roll Call Vote: John, Susanne, Mark, Jason, Bill; YES Keith; Abstained

Director of Golf Report- Jesse Schechtman

It has been a busy month for Barnstable Golf. For starters, we have been working towards taking care of some issues with our facilities. Everything from the air conditioning units at Olde Barnstable that we lost in a fire back in the spring, to an electrical panel at the Hyannis Clubhouse that needs to be replaced... to the cooling units in the administrative office at Hyannis that hasn't worked in over two years. Plenty of other smaller items also, like a hole in the roof of the cart barn at Olde Barnstable and some doors that need replacing at both facilities. A good number of these things have been deferred due to a lack of funds for far too long, and thankfully we are finally in a position to get some of them done.

Another reason it's been a busy month is for staffing reasons. As most of you should know, we have not had a third operations assistant since the 2019 season. You all know Mike and Dave, but we used to have a third (most recently John Fowler) that would go back and forth between the two courses. That position was cut for the 2020 season due to COVID and financial uncertainty, and thankfully it was added back into our budget for this coming season. I am very happy to say that we've hired a very driven and intelligent young man to fill that position. His name is David Kissane. Some of you may have already met him, as he just started this past Friday. We are currently troubleshooting how we are going to go about having two Dave's, but I'm sure we'll figure it out.

Also on the staffing front, just yesterday we completed interviews for the next Head Professional at Hyannis. We had a couple of fantastic candidates and although I can't really say anything more until things are official, I'm confident that Hyannis Golf Course won't miss a beat and will continue to be the fun & inviting place we always strive to make it.

RATES & FEES

The rate & fee hearing was held a week after our last meeting, during which Maddie and I presented our proposal for the Town Manager to take under advisement. Typically it's about 30 days before approval. I haven't heard anything yet but I expect to very soon as to whether or not we need to make any adjustments.

We've had some great weather as of late, people are definitely taking advantage. Since the start of November Hyannis has hosted just shy of 3,200 rounds, which equates to around 70 a day. Obviously this isn't the time of year when we expect be flush with greens fees, and to that point over 85% of the rounds played since the start of November have been done so by pass holders.

We entered November at about \$185K over budget. I'm happy to say that November did not do as much damage as I originally thought it might, as we took less than a \$20K hit between the two courses. This means we are still at about \$166K over forecasted revenue to this point. December is typically our quietest month in terms of revenue. Obviously from a greens and cart fee standpoint but also annual pass renewals don't start coming in until January – so I highly doubt there will be much movement in that number in the next report.

Chris and I recently had a great talk with the Finance Director, Mark Milne. The conversation centered around mostly deferred maintenance on not just our two golf courses but also the NINE buildings that we have on our properties.

Right now it's looking like the first truly impactful project from the golfer's standpoint that's going to take place is the replacement/repair of the cart paths at Hyannis. I hesitate to call this a renovation project because we aren't talking wall-to-wall cart paths, but we think that significant improvements can be made with the funds we have available to us. Chris and I spent some time with a paving professional a couple weeks ago, this gentleman was fresh off a project at Farm Neck so he definitely knows what he's talking about. We toured the course, showed him what we considered to be the most problematic areas, and while he agrees there's certainly a lot of work to be done, we came away from that meeting confident that this project can make a truly meaningful impact. Now as with any capital project within the Town there are a lot of moving parts, but having said that we are hopeful that this work can commence sometime this spring.

This project will not only address the most uncomfortable and unsafe areas of cart paths, but also a focus will be on the redirection of cart traffic in certain areas with an eye on improved turf health. And I say that because I know the immediate thought with a lot of people when they hear cart path improvements is "well I always walk so how does that help me", and the answer to that is by re-routing some of the existing paths we're going to end up with much healthier turf in previously high traffic areas, many of which are very close to greens and tees.

As far as other projects go, Chris and I are starting to have discussions about the potential addition of some forward tees at Hyannis, notably on holes 17 & 18. I don't want to make any promises but that is something we could see this spring as well.

I know everyone wants to talk about bunkers, but Mark Milne has made it clear that until Hyannis Golf is free from the debt service (we're talking most likely Fiscal 2026); he is not comfortable with us spending down our reserve fund that much.

I am thrilled to report that the bulk of the Eversource project is just about over. For the fourth week in a row I'm being told that the range at Hyannis will be back open sometime this week, but this time for some reason feels different – I actually believe it. Projects still remaining are the restoration and reseeded of all disturbed areas adjacent the parking lot, and actually some maintenance to the islands in the parking lot.

Mark Bushway suggested adding more signage and curbing may help with the new cart paths.

Bill Sylva asked about the walk from hole 8 to 9 and if that is a priority

Susanne – eroded areas definitely need to be addressed, no on ropes

Keith congratulated Jesse on the new hire and asked about the reserve balance.

DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE REPORT – Jesse Schechtman

Golf Course clean-up happening at both courses. I trust you'll agree that they look awesome (that's me saying that, Chris would never in a million years admit they look great).

Childs Tree Company removed most widow makers from Olde Barnstable. At least another day's work is needed between the two courses but we are going to wait for the ground to freeze before bringing that heavy equipment back out there.

Final greens spray was completed. An anti-desiccant sprayed on the greens to help the turf survive the winter. It's basically a spray that forms a protective waxy coating that helps prevent water loss.

Top dressed the greens at both courses today and this will also help in protecting the greens over the winter.

Staff is taking much needed vacation time and will get ready to attack the damaged and downed trees from the storm. This work will start in January.

MOTION TO ADJOURN duly made BY Bill Sylva SECONDED by John Cookson

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Adjourn; 6:12 pm
Respectfully submitted
Wayne R. Malcolm

Public files are available for viewing during normal business hours

** Further detail may be obtained by viewing the video via Channel 18 on demand or at
<http://www.townofbarnstable.us/GolfCommittee> **