

CAPE COD SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

BOARD MEETING – 9:00 A.M.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021
VIA ZOOM

BOARD MEMBER PRESENT: Mike Barry, Peter Cutler, Bob Callahan, Ben Caswell, Bill Eagan, Jim Gresis, Jim Gunning, Peter Strand, Charlie Salerno (Parliamentarian- non voting) and Commissioner Wayne Draeger

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: John Hession , Bill Producers, Van Khachadorian (Former Commissioner)

Call to Order: The Commissioner called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

Approval of Board Minutes: - November 18, 2021

Motion by Strand to approve minutes. Seconded by Callahan.

Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report – Hession (absent)

The Commissioner reported that the cash Balance is \$70,000.

The Treasurer needs \$10,000 for operating expenses and he would like to see \$10,000 put in a Rainy Day Fund. The remainder is to be used for our capital project(s).

The league audit is to take place this weekend. Following that, we will move onto the budgeting process for next season.

League Matters/Reports:

Capital Project Team Report – Mike Barry

The Project team looked at a number of possible projects, but settled on the improvement of Bassett Field. Bassett Field would give the league a new (tournament sized) field at a reasonable cost.

For \$5000 the Town of Harwich will do the following:

- Broaden base paths
- Take some of the grass out of the infield to make it a bigger infield.
- Level the field
- Anchor bases to our specifications
- Install foul poles,
- Scrape out the clay and replace

We need to make a proposal which the Recreation Committee will consider. If the Rec. Commission approves our proposal they will then pass it on to the Town so that work would commence. The field would be ready by the start of our season.

Fencing is another consideration. Upon research we have found that temporary fencing has improved. We could purchase a fence for about \$3000. It is made of mesh, 5' high. A sleeve goes into the ground which holds the pole each section is 8' long. Color green with orange on the top of each section. The Town would install in the spring and leave up until the end of the Classic. The field would have a dimension of 300' to left, center and right field.

Secondly, we would have to get a shed. The shed would be used for storing the fencing in the off season and for the tractor (which now resides at Baker, unused). The cost is about \$3500. The shed would be put up by a company that does this work.

We would be responsible for dragging and lining the field, the Town will do the rest, .e.g. mowing, irrigation already exist, any major problems the Town would take care of it.

We've added a contingency of \$2000 for things we can't foresee. So we are looking at about \$13,000.

Comments/Questions:

Ben Casewell – In our proposal, I think we should insert that we have priority access from May through September. I would also like to get as much in writing as we can because commission members and town officials change.

Peter Cutler – without an MOU we risk dumping money into a field and then down the road not getting the use that we are currently promised. I feel we have enough fields.

Bob Callahan – Shed will be placed where? Mike, said the shed would go right behind the building were people park, there is an existing shed and ours will go right behind it. How stable are these portable fences. Mike states that they are much improved, used by many colleges and other organizations.

Jim Gunning -300' fences is very appealing to Division 1, our current 250', 275' fences are becoming obsolete for the younger players.

Mike Barry- with the addition of Bassett, it is creating a destination for softball, think of the Classic and having as many fields close together. When you add a nice field, with 300' fences and bathroom facilities it is an amenity. The committee talked extensively about using Baker and making it a larger field (by moving the backstop back) but there are so many other issues that it was deemed a "money pit". Homer field has potential because of existing portable fencing, but we don't get exclusive use of it because it is also a soccer field. It is alright for tournaments, but is not a solution for our league play.

Peter Cutler – Will the Town assess an annual fee for the use of Bassett. Mike: Right now there is no discussion of an annual \$1000 fee for the first year, however, that could change.

Peter also stated that we will probably need a porta potty because the walk to the restrooms is too far.

Questions from Bill Producers: (answered by Mike Barry)

Who will be using this field? Mike, certainly Div 1 but it will be available to any division when not scheduled for D-1.

Why do we need this field when we have Homer and Yarmouth doesn't charge us? Mike, Homer is not ideal because we can't keep fences up and we don't have exclusive usage.

Did we apply for CPC Funds? Mike, no. This project is cheap and only the \$5000 would be eligible for CPC funds. No one would look at \$5000 request for CPC.

Who would construct the shed and how much? That has already been discussed

Did we approach Aggregate Industries regarding stone dust? Mike, no. That stone dust is coming from the town and is already included in the \$5000.

Mike Barry: There are a number of other projects being looked at by the committee, bathrooms at Memorial (CPC funds) shade for Bassett benches (no dugouts) and score boards for Potter/Memorial.

Charlie Salerno: In our policies we have a procedure in place that any capital project over \$2000 must have two bids. Any project over \$5000, requires two signatures. I suggest that you hold off on the technical approach on this and I will advise. So right now you commit the money to do work on Bassett and we will get a 2nd bid which will most likely be much higher than what the Town is proposing.

The following Motion is so moved by Callahan and seconded by Eagan

Whereas the Cape Cod Senior Softball League (CCSSL) desires access to a well-maintained softball field for league and tournament play with the following specifications:

- 70-foot bases
- 300-foot fenced outfield
- Excellent drainage and irrigation

It is hereby resolved that our CCSSL representative is directed to develop a firm agreement with the Town of Harwich to

1. Develop Bassett Field to these standards
2. Give CCSSL priority access to this field for its league and tournament play from May through September.
3. Clarify and specify the responsibilities of the Town of Harwich and the CCSSL for maintenance and upkeep of Bassett Field, including whether any fees must be paid by CCSSL to the Town of Harwich.
4. In line with the League's policies, invest not more than \$13,000 of CCSSL funds for the development of Bassett Field

Motion passes with 7 ayes and 2 dissents

Charlie Salerno: the scheduling software cost \$1000. Is it OK to continue using them? Wayne said that he has someone interested in doing the scheduling. I would like the two of you to talk and decide if this is the scheduling program we wish to use.

Mike Barry: Optional softball on Saturday. Mike McCluskey would like to run his program again. Commission Draeger wants to make it clear that this program is not affiliated with our League. Mike would have to contact the town, use his own equipment etc. Wayne will discuss all this with McCluskey. Field usage TBD

Jim Gunning: the 2022 application is coming along

Commissioner Draeger: FYI, I am trying to schedule zoom calls for EMass, NH and Providence to compare notes how we operate our leagues. I will ask a couple of you to join me.
Hopefully, after the New Year we can meet to determine registration fees, paid umpires and how the application will read.

Motion to adjourn by Callahan
Seconded by Cutler.
Meeting adjourned at 10:07 A.M

Minutes submitted by: Judy Kennedy, Recording Secretary