

MINUTES

Beaver Meadow Golf Advisory Committee Meeting April 13, 2023

In Attendance: Jennifer Kretovic (Acting Chair), Nathan Fennessy, Bob Whatmough, Mark Coen, Gary Darby, Dick Holden, Roger Jobin, Linda Mattlage, Ruthann Bradley, Bob Norton, Fran Hunt, Phil Davis, Pat Lanman, and Brian LeBrun.

Excused: Chris Mulleavey and Corey Schofield.

- 1) **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2023 meeting. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote.
- 2) **Update on “A Pathway to Golf at Beaver Meadow”:** Phil Davis noted that Beaver Meadow received grant funding for this program last year, but was unable to get it up and running. Everything is lined up for the program to run this year during April school vacation and the results have been resounding. The goal was to get 30 kids to participate and we have 60 kids, under the age of 13, signed up. Of the 60 kids, 15-20 have no equipment and have never played golf before.

Mark Coen asked how the course is promoting this program, to which Phil responded that the City’s Public Information Officer has posted information on social media and in the City Manager’s weekly newsletter. Phil noted that Beaver Meadow did an e-mail blast as well. Mark suggested inviting the Concord Monitor to come to one of the program days, as it would be a very positive story for the golf course.

Linda Mattlage noted that these kids are probably going to want to continue to play golf after the program ends, and suggested the course have some ways to follow-up with these kids and help them to continue playing golf, whether it be finding an adult to accompany them, or continuing to lend them equipment, etc. Phil said he would look into some follow-up ideas.

3) **Pro Shop Operations:**

- Total memberships by the end of April are up considerably over the past three years. Currently, the course has 227 memberships, up from 186 at this time last year, and that number is expected to grow as we go into May and June. Phil noted that about a third of the course’s revenue is from memberships.
- As far as revenue goes, since the course has only been open for one day at the time of this meeting, we are a little behind last year. However, we beat all past opening days by \$16,000 yesterday, with 212 rounds played.
- All leagues are very busy and very full. The Tuesday night Twilight League had to be expanded with 120 players.
- Phil and Josh are organizing their schedules for lessons. It’s going to be very busy. Lessons will be offered on a first come, first serve basis; and will be pay as you go. The course will not be offering 3 or 5 lesson packages in order to accommodate the large amount of people who want lessons. Phil noted that the course will be offering more “Get Golf Ready” programs.
- The Pro Shop is fully staffed, with 95% of staff returning from last year.

4) **Course Update:**

- Pat indicated that the tree project is continuing to progress.
- There was very little winter damage to the course.
- Greens and tees have been mowed a couple of times and the irrigation system is up and running.

5) **New Business:**

- Jennifer Kretovic had to leave, but asked Nathan Fennessy to take over and provide an update from the April 1, 2023 Public Forum regarding the new clubhouse. Nathan indicated that there was an excellent turnout, with approximately 80-90 people in attendance. We received a lot of input and ideas – generally positive. There were some concerns expressed about costs and transportation. H.L. Turner is organizing the results and will present them at the next Ad-Hoc Beaver Meadow Building Committee meeting on May 10, 2023. Phil noted that golfers will begin to see surveyors coming around. Another public forum will be held down the road.

Mark Coen suggested that we put up some signage at the course which indicates that we are in the process of designing a new clubhouse and which shows a depiction of the new clubhouse.

6) **5 Minutes of Public Input:**

- Charles Randall, BMGC Member, indicated that he was at the public forum on April 1, and agreed that it seemed positive. He would like to see the committee look at the new clubhouse as more than just a golf destination, and look at the possibilities of making it more of a community center.
- Stacey Brown indicated that taxpayers are concerned with the costs involved in the new clubhouse project. She suggested the course consider having a “Members Day”, where members can volunteer to come and pitch in with projects like painting, planting flowers, etc. She also suggested that, if we put signage up, perhaps we put a QR code on the sign which can bring people to an app where they can donate towards the project if they wish.
- Tim Robson, of the Concord Green Space Coalition, indicated he would like to see a good facility built, but he is trying to understand the financing and is concerned about costs.

In response to the public input, Nathan Fennessy responded that, at this point in time, it is premature to know what the cost is going to be. Right now, we are working on coming up with a vision. He noted that City Council approved the funding for design work in its FY 2023 budget. At some point, the Design Team will provide suggestions for a design, as well as cost estimates. At such time, it will be presented to City Council and they will determine whether they want to go forward with all of it, some of it, or none of it. There will be public hearings as well for the public to weigh in.

Mark Coen noted that there is potential for revenue from the new clubhouse to offset some of the debt service costs.

- #### 7) **Adjournment:** A motion was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned with a unanimous voice vote.