



# 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 September 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 Meeting Called to order; 3:00pm Minutes; Draft

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, SUSAN SHANLEY, CHRIS GONNELLA,  
MATTHEW LEVESQUE

### Public Comments; NONE

### Act on Minutes from the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting

Motion duly made by Susanne Conley to approve the minutes of the August 8<sup>th</sup> Golf Committee meeting seconded by John Cookson.

Roll Call Vote; ALL VOTE YES

### Director of Golf Maintenance Report – James Bentley

Reseeding/loaming of Hyannis cart path areas continues where we did not get good germination. Early fall is the best time for this weather wise.

We will be installing split rail fence in several locations to protect seedlings and encourage golfers to keep carts on the paths.

New sod on #12 fairway at Hyannis is open for play.

Much needed aeration of tee boxes at OBF taking place Wednesday.

Seasonal staff remains an issue for both courses, which is why we haven't completed some of the projects we wanted to get to (Stripping/resodding of tees @ Hyannis, new forward tee #5, fence installs, etc.) Once the grass slows down a bit we can get these done.

Audubon project still ongoing, started submitting our courses plan in various categories for the review process. Wildlife/Habitat management, water quality, reduced chemical use, etc.

## **Director of Golf Report- Jesse Schechtman**

We have finally been made whole with the cart fleet. That's a huge relief for the maintenance crew specifically, as they now have all the utility carts they need. So now we're basically all set through the 2027 season, nice to be able to cross that off the list.

One of our vendors is in the process of producing some weatherproof decals that will be placed in the lower left corner of every cart windshield. (Samples provided)

August revenue came in just barely under budget. Obviously, we had a ton of rain, so considering that I'm not really surprised or concerned about coming up just short of the forecast. Through the first two months of the fiscal year we're about \$50K ahead of budget, granted it's obviously way too early to put any real stock into that number. A couple rainy weekends could wipe that away real fast. Also, I know I'm claiming \$50K ahead of forecast while the report you all got says \$34K, but I'm factoring in the interest we receive on our reserve balance, which always lags six to eight weeks behind. Once we find out the amounts for July and August, we'll add them back in and that should bring that \$34K up to around \$50K. This is an example of how MUNIS is not great for real time analysis, as it's always lagging, sometimes substantially as in this case.

The FY25 budget calendar came out a couple weeks ago; it's basically a list of deadlines. As far as we're concerned right now, the notable one is the 2024 calendar year rate & fee proposal. It seems like every year these deadlines move earlier and earlier, and this year is no exception. Our proposal is due by October 16<sup>th</sup>, meaning the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our one and only opportunity to discuss as a group. I'll spend the next few weeks reaching out to my fellow Cape golf directors to see what everyone else is thinking, and during the October meeting I'll share those findings with you and we can have a "robust" discussion on rates for 2024. I'm asked to submit my revenue projections five months prior to deciding on what our prices will be – that's the rub of having a fiscal year budget but calendar year fees.

I'm sure everyone is familiar with our annual early signup program. Typically starting October 1<sup>st</sup>, someone can purchase their pass for the following season, and get access from the time of purchase until April 1<sup>st</sup> essentially for free. It's a substantial revenue creator, and it's important to keep it. Having said that, I feel that we should delay the start of the program until at least after greens aeration. Obviously with as busy as the courses have been, member access has been an issue. I really don't want to compound that during arguably the best month to play golf on Cape Cod by adding 100+ new members that are coming in with zero Chelsea points and will therefore going to have a huge advantage in terms of tee time access.

OBF is punching greens on Tuesday and Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, and Hyannis is the following week, Monday and Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. I'm leaning towards delaying the program until Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, but I'm open to hearing what everyone thinks. I'll take your feedback, talk to the staff, and decide very soon.

## **Clubhouse Renovation Discussion**

Keith Hochstein speaks about the committee's concern regarding the pace of the clubhouse renovation project.

We have lost numerous large groups due to not having an operational clubhouse.

Susanne and Keith both allude to concerns about Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds taking on increased wear and tear.

John Cookson asks if the Town's insurance policy covers lost revenue. Answer is no.

Chris Gonnella speaks to the complications involved in this project. Since we are renovating more than 30% worth of the building, everything needs to be brought up to code. That includes a fire suppression system, an elevator or lift, ADA compliant bathrooms, and some other smaller items. We are currently awaiting approval from our insurance company to proceed with contracting a company called Habeeb & Associates to develop mechanical drawings and take over project management.

Jason Aube speaks of concerns about who is overseeing the bidding process, as the committee was displeased with how the recent cart path project was administered. Chris says the DPW will work with Habeeb & Associates to work through the entire project, from the initial RFP through completion (assuming we get approval from our insurance company).

Keith speaks of the need for increased communication/updates regarding the status of the project, potentially in the form of Chris's presence at future meetings.

Jason asks what the Town is doing to put pressure on the entities involved to get this moving.

Matthew Levesque thanks the members of the committee for their enthusiasm, time and effort put forth. He speaks of the importance of providing clear information to diffuse the path of misinformation.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN duly made BY Mark Bushway SECONDED by Bill Sylva.**

Roll Call Vote: All in favor

Adjourn; 4:16 pm

Respectfully submitted

Susan Shanley

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> \*\*