

# NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom

**Meeting Call to order:** 8:03 p.m.

## **Board Attendance/Roll Call:**

### Present via Zoom:

Jim Filisky, President  
Kyle Deininger, Vice President (in 8:17)  
Chase Senk, VP of Equipment  
Mike Graham, VP of Fields (in and out due to connection issues)  
Jerry Lowery, Girls Travel Softball Commissioner (out 9:09)  
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications  
Cathy Loya, Secretary  
Chad Akins, Board Member  
Brian James, Board Member  
Brenda Kovi, Board Member  
Nick Lanese, Board Member  
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member  
Andy Piskula, Board Member  
Bobby Reville, Board Member  
Kenny Sanger, Board Member (out 9:24)  
Dustin Wadsworth, Board Member

### Absent:

Andy Papile, Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner  
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer  
Matt Bewley, Board Member  
Kevin Bilkie, Board Member

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## Agenda:

### I. Review of meeting minutes from January 4, 2023

Jim asked Board members if there were any questions, additions, subtractions, etc. to the minutes as presented. Hearing none, Jim made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2023, meeting. Motion first by Dave. Motion second by Brenda. The minutes were approved.

### II. President's Report

#### 1. Securing fields for 2023

##### a. Longwood Park

1. M-F – Two (2) hour rental fee is \$50 (practice and game)
2. Sat-Sun – Two (2) hour rental fee is \$95 (practice and game)

Dave indicated request forms for field use on Mondays and Thursdays have been submitted. The City of Macedonia will keep in touch with Dave upon review of the paperwork. Field rental fees from Macedonia were also discussed as above. Dave indicated fields would be lined for everything except for indicated practices. The lining is included in the fee as posted above. Dave also indicated a request form has been submitted to the City of Macedonia for use of Sugarbush Park Monday-Friday.

##### b. Sagamore Park (allocate in February)

Jim indicated that fields in Sagamore Hills have been secured.

1. Use of concession stand
2. Jim secured commercial grade refrigerator

- a. Trustees agreed to putting it in concession stand
- b. Volunteers needed to help move and get to concession stand

Jim indicated conversations with a Sagamore Hills Trustee and has gotten approval to put a commercial-sized refrigerator in the concession stand at Sagamore Park. The double-door, glass window refrigerator was donated to NHAA by the Northfield VFW Post 6768. Discussions were had about how to move this unit the least times possible with a pallet jack or even renting a U-Haul. A formal thank you letter will be sent on behalf of the NHAA.

- 3. Reservations made for both 2023 tournaments
  - a. Deposit request sent to Scott

Jim confirmed that fields have been secured for both the Girls Bash and Boys Bash. NHAA issues the deposit to Sagamore Park for both Bash tournaments, which does secure the fields as well as the pavilions. If there is any damage to the park, each individual tournament is held responsible. Jim gave a brief history of why this deposit is requested by Sagamore Hills.

- c. Northfield Village
  - 1. Paperwork completed
  - 2. Need to send check and payment to Northfield Village for fields

Jim indicated reaching out to Northfield Village for use of Magnolia Field as well as Smith Park. Jim will submit the completed paperwork and payment will need to be made in order to secure these fields for the season.

- d. Nordon school fields/St. Barnabas
  - 1. Jim has message into Nordon Schools to secure times and varsity fields

Jim indicated that fields at Nordon Schools have been secured. Jim is continuing to seek permission from St. Barnabas to use the field, and then also to solidify access to the NHS varsity fields for girls softball and Boys Colt league. Jim will follow up.

- 2. Jim seeking permission from schools to place registration signs on school property

Jim will seek permission from the Nordon Superintendent in order to place signage on school property to promote registration.

## 2. Umpires

- a. Information packet including W9 form

Dave inquired about the W9 form. Jim indicated, after talking with Scott, that all accounting matters have been taken care of at this time. A brief discussion was had on this topic.

- b. Wages
  - 1. \$80 - \$100 at the plate

Jim indicated a conversation with Dan Lingo stating that travel umpires for boys games will be \$80-\$100 per game at the plate.

- c. Training classes
  - 1. Need to secure class time

Jim indicated that Dan Lingo wishes to set up training class sessions. These sessions are traditionally held in March and April. Jim indicated that classrooms cannot be secured until a new insurance policy is issued. Promotion of these classes can be done now prior to securing dates and times. Umpires will be needed this year.

### 3. League Partnership for Pee Wee Reese

- a. Twinsburg
- b. Hudson
- c. Aurora
- d. Stow

Jim indicated being contacted by Hudson regarding partnering with area communities in the Pee Wee Reese league. This league has experienced low registration, and a community

partnership allows teams to play a wider variety of talent, as well as travel to different community fields to play. Jim indicated Hudson wishes to bring the following communities together for a community league: NHAA, Twinsburg, Hudson, Aurora, and Stow. Jim indicated that a similar community partnership has been done for a few years now with Sandy Koufax and Colt. Dave indicated, from a scheduling standpoint, that something needs to be done because of struggling registration. Scheduling should be fine and will just need to be worked out.

Jim also indicated that Hudson is offering to host an All-Star Game on Saturday, June 24 (same date as NHAA All-Star Day). Jim indicated each community would draft their All-Star team and send one (1) team to the All-Star Game. It would be a multiple-game All-Star day. Hudson has already secured the fields at Barlow Park and evening games will be under the lights. A brief discussion was had about this being only for the Pee Wee Reese league versus the Willie Mays league too. Dave did remind Board members scheduling gets more complicated with the more communities that are involved. Kyle indicated these community leagues can be very important during Fall Ball when registration is lower. A brief discussion was had on this topic as well.

### III. NHAA League Trustee Assignments

NHAA League Trustee assignments will take place at the next meeting.

#### 1. T-Ball (co-ed) (Kindergarten)

- a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Cathy (Back up: ~~Mare~~)
- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. Babe Ruth (Boys – Grades 1 and 2)

- a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Chase (Back up: x)
- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Willie Mays (Boys – Grades 3 and 4)

- a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Melinda (Back up: x)
- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Pee Wee Reese (Boys – Grades 5 and 6)

- a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Kenny (Back up: Mike)
- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. Sandy Koufax (Boys – Grades 7 and 8)

- a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Andy (Back up: x)
- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. Boys Colt (Boys – Grades 9-12)

- a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Bobby (Back up: x)
- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 7. Girls Manager Pitch (Girls – Grades 2 and 3)

NHAA reserves the right to place 1st grade girls in Girls TBall or Girls Manager Pitch division if registration does not support having a Girls Modified Managers Pitch league.

- a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Kevin (Back up: Jim)
- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Girls A League (Girls – Grades 4 and 5)

- a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Brenda (Back up: Julie)
- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Girls AA League (Girls – Grade 6, 7 and 8)

- a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Nikki (Back up: Kyle)
- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Girls AAA League (Girls – Grades 9-12)

AAA is open to those 19 years old by May 1.

- a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Nick (Back up: x)
- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Committee Reports

(Committee members names indicated below – Committee lead is marked with a star \*)

1. Finance Committee

(Scott \*, Kenny, Matt)

a. Treasurer/Chair Report

Scott was absent from this meeting, but submitted his report via email.

Current Balance: \$23,858.10

1. Current financial report

- a. Year to date
- b. Monthly financial report

2. Accounting matters with accountant

Scott indicated via email that follow up from last meeting has been resolved with NHAA accountant and affected individuals.

3. Open invoices

Scott indicated via email there are no open invoices to his knowledge.

4. Update on duplication in Quick Books

Scott indicated via email no update at this time. NHAA accountant will address this issue before filing 2022 tax returns.

5. Update on outstanding travel dues from one coach – two teams

Scott indicated via email all coaches have paid for the 2022 season.

6. Insurance renewal (due in March/April)

- a. New policy to begin 3/1/2023

Scott indicated via email a request for a quote has been sent to the NHAA insurance contact. This will need board approval once received.

7. Operating Budget for 2023 season

Scott indicated via email a budget similar to the 2022 budget plus 10%. Feedback would be appreciated.

#### 8. Board Treasurer shadow

Scott indicated via email he wishes to begin training the next treasurer. He wishes to get a list of interested Board members so that a vote can take place at the March Board meeting for the next treasurer. Scott would like to begin to transfer knowledge as soon as possible to ensure a smooth transition.

#### 2. Player Development Committee

(Kenny \*, Andy Piskula, Nick, \_\_\_\_\_)

- a. Chair Report
- b. Premier Fitness and Performance
  1. Upcoming clinic date
  2. Thursday night softball workout clinic

Kenny indicated the need to review and revise the promotional emails from Premier that they wish to send out again. (i.e. making sure link work)

#### c. Strike Force Clinics

1. Dates: Sundays in March (3/5, 3/12, 3/19)
2. Details from Strike Force

Kenny gave the Board the update from Strike Force regarding upcoming clinics. Kenny relayed a few details from the contract provided including the time frame of 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on the above March dates for these clinics. The three-hour time slot would be divided equally for baseball instruction and then softball instruction. Kenny relayed to Board members the contract price offered by Strike Force. The contract did include more staff than the previous year, and the staff would be providing instruction versus community members. A lengthy discussion was had on the topic. Nick indicated the facility size is comparable to NHS gym space; the value in such clinics is in the instruction. A broken down, detailed contract is requested so that NHAA only pays for the staff instruction that is given for each date. Follow up with Strike Force for clearer details is needed before proceeding forward.

Further discussions were had about the potential for renting Nordonia gym space and putting on clinics ourselves. Jerry indicated from a softball perspective the most beneficial skill to be worked on at such a clinic is pitching. Jerry did volunteer to run a pitching clinic for softball. A brief discussion was had about a past clinic done in which pitching staff was brought in to teach skills. The facility used was on Highland Road in Macedonia and it was the Cheesemakers Arena. Local staff was brought in to run these clinics. Chase did indicate rental space at Cheesemakers will have limited availability this time of year. Nick inquired about NHS gym space. Other sports (i.e. basketball, volleyball, etc.) will need to be worked around in order to secure space and times. Jim suggested working with the NHS softball coach to use facilities and equipment. Kyle did mention having already secured space at NMS through the month of March that he would be willing to relinquish for NHAA use. A brief discussion was had on this topic. Nick volunteered to contact the Cheesemakers Arena for availability.

#### 3. Fields Committee

(Mike \*, Brian, \_\_\_\_\_)

- a. VP of Fields/Chair Report

Brian indicated turning in paperwork to Century for parts. Brian did also indicate that the donated refrigeration unit will not fit inside the storage unit. Brian confirmed the trailer is at his residence. Otherwise, nothing to report.

4. Equipment Committee  
(Chase \*, Mike, Dave, Cathy)
  - a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

No report given.

5. Uniform/Awards Committee  
(Cathy \*, Brenda, Melinda, \_\_\_\_\_)
  - a. Chair Report
    1. Uniform bid summary
      - a. Bid deadline – February 1, 2023

The bid process was explained to Board members and a completed spreadsheet was shared with the members of the bids received. Cathy indicated the Uniform Committee recommends a screen-printed jersey for the rec program. Cathy talked through the spreadsheet pointing out order dates requested by the different vendors. Cathy asked for additional time to follow up with two (2) vendors in regards to a few items including: (1) hat quality as quoted; (2) order due date deadline.

There was a brief discussion about the two (2) vendors and it was decided for the Uniform Committee to follow up with these vendors regarding these few items and report back to the Board.

2. Uniform logo (see separate page for options)

Five (5) logo options were presented to the Board. (see final page of minutes). The Uniform Committee met and recommended Logo 3 to the Board for use for the 2023 season. Cathy indicated this logo was used in 2021. A discussion was had on the different options presented. Chad inquired about including “NHAA” on the uniform itself. Cathy indicated from previous Board discussions that the “Knights” logo is more versatile and more likely to be worn outside of the season of play. It was further indicated to promote NHAA as much as possible especially since this year sponsors of the NHAA will be represented on jerseys. It was discussed to add block lettering to Logo 3 inside the baseball. Jim gave a historical perspective as it pertains to the jersey logo and hats.

The final jersey logo design will look similar to this as indicated below:  
(below is not professionally done)



Motion by Cathy: The Knights logo as presented as Logo 3 with the addition of block letters of “NHAA” on the baseball will serve as the jersey logo for the 2023 season.

No objections were made to this jersey logo.

A unanimous voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

### 3. Spirit/Team shop for community

Cathy indicated discussions with one vendor regarding opening up a spirit/team shop for the community to purchase spirit wear which, in turn, could serve as a fundraiser to NHAA. It was discussed to inquire with the other vendors to see if a similar spirit/team shop can be set up as a fundraising opportunity. Cathy will reach out to these vendors and inquire. The Uniform Committee will let the Board know the results either via email or at the next Board meeting.

### 4. Sponsor form

- a. Block letters on back of jersey and banner – Sponsor Fee \$275
- b. Sponsor form presented by Marketing committee (Chad)

Chad indicated the Marketing Committee created a new tiered sponsor form and this was reviewed and discussed in detail. Chad indicated sponsorship of the league can be sought while working with various vendors. Dave indicated that a sponsor form has already been created and posted on the website when registration began. Chad inquired about dedicated sponsors for the 2023 season, and the post office box will be checked for forms and payments received. Since it has been a number of years since team sponsorship was available, Jim asked if the tiered system should be held off for a year. By offering one flat rate for team sponsorship this season, NHAA may recapture and gain new sponsors. A brief discussion was had on the topic and the timing of this proposal. Chad did indicate that businesses he has spoken with are excited to see team sponsorship back this season for NHAA.

Jim indicated that another great way to capture sponsors is through the golf outing. The Marketing Committee can put together a separate form to capture golf outing sponsors as well. Chad wishes to know the sponsors that come in so he can follow up with them regarding other sponsorship opportunities.

### b. Awards

#### 1. Order after formation of teams

### 6. Discipline Committee

(Nick \*, Bobby, Chad)

#### a. Chair Report

### 7. Fundraising/Marketing Committee (Meeting: 1/30/2023)

(Nick \*, Matt, Dustin, Chad)

#### a. Chair Report

##### 1. 2023 Golf Outing

##### a. Signature of Solon

##### b. Possible dates

1. Monday, June 19, 2023
2. Sunday, June 25, 2023
3. Sunday, July 9, 2023
4. Saturday, July 15, 2023

Jim gave an update to the Board for the 2023 Inaugural NHAA Golf Outing by discussing the opportunity to hold the event at Signature of Solon on Monday, July 17, 2023. The proposal was presented and discussed. Jim indicated that Matt is working on gathering more proposals from area courses.

### 2. Off season fundraising

a. Restaurants

Nick indicated being contacted by Culver's to set up a fundraising night/share night. Nick indicated signing up for Monday, February 20, 2023, as a Culver's fundraising night/share night. Advertising to the community (via social media) will happen as the date approaches. Nick reminded the Board that Culver's asks for volunteers to help during the event to take the strain off their staff. Nick did ask for volunteers for this event.

3. Advertising

- a. Social media presence
- b. E-mail correspondence through Sports Engine
- c. Physical yard signs
  - 1. Kimpton printing

Dustin inquired about having a high resolution image of the main NHAA logo (as it appears on the website) to be made available for use for marketing purposes as well. Nick indicated that Kimpton printing should be able to finalize this high resolution request once marketing signs are completed. A brief discussion was had on this topic and potentially re-branding is necessary.

Nick inquired about getting approval from Nordonía schools to post signs on school property. Jim will be in contact with the Nordonía Superintendent to seek permission. It was voiced to have the signs printed now and they will be used at other locations around the community (or saved until next year) if they cannot be used on school property. Nick indicated he will contact Kimpton tomorrow to place the order for the signs.

- d. Paper handouts to students in area schools (Nordonía and St. Barnabas)
- e. E-mail correspondence through schools

Dave will contact the Marketing Committee regarding reaching out to various local publications (i.e. local paper, Sagamore Voice, etc.) to advertise NHAA registration. Nick indicated that Chad has reached out to these entities for publication. Dave will follow up directly with Chad.

8. Technology Committee

(Dave \*, Melinda, \_\_\_\_\_)

- a. IT and Communications/Chair Report
- b. Important Dates for 2023 (see last page)
- c. Registration – began Saturday, January 14, 2023
  - 1. New registration fee is \$130 (T-Ball prorated for shorter season)
  - 2. Registration to date

Dave indicated current registration to date:

- 99 kids
- 21 coaches
- 6 umpires

Dave will follow up with community members on email messages.

d. IT/Scheduling shadow – Melinda

Jim reminded the Board that Dave's duties are very integral to the organization running smoothly. Jim asked for someone to learn the duties now so that no one has to learn as Dave did. Jim asked interested parties to contact Dave directly to begin the transition process.

Melinda indicated she has already met with Dave on this topic, and they will continue working together.

9. Strategic Planning Committee  
(Jim \*, Brian, Mike, Dustin, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ )
  - a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

10. Travel Committee (Meeting: 1/24/2023)  
(Jerry \*, Andy Papile \*, Jim, Bobby, Chase)
  - a. Girls Travel Softball Commissioner Report
  - b. Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner Report

Jim indicated that Bash tournament dates are set and have gone unchanged as previously posted. Jim again indicated securing the fields and pavilions at Sagamore Park for both events, and that Scott has been contacted to send over the deposit payment. Jim indicated that fliers and registration will be prepared and made available for posting on the website. Jim indicated that he is already receiving messages about signing up for these tournaments.

#### V. Open Discussion

1. Off season review of league rules
  - a. Match Boys Babe Ruth with Girls Manager Pitch
    1. No strikeouts for both leagues
    2. Use of umpires
  - b. T-Ball league suggestion
    1. Split league
      - a. Ages 3 and 4 play together
      - b. Ages 5 and 6 play together
      - c. Same day play/sibling issue
2. Community play (Dustin)
3. All Star team for Rec girls to play at Rec League Tournament (Dustin)
4. Picture Day 2023 (Melinda)
  - a. Vendor

Kyle inquired about when conversations should begin to prepare fields between summer play and fall play. Brian indicated he and Mike have briefly discussed and will report on this soon.

**Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting:** \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

**Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting:** \_\_\_\_\_ Zoom

**Meeting adjourned:** \_\_\_\_\_ 9:50 p.m.

## **NHAA Important Dates for 2023**

Saturday, January 14, 2023	Registration opens
Sunday, March 5, 2023	Strike Force Baseball / Softball clinic
Wednesday, March 8, 2023	General Meeting scheduled at Nordonía Middle School Cafeteria
Saturday, March 11, 2023	Registration closes (without late fee)
Sunday, March 12, 2023	Strike Force Baseball / Softball clinic
Sunday, March 19, 2023	Strike Force Baseball / Softball clinic
Week of March 27, 2023	Draft Week
Week of April 3, 2023	Nordonía Schools Spring Break
Sunday, April 9, 2023	Easter Sunday
Thursday, April 13, 2023	Mandatory Coaches Training at Nordonía Middle School Cafeteria – 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Saturday,
April 15, 2023	Sponsor Information Due
Saturday, April 15, 2023	Equipment Distribution Day – Space Place (8945 Freeway Drive) – 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 15, 2023	Field Maintenance Day. Meet at Space Place – Time: 11:00 a.m. (Weather permitting)
Monday, April 17, 2023	Team practices to begin
TBD – April 2023	General Meeting at Nordonía Middle School Cafeteria
Saturday, May 6, 2023	Uniform Distribution Day (coaches only)
Monday, May 8, 2023	Preseason / Scrimmage games begin
Monday, May 15, 2023	Regular season begins
TBD, May 2023	Picture Day
Friday, May 19-21, 2023	Girls Bash at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – May 2023	General Meeting at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – June 2023	Boys Colt games begin
Friday, June 2-4, 2023	Boys Bash at Sagamore Hills Park
Saturday, June 24, 2023	All Star Saturday
Thursday, June 29, 2023	T-Ball Evening at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – June 2023	General Meeting
Friday, June 30, 2023	Regular season ends
Week of July 3, 2023	Make up Week
Saturday, July 8, 2023	GMP Day at Sagamore Hills Park – 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 8, 2023	Babe Ruth Day at Sagamore Hills Park – 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Week of July 10, 2023	Playoff Week
Saturday, July 15, 2023	Championship Week (Rain date will be Sunday, July 16, 2023)

# 2023 NHAA Logo Options

Logo 1:



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Logo 2:

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Logo 4:



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Logo



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Logo 3:



