



New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association

PO Box 2691 • Concord, NH 03302 • 484-467-6466 • www.NHGCsa.com • info@nhgcsa.com

The NHGCSA Scholarship Awards — Winter School Program Application —

Section 1 – Personal Information

Name Ronan McGonigle Date 10/23/2025
Permanent Address 13 Rockingham St
City / State / Zip Concord / NH / 03301
Phone (603) 892-8866 E-Mail Address ronan.s.mcgonigle@gmail.com

Section 2 – Employment History

Please list your work history for the last 5 years, current employer at the top.

Name of Employer:	Dates Employed:	Responsibilities Included:
Beaver Meadow GC: Pat Ianman	May 23' - Current	Seasonal Maintenance Worker (summer)
Superior Engineering: Scott McGonigle	Jan 23' - Current	Marketing Specialist
Concord Craft Brewing: Dennis Molnar	July 20' - Dec 22'	Bartender / Kitchen manager

Section 3 – Educational Background

List in chronological order high schools attended, then colleges. *It is very important that this information is complete.*

Name & Location of Institution:	Dates Attended:	Date of Graduation:
Concord High School	Aug 16' - Jun 20'	June 2020
NHTI (Concord)	Aug 20' - Jun 21'	N/A
Greenville Technical College (SC)	Jan 23' - Dec 25'	December 2025

Please list any turf related continuing education classes attended in the last two years. This includes but is not limited to pesticide recertification classes, turf shows, association sponsored meetings or events.

Name & Location of Institution:	Dates Attended:
N/A	N/A

Section 4 – Other Pertinent Information

Do you currently have a NH Pesticide License? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Which Winter School program are you applying to? UMass Amherst

Have you been accepted for the upcoming winter school session? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Section 5 - Essay

Attach a typewritten essay (no less than 1000 words) detailing your career plans in the turf industry, what you hope to learn at Winter School, how you plan to utilize what you learn in your current position, and why you feel you are a deserving candidate.

Section 6 – Recommendation

Please attach 2 letters of recommendation, one needs to be from your current Superintendent/Turf Care Manager, and one from a personal acquaintance outside the turf industry, who is willing to vouch for your dedication, work ethic, and personality.

Certification

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Brenan McGonigle
Applicant's Signature

10/23/2025
Date

Ronan McGonigle
Winter School Application Essay

Dear Members of the NHGCSA,

When I graduated high school in 2020, during the height of the COVID pandemic, I wasn't entirely sure what I wanted to do. I chose to attend NHTI instead of a university and started in criminal justice, but I quickly realized it wasn't for me. Instead, I did what most people my age do in that situation and pursued a business degree. It wasn't until that first summer, when I was looking for a job between semesters, that I considered working in the golf and turf industry. What started as a summer job quickly turned into something I genuinely enjoy and want to build a career around. One of the things that drew me to turf work is that while the tasks can seem repetitive, no two days ever feel the same. You might be mowing, watering, or raking bunkers, but the conditions are constantly changing. Weather plays a huge role, and a lot of the job involves reacting to things you can't control. That can be frustrating at times, but it also keeps the work interesting. Even on difficult days, there's a sense of satisfaction that comes from seeing the course improve and hearing golfers compliment the conditions.

I started working at Beaver Meadow in the 2023 season, and that is where I really began to see turf management as a long-term career option. Over the past three seasons, I have gained hands-on experience with many aspects of golf course maintenance. In the beginning, it was the tasks you would expect of a new seasonal laborer: raking bunkers, mowing tees and greens, and weed whacking. This is where my interest in the golf industry began. I am not the kind of person who could sit at a desk for a 9-5, and I enjoyed moving around with the different jobs I was given. The last 2 seasons, I was shown the more technical side of turf management, including taking moisture readings, hand watering, irrigation repairs, seeding and fertilization, and aeration. These tasks are why I chose to pursue a career. I have been playing golf my whole life and realized how much goes into taking care of the course, and specifically, how some of these things would only be noticed if there were an issue.

While I have learned a lot through my experiences, I know that I am still just scratching the surface of what there is to know about turf management. Most of my current understanding of turf pathology, weed management, irrigation strategies, and overall turf health has come from asking my superintendent questions and learning on the job. That experience has been extremely valuable. My goal is to develop a stronger foundation to better understand why decisions are made and ultimately to make those decisions myself.

This is why attending the UMass Winter School for Turfgrass Managers is so important to me. I see the Winter School as a way to connect the work I do every day with the science behind it. I want to learn more about turf biology, disease identification and prevention, soil and fertility management, and proper irrigation practices. Having this knowledge will help me become more confident in my role and allow me to contribute more effectively to the maintenance operation at Beaver Meadow and beyond.

I plan to use what I learn at Winter School directly in my current position. With a better understanding of turf science, I will be able to help identify issues earlier, make better decisions, and support my superintendent and coworkers more effectively. Looking ahead, my career goals are still taking shape, but my current plan is to continue working at Beaver Meadow while pursuing further education in turf management, including a four-year degree. Beaver Meadow is not only where I started working in turf, but also where I learned the game of golf, and it has played a big role in shaping my interest in the industry. I see the UMass Winter School as a foundation of knowledge and an important stepping stone toward a long-term career in turf management.

I believe I am a deserving candidate for this scholarship because I have shown dedication, reliability, and a genuine desire to learn and improve. I take pride in my work, I ask questions, and I am committed to continuing my education in the turf industry. This scholarship would help me take a significant step forward in my career, and I am confident that I would make the most of the opportunity.]

Sincerely,

Ronan McGonigle



Ronan McGonigle <ronan.s.mcgonigle@gmail.com>

The 2026 UMass Winter School for Turf Managers – Application Decision

1 message

UMass Turf Winter School <winterschool@umass.edu>

Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 2:59 PM

To: "ronan.s.mcgonigle@gmail.com" <ronan.s.mcgonigle@gmail.com>

Hello Ronan,

Based on your application, we are very pleased to offer you a seat for the 2026 UMass Winter School for Turf Managers. Congratulations!

Please refer our [acceptance webpage](#) and **carefully follow the instructions in the gray box** in order to secure your seat.

Your acceptance confirmation code (which you will need for payment) is: [REDACTED]

Note: If this is not the main email address to be used for communications and enrollment for our online platform, please let us know ASAP. Please choose an address where we can most readily reach you.

Don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any concerns or difficulties with this process.

Best regards,

The UMass Turf Winter School Team

December 27, 2025

To whom it may concern:

I wish to enthusiastically recommend Ronan McGonigle to you for a scholarship to pursue his sincere interest in educational and, ultimately, professional opportunities in the turf industry. In fact, if he hadn't asked me to write this recommendation, I would have insisted on writing one for him because I believe that strongly in his dedication, work ethic, and personality.

I am a Shareholder at the law firm of Shaheen & Gordon and formerly long served as a member of its management committee, which I mention only because it required that I observe and evaluate precisely those qualities in my professional life that I wish to convey about Ronan. He is engaging and engaged, fun and funny, loyal to his friends and family, and exceptionally hard-working.

A few examples come to mind. In his senior football season at Concord High, the starting quarterback of the team suffered a serious injury that kept him from the season. Ronan was rostered to play linebacker and fullback, positions where he traditionally flourished. With no other viable options and because Ronan knew the playbook better than anyone, he stepped in and stepped up, volunteering to quarterback the team though it wasn't his natural position to play. In a year where the protection in front of him was flimsy, Ronan absorbed blow after blow, while surging in his new role to lead his team through thick and thin. His willingness to volunteer, his determination to succeed against difficult odds, and the loyalty he showed to those that played side by side with him impressed me then as his work ethic does now.

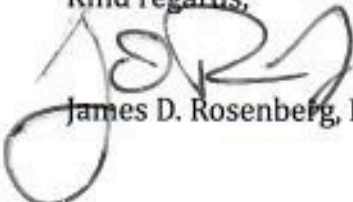
Ronan's dad passed away suddenly a few years ago while Ronan was still of tender years. Some might have curled up and thrown in the towel for a bit in response to such a tragedy. Not Ronan. He dusted himself off, connected with his uncle in South Carolina, worked there, earned an associate's degree in business management, and golfed a ton among friends and family. He surfaced a few years later, healthier, stronger, and with a sharper focus toward his wonderful future.

During Summers in between school years, he worked at Beaver Meadow Golf Course, a well-worn, but beloved municipal track in Concord, New Hampshire. He flourished in his role keeping the greens, tending to the fairways, and absorbing as much as he could about his future trade. Every year, his family hosts a charity golf tournament in his father's name at Beaver Meadow. I had the opportunity to play a round with Ronan ahead of that tournament and he glowed as he spoke about the work he'd put into preparing the course for an event he was so proud to help host.

These examples are easy to describe because they reflect Ronan's wonderful personality. He leans in to work he loves. He loves his friends and family hard. He is inspired not just by the game of golf, but by the courses upon which the game is played. There is no doubt in my mind that he is moving in the right direction, he will succeed in his field, and that he will make you proud should he earn this scholarship. He has made me proud with every step he has taken.

It is important to me to support Ronan to the fullest extent possible. If this recommendation leaves any questions or concerns, please contact me. My cell phone number is: (603) 387-6424.

Kind regards,



James D. Rosenberg, Esquire



Patrick Lanman
Director of Operations/Superintendent
Beaver Meadow Golf Course
1 Beaver Meadow Dr.
Concord NH 03301
planman@concordnh.gov
(603)344-3420

NHGCSA Board of Directors
PO Box 2691
Concord NH 03302

Esteemed Members of the Board,

I write to you today on behalf of Ronan McGonigle and his application to be awarded a scholarship from the New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association for the 2026 University of Massachusetts Winter School for Turfgrass Managers. As an employee of Beaver Meadow's grounds staff for the past three seasons Ronan has exhibited all the characteristics both personally and professionally to make him an ideal candidate for the NHGCSA Scholarship Program. He is a dedicated and valued member of our team who shows up everyday ready to work and with a desire to learn as much as he can about turfgrass maintenance. Ronan has an innate curiosity and a desire to not only know how to do the work but why we are doing it.

Ronan began with us in May of the 2023 season. He began as most do with routine grounds tasks such as raking bunkers, weed whacking, and push mowing. His work ethic and quality of work done immediately became apparent and he quickly moved to jobs requiring more skill such as mowing greens, changing cups and tee aeration. In his first season his leadership qualities emerged as well. We did an extensive bunker edging project in the 2023 season and Ronan became the crew leader. I would discuss which bunkers we would be edging and outlining where they were to be edged to. He showed a keen eye for the aesthetic we were looking for and not only led the work but was able to assist in laying out and reshaping the bunkers. It was also in this first season he began to show an interest in the turfgrass itself and what the processes are to maintain it at a high level. By the conclusion of his first season he was riding with me on wilt patrols, using the moisture meter, and learning how to interpret the numbers and make appropriate decisions on water. It was at the end of this season he first began to discuss pursuing formal education in turfgrass management.

In the past two seasons Ronan has continued to show his ability and desire to learn allowing him to take on more responsibility each year. He has become proficient and independent at reading moisture readings and making proper irrigation applications both by hand and utilizing the Lynx Smart App. Last season he was exposed to the Lynx Controller programs and how to set overnight irrigation. As a specific example, I needed to be off for a few days mid-season and it was Ronan that I trusted to interpret the day's conditions, meter data, and make any alterations to the program if needed while I was not on site. He has also begun to work on irrigation repairs and gaining an understanding of how the physical components of the system work. He was closely involved as crews were on site to install new irrigation on three holes and the practice green this past season, allowing him to understand how the system is laid out and how we would tie into the existing system until the next phase would be completed. As well Ronan took on renovation, seeding and fertilization of wear and tear spots in fairways and areas of high traffic. Through this he was able to gain an understanding of the seed blends we use, where we use them, and why we use them. All the while dependably completing daily tasks and being a positive example and leader to newer crew members.

In conclusion Ronan is a tremendous asset to Beaver Meadow and will be an asset to the turf industry as a whole, wherever his career takes him. He has thoughtfully considered the best path to pursue formal education in turfgrass and I feel the Umass Winter School is an excellent choice for him. It will benefit him in his career goals greatly and I am confident he will make the most out of the experience. Let this letter stand as my endorsement of Ronan as a young man of high character, strong work ethic, with an insatiable desire to learn and improve. I ask the Board to accept his application as Ronan is just the kind of person the industry and Association should be supporting in their turfgrass management journeys.

Sincerely,

Patrick Lanman

Director of Operations/Superintendent
Beaver Meadow Golf Course