Meeting Minutes

Town of East Haddam
Black Birch Golf Course Feasibility Study Committee
Special Meeting

Date: May 28, 2026
Location: Municipal Office Complex, Meeting Room #2

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, & Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alan Ponanski at 5:30 PM in Meeting Room #2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Committee Members Present:
Alan Ponanski, Mike Morris, Jeff Miller, Jef Wolter.

Additional Attendees:
Tom Baptist, Retired Director of Public Works, City of Hartford

2. Approval of Agenda

The Meeting Agenda prepared by Chairman Ponanski was reviewed by the Committee and a motion to approve was made by Wolter, second by Miller and approved unanimously.

3. Old Business

None.

4. Public Comment

No members of the public were present for comment.

5. New Business

Chairman Ponanski reported that he has been unsuccessful so far in connecting with Black Birch owner Anthony Longhitano to schedule either a meeting, video conference, or call. He will try again and report on progress at the June 2nd meeting. The Committee has three more weekly meetings prior to issuing its report.

Secretary Miller reported that Alex Goodman, Director of Business Development for Kemper Golf, manager of the Lake of Isles courses, had to cancel his tour of Black Birch with us due to an urgent business trip. Miller will try to reschedule with him the week of June 8th.

6. Executive Session

The Committee went into Executive Session at 5:45 pm on a motion by Miller, second by Miller, and a unanimous vote. The purpose was to discuss confidential financial information, cost estimates, asking prices, property valuations, and details of contractual relationships with Tom Baptist, who as head of Public Works for the City of Hartford formed a City Golf Commission and led the successful renovation of the Keney Park and Goodwin Park golf courses.

Chairman Ponanski returned to Regular Session at 7:05 pm stating that no motions or decisions were made while in Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm on a motion by Wolter, second by Miller, and a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Miller
Secretary, Black Birch Golf Course Feasibility Study Committee