

# NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom

**Meeting Call to order:** 8:01 p.m.

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

### Present via Zoom:

Jim Filisky, President  
Kyle Deininger, Vice President  
Chase Senk, VP of Equipment  
Mike Graham, VP of Fields  
Andy Papile, Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner  
Jerry Lowery, Girls Travel Softball Commissioner  
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications  
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer (in at 8:34)  
Cathy Loya, Secretary  
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  
Dustin Wadsworth, Board Member

### Absent:

Chad Akins, Board Member  
Matt Bewley, Board Member  
Kevin Bilkie, Board Member

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## Agenda:

### I. Review of meeting minutes from February 1, 2023

Jim asked if members had a chance to review the minutes from the last meeting, and asked for any additions, subtractions, or objections to the minutes. Melinda noted that a date for Picture Day was included on the Important Dates page when this date has not been finalized. Cathy apologized for this error and will have it corrected. Jim then made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2023, meeting. Motion first by Dave. Motion second by Andy Piskula. The minutes were approved.

### II. NHAA League Trustee Assignments

Jim gave a brief description of the job of a league trustee, as well as indicated a number of email questions coming in that need responses. These questions will be directed to league trustees once assigned for the 2023 season. League trustees for 2023 will be updated on the website as well. Discussions were had regarding each league before final decisions were made.

1. T-Ball (co-ed) (Kindergarten)
  - a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Cathy (Back up: ~~Mare~~)
  - b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Cathy no back up
2. Babe Ruth (Boys – Grades 1 and 2)
  - a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Chase (Back up: x)
  - b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Chase no back up
3. Willie Mays (Boys – Grades 3 and 4)
  - a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Melinda (Back up: x)

- b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Melinda no back up
- 4. Pee Wee Reese (Boys – Grades 5 and 6)
  - a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Kenny (Back up: Mike)
  - b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Kenny Back up: Andy Piskula
- 5. Sandy Koufax (Boys – Grades 7 and 8)
  - a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Andy Papile (Back up: x)
  - b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Andy Papile Back up: Matt
- 6. Boys Colt (Boys – Grades 9-12)
  - a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Bobby (Back up: x)
  - b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Bobby Back up: Mike
- 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: Kevin Back up: Jim
- 8. Girls A League (Girls – Grades 4 and 5)
  - a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Brenda (Back up: Julie)
  - b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Brenda Back up: Dustin
- 9. Girls AA League (Girls – Grade 6, 7 and 8)
  - a. 2022 Trustee Assignment: Nikki (Back up: Kyle)
  - b. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Kyle Back up: Nick
- 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: Chad Back up: Nick

### III. President's Report

#### 1. Securing fields for 2023

##### a. City of Macedonia

1. Update on paperwork submitted to secure Longwood Park and Sugarbush Park

Dave indicated City of Macedonia fields are being secured. Dave will continue follow up with the City of Macedonia.

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

1. Update on strategy to move donated commercial grade refrigerator to concession stand
2. Update on deposit issued for both 2023 tournaments

Jim indicated Sagamore fields have been secured for the coming season. Jim will work with Scott to get the deposit issued for the Girls Bash and the Boys Bash.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding field availability at Sagamore Park because of a request from an outside team. Jim will follow up with this coach next week.

##### c. Northfield Village

1. Update on paperwork and payment to secure Magnolia and Smith

Jim indicated he is working to secure fields in Northfield Village.

##### d. Nordonia school fields/St. Barnabas

1. Update on St. Barnabas field

Jim indicated he is working to secure the field at St. Barnabas.

2. Update on NHS varsity fields (girls softball and Boys Colt)

Jim indicating securing Nordonia fields; however, NHS varsity fields are still pending approval.

3. Update on permission to place registration signs on school property

Jim indicated receiving approval from the Nordonia schools to place signs on school property. Nick indicated signs will be ready for pick up on Friday. With Nick out of town, Brian volunteered to pick up the signs and place them on school property. Nick and Brian will communicate to make this happen.

2. Umpires

a. Training classes

1. Need to secure class time/space once new insurance policy is issued

Jim indicated communicating with Dan Lingo about setting up training classes for umpire training. Jim indicated that promotion of these classes needs to start now. Dates have been set by Dan Lingo, but NHAA cannot reserve classroom space until the new insurance policy is issued.

b. Pay scale

1. Pay scale for rec league umpires

Jim indicated the pay scale for umpires needs to be discussed in March

c. Supplies needed

1. Umpire books

2. Umpire shirts

3. League Partnership

a. Pee Wee Reese (Twinsburg, Hudson, Aurora, Stow)

b. Other communities

Jim indicated being contacted by Woodridge to see about partnering with NHAA this season. Jim explained how they wish to register their own players, supply their own uniforms, and enter NHAA league play as Woodridge teams. Jim indicated they wish to have each team pay a league fee in order to enter NHAA play. Jim let the Board know of a discussion had with Woodridge and asked for comments. A lengthy discussion was had on this proposition, and a further lengthy discussion was had on the league fee to be charged for each Woodridge team to enter NHAA play. It was noted that there may be one (1) T-Ball team; one (1) or two (2) Babe Ruth teams; and (1) Willie Mays team. Players in older divisions were also discussed and are welcome to register through NHAA directly if no team can be fielded. This league fee would go toward umpires, field maintenance, etc.

Motion by Jim:

Allow Woodridge to join the NHAA for the 2023 season for a fee of \$300 per team of entry. Prospect of teams to enter T-Ball, Babe Ruth, and Willie Mays, as well as figuring out spaces for older kids.

Motion first by Cathy. Motion second by Jerry.

A unanimous voice vote was taken in favor of the motion.

c. Other leagues

Dave indicated that western communities will begin meeting in March and NHAA should be contacted within the coming weeks.

#### 4. Other topics

### 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

##### 1. Current financial report

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

Scott indicated sending the detailed financial report prior to the previous February meeting.

Current balance is approximately \$31,000.00

Scott indicated having a few items to be paid – Sagamore Hills deposit, and a software license renewal payment.

Registration fees are coming in.

##### 2. Update on insurance renewal

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

Scott will follow up with Jeff Sindelar regarding the quote on the insurance renewal payment.

##### 3. Operating Budget for 2023 season (prepare for March General Meeting)

##### 4. Board Treasurer shadow

Scott wishes to have a list of candidates and vote on the next Treasurer at the next meeting. This is so that training for the position can begin.

Scott did confirm that travel coaches, including some new coaches, are all set up and have all necessary banking access and materials.

#### 2. Player Development Committee

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

##### a. Chair Report

##### b. Premier Fitness and Performance

- 1. Update on promotional emails to send
- 2. Thursday night softball workout clinic (Kevin)

##### c. Strike Force Clinics

- 1. Dates: Sundays in March (3/5, 3/12, 3/19)
- 2. Updated contractual details from Strike Force

Kenny indicated speaking with Ken Wilson at Strike Force and he has agreed to reduce the original fee quoted by \$300. Ken Wilson will run the clinics, and he promises four (4) instructors. Ken Wilson also guarantees the three (3) dates listed above for three (3) hours each day – half baseball and half softball instruction. Kenny indicated it was a good conversation.

Kenny did express that it is crunch time with these clinics because of the dates being published. Kenny suggested hybrid clinics between different facilities and different approaches to running these clinics. Kenny suggested using Strike Force for clinics this year along with involving high school facilities and volunteers, and then next year working fully with the high school softball and baseball programs for these preseason clinics. Jim indicated working with high school programs has been in the works for

several years, and clinics are done as a fundraiser for the high school programs.

Scott asked about the issue with Strike Force, and Kenny gave a brief history of what happened in 2022. Scott asked why the agreed upon dates at Strike Force were in question. Kenny explained that the cost quoted by Strike Force in 2023 was higher than the cost paid in 2022. Kenny did communicate with Ken Wilson that NHAA would only pay for the instructors present for each clinic. Kenny indicated Ken Wilson running the clinics would be different than 2022. Kenny did share that Strike Force would handle the registration link and cap each clinic at 35 players. Jim appreciated Kenny speaking with Ken Wilson to come to a better agreement.

### 3. Coaches clinic

#### d. In house Clinics

##### 1. Nordonia gym space (NHS or NMS)

Kenny indicated Kyle spoke with Coach Rizzo (NHS Girls Softball coach) regarding opportunities to get the high school kids involved with clinics. Service hours can be given if this is done. Kenny did express that there is interest from Coach Rizzo to help host these clinics.

Kyle indicated speaking with Coach Rizzo, as well as Jimmy Smith (NHS boys pitching coach). Kyle spoke with Coach Rizzo about doing clinics on Sundays – 3/5, 3/12, 3/19. Kyle asked about having NHS coaching staff and players to come and help volunteer to run these clinics. Kyle indicated Coach Rizzo loved the idea and wanted more details (i.e. times) for these softball clinics.

Kyle indicated from the baseball side, Jimmy Smith wishes to get more involved with the Board because his daughter plays in GMP. Kyle indicated he will work to put something together to do even more on the baseball side. Kyle indicated that Jimmy Smith is on board with running the clinics and being the bridge between Coach Drew and other coaches to be a part of this relationship. Kyle did indicate the early dates (3/5 and 3/12) work best with their current high school schedule.

Kyle indicated speaking with Mike at Drills Training Center in Macedonia, and this is an indoor training facility with batting cages, as well as a half-court basketball court. This is a 2,500 square foot facility. Mike indicated he can rent out the space on the March dates – 3/5, 3/12, and 3/19 – for approximately \$75 per hour.

##### 2. Cheesemakers Arena

Kenny indicated there are alternatives to Strike Force, but it would mean coaches, Board members, volunteers, etc. to host the clinics. Kenny indicated that Ambassador Soccer Center/Cheesemakers is \$225 per hour to rent the facility, but volunteers would be needed to host the clinic.

A lengthy discussion was had on the topic of March clinics. Many Board members expressed appreciation to the committee for reaching out to the NHS programs to work together. It was noted that Sunday NHS gym space would have fees associated for janitorial services, and Kyle indicated that no fees were discussed with NHS coaching staff. Jim asked if those March dates were available regarding gym space, and Kyle indicated reservations would just be needed.

Motion by Scott:

Option A:

Schedule clinics with NHS varsity coaches for the dates of 3/5/2023, 3/12/2023, and 3/19/2023, utilizing Nordonia gym space. This will need to be finalized by Monday, 2/20/2023.

Option B:

If Nordonia clinics cannot get confirmed by Monday, 2/20/2023, then proceed with Strike Force for the dates of 3/5/2023, 3/12/2023, and 3/19/2023.

A roll call vote was taken:

Jim – Option A  
Scott – Option A  
Dave – Option A  
Brenda – Option A  
Mike – Option A  
Andy Piskula – Option A  
Dustin – Option A  
Chase – Option A  
Andy Papile – Option A  
Kenny – Option A  
Kyle – Option A  
Brian – Option A  
Melinda – Option A

Cathy – Option B  
Jerry – Option B  
Nick – Option B

Bobby – Not available for vote

Option A has the majority vote.

3. Fields Committee

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

- a. VP of Fields/Chair Report
  - 1. Solicitation for 2023 field maintenance bid
  - 2. TruGreen
    - a. Discuss field weed control

4. Equipment Committee

(Chase \*, Mike, Dave, Cathy)

- a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

5. Uniform/Awards Committee

(Cathy \*, Brenda, Melinda, \_\_\_\_\_)

- a. Chair Report
  - 1. Prime Time – 2023 Uniform Vendor
    - a. All vendors notified 2/10/2023

Cathy thanked Board members for submitting a vote via email for the 2023 uniform vendor, Prime Time. Cathy confirmed notifying all vendors of the final decision.

2. Spirit/Team shop for community – Prime Time

Cathy indicated being in conversation with Dan at Prime Time regarding setting up the Spirit/Team shop.

3. Final Professional Logo

final

Cathy directed attention to the agenda for the professional logo.



- b. Awards
  - 1. Order after formation of teams
- 6. Discipline Committee  
(Nick \*, Bobby, Chad)
  - a. Chair Report
- 7. Fundraising/Marketing Committee  
(Nick \*, Matt, Dustin, Chad)
  - a. Chair Report
    - 1. 2023 Golf Outing
      - a. Signature of Solon
        - 1. Monday, July 17, 2023
      - b. Other courses

Jim will give a more detailed report on the Golf Outing at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

- 2. Off season fundraising
  - a. Restaurants
    - 1. Culver's
      - a. Monday, February 20, 2023 (5:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
      - b. Volunteers needed

Nick indicated the Culver's event in 2022 was very successful, and the 2023 event is on President's Day. The community is invited to dine. Nick indicated a number of Board members have volunteered to be there for the event. Dave was asked to send an email blast on Monday morning, and Nick indicated the event will be advertised on social media again.

- 3. Advertising
  - a. Update on physical yard signs ordered from Kimpton
    - 1. Update on placement of signs

This was already discussed; Brian will pick up the signs when completed on Friday for placement on school property.

- b. Social media presence
- c. E-mail correspondence through Sports Engine
- d. Paper handouts to students in area schools (Nordia and St. Barnabas)
- e. E-mail correspondence through schools
- f. Local publications
  - 1. Newsleader
  - 2. Sagamore Voice
  - 3. Nordonia News website

Dave inquired about further advertisement of registration, and Nick indicated a commitment with the local publication (either Newsleader or Sagamore Voice) to print the advertisement at no charge. Nick indicated that advertisement through St. Barnabas will not be happening. Nick also indicated a commitment from the Nordonia superintendent to bring this to the attention of parents either through an email blast or through school newsletters. Nick will follow up with Chad regarding timing of these advertisements. Dave indicated published advertisements need to happen within the next two (2) weeks.

4. Sponsors

- a. Sponsors to date
- b. Sponsors due by 4/8/2023

8. Technology Committee

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

- a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

Dave indicated license renewal is needed for the scheduling software.

b. Important Dates for 2023 (see last page)

- 1. General Meeting confirmation

- a. Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at NMS Cafeteria

Cathy asked about confirming the General Meeting date and location. Jim will check availability and reserve the space for the meeting. The meeting time will be 7:00 p.m.

c. Registration – began Saturday, January 14, 2023

- 1. Registration to date

d. IT/Scheduling shadow – Melinda

9. Strategic Planning Committee

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

- a. Chair Report

10. Travel Committee (Meeting: 1/24/2023)

(Jerry \*, Andy Papile \*, Jim, Bobby, Chase)

- a. Girls Travel Softball Commissioner Report

Jerry indicated that all Girls Travel teams are practicing and things are going fine. Jerry indicated a Western Reserve meetings scheduled for Sunday, February 19, 2023, to discuss rules and placement. Scheduling meetings are scheduled for April.

Jim indicated the Girls Bash flier is being developed and reviewed. The tournament fee will also be discussed during the refinement of the flier before publication.

b. Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner Report

Andy Papile indicated that Boys Travel teams are practicing. Andy Papile indicated that the Nordonia 12U coach has published the Boys Bash flier and teams are registering – including a great turnout in the 12U division. Lower divisions are a bit behind, but there is still time for registration. Andy Papile indicated scheduling meetings will be starting soon in a lot of leagues. A brief discussion was had regarding the Boys Bash and ways to fill the tournament. Andy Papile will follow up with the Nordonia 12U coach.

A lengthy discussion was had regarding the proposition of forming a second Nordonia 11U team, with Andy Papile as the coach. Andy Papile explained in detail the motives for this proposition. A lengthy discussion was had on the topic, including wishing to keep Nordonia kids in the community for league play, as well as field allocation, and level of play. Jim indicated this proposition is unique; the desire is to keep the NHAA Rec Program strong and not form multiple travel teams within each age group.

Motion by Jim:

Form an additional Nordonia 11U Travel Team with Andy Papile as the coach.

Melinda asked about tryouts for the team and it was indicated that every kid on the roster already has tried out for the current 11U Travel Team. Jim indicated that NHAA Bylaws have a requirement of travel ball tryouts. Jim suggested holding tryouts indoors, and it was discussed all players have already gone through the tryout process fulfilling this bylaw requirement.

Melinda also inquired about other coaches who may wish

to start another team and it was discussed that a lot of age groups cannot support two teams because of level of play.

A voice vote was taken. Aye – 16 votes. Nay – 1 vote.

V. Open Discussion

1. Off season review of league rules
  - a. Match Boys Babe Ruth with Girls Manager Pitch (Melinda updating)
    1. No strikeouts for both leagues
    2. Use of umpires
  - b. T-Ball league (Cathy)
    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
5. Field work between summer play and fall play

**Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

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

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:46 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 Nordonia 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 27-31, 2023	Draft Week
Week of April 3-7, 2023	Nordonia Schools Spring Break
Saturday, April 8, 2023	Sponsor Information Due
Sunday, April 9, 2023	Easter Sunday
Thursday, April 13, 2023	Mandatory Coaches Training at Nordonia Middle School Cafeteria – 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
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 Nordonia 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 – Sunday, May 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 – Sunday, June 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 3-7, 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 10-14, 2023	Playoff Week
Saturday, July 15, 2023	Championship Saturday (Rain date will be Sunday, July 16, 2023)
Saturday, July 22, 2023	Equipment Return Day
TBD – August 2023	General Meeting at Sagamore Hills Park