

NHAA Board of Trustees Minutes

Emergency Fields Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 9:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Call to order: 9:07 p.m.

Board Attendance/Roll Call:

Present :

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
Cathy Loya, Secretary
Chad Akins, Board Member
Matt Bewley, Board Member (in 9:12)
Kevin Bilkie, Board Member (in 9:32)
Brian James, Board Member (out 9:52)
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member
Andy Piskula, Board Member
Bobby Reville, Board Member (in 9:12)
Kenny Sanger, Board Member
Dustin Wadsworth, Board Member

Absent:

Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer
Nick Lanese, Board Member

Topic of Discussion: Field Maintenance

Jim explained to Board members the purpose for this emergency fields meeting. Jim referenced email communication with Board members from Thursday, May 25, 2023, regarding field maintenance with Prestige Yardscapes. Jim further detailed in person conversations with Justin at Prestige Yardscapes regarding communication concerns and requests made by Prestige Yardscapes. Prior to these discussions, Jim indicated Kyle, as Vice President, was informed of the situation. Jim further detailed continued conversations with Prestige Yardscapes regarding field maintenance with school ending for the year.

Justin with Prestige Yardscapes submitted a text resignation to Jim indicating keys would be returned to the storage unit.

It was acknowledged that NHAA provided \$2,000.00 in payment to Prestige Yardscapes for the initial part of the contract. Jim pointed out the contract reads that a resignation notice of 21 days must be given. Jim did indicate further text communication with Justin at Prestige Yardscapes in which it was stated that Prestige Yardscapes will submit a final bill to NHAA and then part ways.

Jim acknowledged help from Mike and Brian's son at several fields, but Jim has been performing the bulk of the field maintenance work while still under contract with Prestige Yardscapes. Jim detailed for Board members the dates and fields maintained personally for league play.

Jim asked Board members to come up with suggestions for field maintenance for the remainder of the season and/or prepare a statement to be issued to the community making everyone aware of the current field maintenance situation. Jim cannot continue with field maintenance.

Board members were presented with the total number of games left for the 2023 spring/summer season. A total of 173 games remain to date (months of June & July). Discussions were had regarding offering a set fee per field for a community member(s) to complete field maintenance.

Board members were asked for suggestions on how to proceed:

- Kyle asked about potential college students, but Jim indicated these students cannot do it. Kyle asked about posting the position online. Kyle indicated beginning a field maintenance handbook.
- Andy Papile suggested everyone on the Board talk to people they know to find an interested person. Andy Papile also suggested an email blast to all registrants to see about interest to complete field maintenance work. Andy Papile indicated texting several people while in the meeting. Word can also spread as coaches talk to parents.

Kyle asked Board members on the call if anyone might be interested in performing field maintenance moving forward. No Board member voiced interest.

- Andy Piskula asked about local landscapers, and Jim indicated the cost will be very high.
- Dustin asked about the fields that need to be maintained. Members listed the fields, as Dustin was texting a potential contact during the meeting.
- Dustin asked about Sagamore Hills Township Parks Department maintaining Sagamore Park, and Jim indicated they do not have the staff to complete the work. Jim also noted the agreement with Sagamore Hills Township regarding NHAA use of the fields – NHAA maintains the fields due to lack of Township staff to complete the work.
- Matt indicated the potential for paying for field maintenance on a day in which games get canceled due to rain. A brief discussion was had regarding field maintenance work being done later in the afternoon so games can be canceled if needed before any work is done.
- Jerry indicated a hurdle appears to be moving the Toro around the community for maintenance. Lining a field is a bit simpler because of the ability for just about anyone to put a liner inside a vehicle to transport. Jerry believes it is a good idea to get the word out, but a back up plan is also needed. Such a plan could look like having multiple chalk liners for various parks, put chalk in field boxes, and, at the very least, coaches can line the field before league play. Jerry then suggested dragging fields every 3 or 4 days as available. Jim indicated NHAA having two (2) chalk liners. A brief discussion was had regarding purchasing more liners, but cost will be an issue. Dustin suggested savings from not paying full-time field maintenance could allow for the purchase of a new chalk liner.
- Andy Papile indicated a belief more money may be spent once the right field maintenance person is found because of the urgent need for such a person. Andy Papile indicated fields need to be maintained for kids in the rec program but also for the travel program. We all want a good experience for visiting players as well as community players while on Nordonía fields. Jim expressed agreement with this statement.

Andy Papile voiced appreciation for Jim's work on the fields, but we must find a resolution to this problem quickly.

- Brian's son did the fields today and might be taking care of fields tomorrow. Proper tracking of his work is needed so payment can be rendered. Jim asked if Brian's son is interested in continuing to do this work. Brian indicated his son is interested in helping out, but he already works a full-time job and would prefer not to do it every day. Brian did say that he will be able to help soon once his classroom obligations are over.
- Chase indicated speaking with a parent from his team regarding maintaining fields at Sagamore Park only during the week. A brief discussion was had and this parent will talk with Jim directly.

Brian asked how field maintenance work will be tracked for payment. Jim responded this can be kept track of by the schedule. Someone will need to keep a spreadsheet/score sheet for each person maintaining fields. If one person can be found to do consistent work, then meticulous score keeping may not be necessary.

Motion by Jim:

Move to offer \$25 per field for field maintenance from this point going forward until a permanent contact is found.

Motion first by Brian.

Dave inquired about canceled games due to rain. A brief discussion was had on this topic. Kenny asked about reaching out to Northfield

Village and/or Macedonia for assistance. Staffing is an issue. Jim indicated that games have been moved from other locations to more centralized fields to make maintenance not so spread out.

Kenny asked about towing weight and this was discussed. Brian indicated total towing weight around a ton collectively, and rolling weight is about ~~200~~ 2,000 pounds. (addendum made 6.7.2023)

Bobby will ask graduated seniors with pickup trucks if interested.

Andy Papile indicated a potential contact.

Motion second by Jerry.

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

Jim asked Board members' opinions about sending information out to community members regarding current field maintenance status. Dave suggested only sending information to coaches at this point so they are aware of the situation. Several Board members immediately indicated coaches should be the only ones made aware of this and coaches will handle the situation.

Dustin asked about purchasing another chalk liner.

Chad indicated to Board members a donation of \$300 to NHAA, and Chad would like to have this money be allocated for NHAA to purchase another chalk liner. A brief discussion was had on the purchase of a chalk liner.

Dave asked for 24 hours so Board members can continue to communicate with contacts regarding this opportunity before openly soliciting for a permanent field maintenance contact. A brief discussion was had and a prepared email will be sent to coaches only explaining the situation. Board members will be able to finalize communication with contacts.

- Kyle indicated knowing a contact who can help out with maintaining the fields. Jim asked Kyle to give him the information and for this contact to reach out to Jim directly.

Jim asked Board members with interested contacts to reach out to him directly tomorrow. From there, if nothing is coming together, the position can be blasted to community members regarding the open field maintenance opportunity. Jim indicated if something does come up, he will keep in touch via email.

Meeting adjourned: 9:56 p.m.