Meeting Minutes

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

Date: June 9, 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 7:00 PM in Meeting Room #2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Committee Members Present:
Alan Ponanski (Chair), Mike Morris, Jef Wolter, Donald Lorusso, Steve Longobardi, Jeff Miller (Secretary).

Members Absent:
Dan Zimmerman (present for the 4:30 pm Black Birch tour, but not the 7:00 pm meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Old Business

None.

4. Public Comment

No members of the public were present for comment.

5. New Business

The Committee arranged a 4:30 pm tour on June 9 with two representatives of Kemper Sports, a national owner/manager of golf courses, both public and private. The meeting was with Ryan Phelps, Senior Vice President, and Steve Howard, Senior Regional Sales and Marketing Director. Both work out of offices in Connecticut, but are attached to Kemper's

Northbrook, IL headquarters. The Committee discussed the potential restoration and operations of Black Birch with the guests and the tour ended just before the Special Meeting at 7:00 pm.

6. Executive Session

The Committee went into Executive Session at 7:05 pm on a motion by Miller, second by Longobardi, and a unanimous vote. The purpose was to discuss the tour of Black Birch that afternoon with the Kemper Sports representatives and a potential in-person meeting with Black Birch owners Anthony Longhitano. The discussion included confidential financial information, cost estimates, asking prices, property valuations, and details of contractual relationships.

Chairman Ponanski returned to Regular Session at 8:50 pm stating that no motions or decisions were made while in Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm on a motion by Wolter, second by Morris, and a unanimous vote.

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