

Val Halla Board of Trustees

Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. to 7:55 p.m.

Town Hall – Council Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Present: Bill Putnam, Steve Sloan, Tim Moody, Norene Ward, Rick Scott and John Zappia

Absent: Frank Sola

Others Present: Brian Bickford, Golf Pro, Toby Young, Golf Course Superintendent, Alex Kendall, Finance Director, Bill Shane, Town Manager, Bill Stiles, Council Liaison Bert Kendall and Cynthia Stennett.

I. Welcome & Introduction of Guests –Norene Ward called the meeting to order at 6:02 and welcomed and thanked everyone for coming as well as introducing Rick Scott, the newest Board Member, to the group.

II. Public Comment – None

III. Val Halla Golf Association –In Mark Sundermann’s absence, there was no Val Halla Golf Association report.

IV. Green’s Committee Report – In the absence of any members of the Greens Committee, there was no Green’s Committee Report.

V. Election of Officers – Chair & Vice-Chair – Bill Putnam stated that even though there was nothing in the Bylaws that addressed election of officers that he felt it was a good idea to have the opportunity for interested individuals to step up. Tim Moody made a motion for Steve Sloan to serve as Committee Chair and it was seconded by Bill Putnam. Steve Sloan made a motion to nominate Tim Moody to serve as Vice Chair and the motion was seconded by Bill Putnam.

VOTE: BOTH MOTIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. Approval of January 13, 2010 Minutes – Bill Putnam asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the January 13, 2010 minutes in their packets. Seeing that there were no corrections, additions or deletions, a motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Steve Sloan and seconded by Tim Moody.

VOTE: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. Review of Revenue Reports – Alex stated that December had both expected and unexpected issues and brought the Board’s attention to the line item under Clubhouse

Expenses, Banquet Rentals, and stated that figure was attributable to the fact that the MSGA was playing “catch up” for rentals for events. The unexpected number was that the wages for Frank Smith had been going into Public Works by accident beginning at some point during the summer and that it had now been corrected. Because of this fact, however, there was a significant jump in Full Time Wages for Course expenses. Alex stated that even with this correction, the budget was still on track. He apologized for the error and stated that they were still on track for the year.

Alex reported that we had lost a little ground in December and stated that December had come in at about \$15,000 worse than December of the prior year, which was directly the result of Frank’s wages being posted into the wrong account, but has since been corrected.

VIII. New Business:

- a. Tennis Courts - Bert Kendall** –Bert indicated that he had engaged in further discussions with Bill Landis regarding the proposed 5th tennis court. He stated that in view of the concerns regarding utilities, he thought it might be a good idea to go with Option 2 as shown on the diagram, which was enclosed in the Board packets.

He addressed the concerns expressed about safety and stated that in all the time he had been coaching he had never had a ball from the back 9th come into the tennis area or parking area. Bert stated again how well constructed the courts were. Tim asked about environmental concerns and Bill Shane stated that environmental issues could possibly add to the cost of the project and stated that he felt it would require quite a bit of fill to get the court to the right level.

Steve went around the table and asked each Board member if they had any comments, concerns or questions that they would like to present for discussion. John asked why “we are doing it?” and Bert responded that it would allow for the teams to play their matches and get through the matches much earlier. John stated that he felt there was not enough reason to go forward with the project. Rick stated that since he was so new to the topic he just wanted to get a sense of the situation and had no comment at this time. Bill Stiles expressed concerns and stated that if this were to go forward he recommended that some type of a fence be installed on the fairway side for protection for the people on the courts. Norene stated that she felt that the courts were really for community recreation and not for high school competitive tennis. She also asked if these events were spectator events and Bert indicated that they were and she expressed concern that the true cost might be much more than expected and questioned whether or not they might actually find that they want additional courts in the future. Bert indicated that he thought the course could be built for \$50,000. Bill Putnam stated that although he takes the

“recreation” part of Val Halla seriously, he did not feel that the project was a good “fit”. Brian stated that he has watched the tennis courts being used over the years and that he has always looked at that space “with a lot of envy”. He stated that he did not feel that Option 2 would affect the golf course that much and that he didn’t really have a problem with it, but he agreed that it would be better suited to be at the high school. Tim stated that he felt the handout was helpful in understanding where the proposed court would be situated. Toby stated that he had no opinion and was fine with whatever the Board decides. He did, however, express some concern about getting around the courts and golf course. Bill Shane stated that he felt Option 2 was the better option and thought that tiering the court would be more desirable. Norene asked again if he should look at a possible high school location. Steve stated that he felt that Option 2 was the better option and expressed concern about actual cost. He also indicated that he felt that relocating the courts to either the high school or junior high was the better choice.

Bill Shane stated that the proposed site was a piece of town property and that he would want to see something that fit in well as a lot of money had been invested in the golf course. He stated that insofar as help was concerned, the town could supply materials, but could not supply manpower. Brian stated that he would like to see the Board discuss the possibility of a new putting green at Val Halla. Bill Shane stated that he felt the next step would be for Bert to go before the Town Council and make a presentation about building another tennis court at Val Halla and promoting Option 2.

Bill Stiles asked if any action was going to be taken on this proposal and Steve indicated that Bert had the option of going to the Town Council. Bill Stiles stated that he would prefer something insofar as whether or not the Board supports the proposal or not to take to the Council. A vote was held and came in as follows:

VOTE: 1 YES - 4 NO

b. Business Reports:

I. Department Reports:

1. Brian Bickford – Pro Shop

Brian informed the Board that he had received an e-mail from Becky Allen, Frank Sola’s sister-in-law, stating that Frank is in the hospital at Maine Medical in serious condition. He stated that he has asked for Frank’s room number and Alex asked that it be sent on to Alex and Cindy as well.

Brian reviewed an e-mail server/polling service, “Constant Contact”, whom the Town uses for their newsletter and highlighted some of the features that he liked best with the program. He also stated that he had uploaded 624 e-mail/contacts, which can be managed by this program, and explained that the cost for this service is \$20 a month. He passed out a handout he had prepared for the Board’s review and the types of information that can be provided, including coupons. The Board members stated that they were really impressed with the newsletter that Brian had prepared using this program.

Brian brought up the issue of revenue shortfall and he asked if anyone had any thoughts in regard to fee increases, discussion around membership, rate specials, tee times, outings, etc. Bill Putnam stated that he had given a lot of thought to the “red zone” times and will prepare a handout for discussion at next month’s meeting.

Brian reported that Mark Fogg has been fired at Dunegrass and Sam Marzinelle from Cape Arundel has been hired. He also reported that Dick Harris, at Falmouth Country Club, will be lowering the annual dues to \$1,800.

2. **Toby Young - Course**

Toby reported that the only thing he had to report was that Storey Bros. had come back in and finished doing the pond clean-up on old #18 and stated that it looks amazing. They will start doing the new #9 and #18 tomorrow and hope to be done by Friday. Tim asked about keeping the reeds down and Toby reported they are cut once the pond freezes. Bill Shane stated that it is a Stormwater Retention Pond and it is in place to trap the sediment that comes from all the upstream neighborhoods and is filtered out as part of the Stormwater Control System and Pollution Control System on the golf course.

Steve asked about snowmobile traffic and if they were creating problems and Toby reported no more concerns than normal.

- b. Other New Business** – Alex handed out the Val Halla Budget Summary to the Board and stated that he will need the Board’s approval on next year’s budget at the next meeting so that it can be forwarded to the Council. He explained that the handout was only a draft of what was currently being worked on and only included expenses. He asked if the Board could look it over and indicated that a more detailed version would be sent out either via e-mail or regular mail. He stated that they have to fill in an \$11,500 hole to

bring in additional revenues.

Bill Shane reported that Charlie Sparrow came to the last Town Council meeting to renew all his applications except for the cart license. Bill reported that the Town will be moving forward and renew the cart license.

c. Old Business – None

d. Adjournment, next meeting, Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall in the Council Chambers.

There was a motion made by Bill Putnam and seconded by Norene Ward to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

VOTE: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Stennett
Recording Secretary