



Minutes: Golf Course Advisory Committee

February 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Middle Smithfield Township Golf Course Advisory Committee was held on February 13, 2023 at 8:30 AM with Craig Wetherbee presiding and with Chris Rain as recording secretary.

Committee Members: Craig Wetherbee, Paul Suhrie, John Pinto, Mike Yesunas
Township Staff: Township Supervisor Mark Oney, Pro Shop Manager Todd

Brown, Maintenance Superintendent Bill Parr, Committee Liaison Chris Rain.

Meeting called to order at 8:31 am by Craig Wetherbee.

Agenda

- One error on the agenda was corrected. “Kevin Dixon” was changed to “Todd Brown” for item 7.
- A motion to accept the agenda as amended for the meeting was made by Craig Wetherbee, seconded by Mike Yesunas. Motion passed 4-0

Committee Reorganization

- Craig Wetherbee was appointed chairperson of the committee by the Board of Supervisors at their reorganization meeting on January 3, 2023.
- Craig Wetherbee motioned to appoint Paul Suhrie as vice chair and John Pinto as secretary for 2023. Mike Yesunas seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Minutes

- A motion to accept the minutes from the December 2022 meeting was made by Craig Wetherbee, seconded by John Pinto. Motion passed 4-0.

Whispering Pines—Holly Dennis

- Holly Dennis was not present. Chris Rain provided her regular report to the committee.

Grounds—Bill Parr

- Bill Parr reported that they are working on their equipment.
- Bill Parr asked when seasonals could return. Mark Oney replied that since the winter has been so mild, they could return around March 1 to help with work on the course and at the clubhouse.

Pro Shop—Todd Brown

- Todd Brown stated that he would like to open 2/15 to 2/17 due to a mild forecast. Bill Parr agreed that they could do it. Mark Oney approved of the idea. Todd Brown will provide details to Chris Rain to advertise that we are open.
- Todd Brown reported that the Valor tournament was scheduled for 6/17. He could go either way on combining this with the Ray White Tournament or having separate events. Craig Wetherbee stated that he felt it made sense to combine them again.
- We lost the Mady's Angels tournament to Shawnee this year. Laura Law wanted to try Shawnee for one year as the caterer at Foodtown has retired and Shawnee provides food in-house. They may be back in 2024 if they raise less money.
- Todd Brown reported that ESYA is still planning their tournament and that he is in talks with a new tournament. He is also in talks with someone to start a teachers league.

Financials—Bonnie Winters

- Bonnie Winters was not present.
- Mark Oney reported that the winter has been inexpensive so far.

Marketing – Chris Rain

- Chris Rain had no report on marketing.

Old Business:

- Mark Oney reported that the Township is preparing for bids on the sale of the golf course to go out in March and opening of received bids in June. If there is no qualified buyer, they will conduct a second bid round. If there is still no qualified bidder, the township is able to sell the course as a normal piece of real estate.
- John Pinto asked what was happening with the golf simulator idea. Todd Brown stated that renting it was too expensive, so we were not moving forward with it at this time.

New business:

- Opening day is Friday March 31, weather permitting.
- Todd Brown recommends raising the weekend rates, adding Friday as a weekend day, and reducing Tuesday to \$25. He and Mark Oney will discuss with the other supervisors further. They will also discuss whether to change new memberships to exclude carts.
- Catering options for tournaments was discussed. Todd Brown reported that he has a number of good options and we always give tournaments the option to arrange their own catering or have the township arrange it for them.
- Renting space to food trucks along the course was discussed as a way to provide food to golfers and bring in extra revenue. Selling sandwiches to golfers off of the beverage cart was also discussed.

- Mark Oney stated that we need to review our alcohol prices as they are very low compared to other courses. Craig Wetherbee asked whether new rates could be available to the committee at the March meeting. Todd Brown stated he would research prices at other courses and have recommendations by March.
- Paul Suhrie asked whether we were still doing Friday night scrambles. Todd Brown said yes, but another program at Great Bear on Fridays was drawing players away. Options for providing food at the scramble to better compete were discussed.

Public Comment:

- None

Meeting Adjourned

- Paul Suhrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25am, seconded by John Pinto. Craig Wetherbee left the meeting at 9:16 and did not participate in the adjournment vote. Motion passed 3-0.

The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2023 at 8:30 am at the Middle Smithfield Township Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Rain
Recording Secretary