

**CAPE COD SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE
MINUTES OF THE
DECEMBER 14, 2019
BOARD MEETING
HARWICH COMMUNITY CENTER**

ATTENDANCE:

Ben Caswell, Bob Callahan, Peter Cutler, Brian Hastings, John Hession, Bill Prodggers, Charlie Salerno, Don Saulnier, Bruce Turner, Commissioner Van Khachadoorian and Terry Moran (Immediate past Commissioner)

Meeting Called to Order by Commissioner Van at 9:00 AM

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Prodggers to approve the October 26, 2019 Minutes. Seconded by Hession. Motion Passes

Other League Matters:

1. Marketing and Growth of League - Turner

2. Publicity – Cape Cod Times - Caswell

Notices will be placed in the local outlets. Major advertising, such as we place in the Times will not happen until April. Charlie Salerno noted that he would like to see emphasis that the league is for men and women. Bill Prodggers suggested putting an ad in at the end of the season. Please consider this for next year.

3. Mass Senior Games – Khachadoorian

Mass Senior Games have been defunct for a few years, but the State is interested in reviving them. Van received a call asking if the League would be interested in hosting the softball aspect. They are looking for fields that would quality for the Nationals. Potter and Memorial dimensions were given to the caller. Presently, Mass Senior Games is in the exploratory phase to see if revival if feasible. Bruce Turner will serve as the liaison between the league and Mass Games. Brain Hastings will assist.

4. Uniform Inventory – Breault

Bob did an inventory and has a 5 year plan. Brian Hastings was wondering if we could standardize a league cap instead of getting a new one each year? Bob will look into it.

5. Holiday Party - Khachadoorian

Not enough interest. Perhaps the notice was too short. Hopefully we can get some other outside activities going for the league.

6. Report: Winter Dome Program – Cutler

Monday & Friday for Division 1 players. 5 - 6 are CCSSL members, the rest are from off Cape. Bob Breault has Division 2 & 3 on Tuesday and all members are from CCSSL. It was suggested that a softer ball be used for dome play, we may try it. Bruce Turner stated

that The Dugout is also an option. Starting Tuesday, Jan. 7th and every Tuesday till the season nears.

7. Report: Sandy Pond Plans/Design – Caswell

It will be done in phases. From our point of view, we asked that the fence be pushed out, and they agreed. We are a couple of years away, but they are willing to work with us.

8. CPC Monies for Harwich – Khachadoorian

Monies have been approved for a new fence and backstop at Memorial. Also, discussed netting be put up from dugout to right field foul pole. Hopefully, this will be done after the Classic.

Committee Reports:

1. Rules Committee – Richie Barber

The Veer Rule has been controversial and difficult to enforce. The Rules Committee recommends to the Board to do away with the Veer Rule. If the Board so moves, this is what the committee proposes:

Sliding will be permitted. The runner has the option to slide into 2nd and 3rd base. If the runner interferes with the defensive player the runner will be called out. A runner returning to 1st, 2nd or 3rd base may slide or dive back. There are many sections in the Rule Book where some aspects of the veering rule appear. These references will be removed if the Board approves this rule change.

Motion by Producers to accept the report and remove the Veer Rule. Seconded by Hession. **Motion approved without dissent.**

Treasurer's Report – Hession

Covered Year End Results: The bottom Line is comparable to last year. However, we do have a surplus. **Motion by Hession** to transfer \$15,000 from the operating account to the savings account. Seconded by Salerno. **Motion passes without dissent.**

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Seconded. **Motion passes.**

The Audit: Clean opinion. Audit will be posted on website. Motion by Hession to accept Audit. Seconded. **Motion passes.**

New Budget: The Budget Committee is: Van, Bill Producers, Bob Callahan, Peter Cutler and John Hession.

Travel Team Request:

80's are looking at 2 potential tournaments – entrance fee \$575 each.

70's – 75's Bill Eagan looking at possibly 3 tournaments at about the same entrance fee.

60's - 65's are an independent organization. We don't ask for any money from the league.

Seven players are from outside our league.

Travel teams will be discussed at a future meeting

Capital Projects:

The Commissioner asked Board members to think about possible capital projects (\$5,000 and over) bring ideas to the March meeting.

Field Report – Salerno:

Baker Field –

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with D - Y. There has been a change in administration and the most recent Memorandum of Agreement seems to be misplaced. Charlie is working with them to rectify the situation as we need to sign a new two year agreement. The bases have been removed. We have to realign the field. The outfield is improving because of all the rain. We need to top dress and that is the last step in the process of improving Baker. Charlie will get a quote from McNamara Bros. and will submit to the Board.

Forms to reserve fields: Yarmouth - Must be filled out in January. Charlie will take care of it (for use of Sandy Pond & Homer)

Flax Pond Field – new field is a long way off, but the rec committee is open to our league input.

Kelley Fields – already reserved

2. Umpire Committee Report: Salerno

A survey of (39) CCSSL umpires was conducted by Charlie Salerno 16 responded.

Following are the results:

(a) Not looking to be paid as they wish to give back to the league. (b) Clarification of Rules is essential, (c) Support from the league when “players get into their face”, (d) want more training.

Suggestions from Charlie: (i) In lieu of pay, give recognition, e.g. a luncheon. (ii) Bring a professional umpire in for a day of “hands on” training. (iii) have some type of challenge flag (only the manager can argue the call). (iv) Perhaps, those who umpire X number of games in the regular season can than umpire in the Classic and submit an invoice to be paid for those Classic games. (v) Should we consider a “Player Bill of Rights & Responsibilities”

Comments:

Van – against paying anyone as we are a volunteer league. Agree with the importance of recognition.

Bob Callahan - Good training is essential

Brian Hastings – Could we enter the umpire’s name when we enter the stats for the game? (Terry will check on that). How about having the luncheon and the training on the same day, invite managers as well as the umpires. Then in July, have a second luncheon for just the umpires and to check in and see how it is going.

Bruce Turner – we need to be pro-active and somewhat aggressive in recruiting umpires. As far as “in your face” type players, the key is the manager who must have control of his team.

Terry Moran - If there is an unsportsmanlike conduct, could the umpire throw a yellow flag, indicating to the manager that he is to come out to discuss the issue? Rate our umpires. Have a mid-season meeting for umpires.

Bill Prodgers – We can do the umpire training with our own guys. Do not pay umpires for the Classic.

Don Saulnier – in the future, if we can’t get enough umpires for the Classic, could we consider raising the fee, per player, to cover the cost?

Ben Caswell - (i) the key to all of this is TRAINING, professional training to start with. Cape Cod Media could video tape (free for non-profits) the training sessions for future use. (ii) The Classic is our major “foot forward” to the larger senior softball world. We need to have professional umpires and we need to pay them. (iii) As far as “bad behavior” goes, there needs to be consequences...consistently.

Peter Cutler – we need to have an umpire stand up and throw somebody out of the game for bad behavior. If this is done 2 or 3 times the problem will be gone. Warn once, if it happens again, the player is thrown out.

The above comments will be taken into consideration as the Umpire Committee prepares its final report, which will be presented at the March meeting.

3. **Policy Review Committee Report – Terry Moran**

Thanks to the committee of Peter Goode, Dave Noonan, Bill Campbell and Terry. The Board went through all the policies and the recommended changes.

A motion to approve the report was not put forth because the League Structure Committee may have some conflicting (to the stated policies) recommendations in its final report.

Following is an interim report from the League Structure Committee: Ben Caswell

- a) The League entrance age will be kept at 50
- b) There will be a minimum of 4 teams and 4 Divisions
- c) A hard cap will be set, 14 players on a team for D-1, 13 players per team in the other 3 divisions
- d) Age grouping for NEW players: 50–59, 60–68, 69–76, 77+

The committee has to develop a process for all returning veteran players based on ability (across all ages). This is where we would have to coordinate with the Policy Committee.

- e) A deadline of March 1st for all returning players to register. These are only recommendations on our interim report. A final report will be presented at our next meeting.

The Commissioner states that In the meantime the two committees must get together and resolve the dichotomy between policy language and the possibility of a new league structure.

Next Meeting January 11, 2020 at 9:00 AM. Charlie Salerno will chair the meeting as Van will not be here.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Judy Kennedy, Recording Secretary