

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Aug. 13, 2014 6:45PM**

**Unicorn Golf Club House.**

**Attendees:** Stephen Mc Donough, Steven Sylvester, Dennis Visconti, Bill Previdi, Joanne St. Pierre, John Bracciotti, T. DiBlasi

Absent members: R. Sweeney, Jim Sarno

Guest: Carl Macchio, Unicorn Pro/ Manager and his attorney Stephen Columbus

1. S. Mc Donough asked how the greens fees were tracked and the cash handled. Mr. Macchio gave a description, saying the fees were reported weekly to the Town, and the cash was deposited nightly into an account at the Eastern Bank.
2. S. Mc Donough also asked about CC use, and Mr Columbus responded that Mr. Macchio is not required to encourage CC use, but that he does accept Visa and MC.
3. S. Sylvester asked about the type of CC machine that was being used. Mr. Macchio said that a swipe type card reader with a printed receipt was being used.
4. J. Bracciotti stated that he continues hear complaints that CC payment is not always accepted. Mr. Macchio said that all his cash register staff is now trained to accept CC's.
5. J. St. Peirre suggested that the Course have a printed brochure made up. She volunteered to create one for Unicorn.
6. T. DiBlasi stated that Unicorn was run better when the Unicorn Committee was fully in charge of hiring the Pro and oversight of the golf course management, and that the course has deteriorated both physically and financially since the Town took over those responsibilities. She further stated that the Town needs to spend money on advertisement if they expect to attract more golfers and more revenue.
7. A member of the public in the audience said that money could be raised by selling ads on the Tee Stone markers and on the golf carts.
8. D. Visconti asked Mr. Marcchio to respond to some of the negative comments on Yelp. Mr. Macchio responded that some of the comments were from people who did not understand golf and were off the mark. Mr. Columbus added that there were only a few negative comments on Yelp out of the thousands of golfers who play here each year.
9. B. Previdi said that that he was concerned about the 50% decrease in golf revenues ( from over \$900K/yr. to around \$400K/yr.) since Mr. Macchio began management of the course about 13 years ago despite the fact that the greens fees have increased a couple times since then.
10. Several members of the public as well as TA Ragucci who was in attendance added comments to the discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

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The next meeting of the Open Space & Rec. Comm. Is scheduled for 9/26/14 6:30PM Town Hall.

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Submitted by Bill Previdi

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