

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Call to order: 8:02 p.m.

Board Attendance/Roll Call:

Present via Zoom:

Jim Filisky, President
Kevin Bilkie, Vice President
Chase Senk, VP of Equipment
Mike Graham, VP of Fields
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer
Cathy Loya, Secretary
Matt Bewley, Board Member
Kyle Deininger, Board Member
Brian James, Board Member
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Nick Lanese, Board Member
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member (in at 8:03)
Julie Moran, Board Member (in at 8:05)
Bobby Reville, Board Member
Kenny Sanger, Board Member
Marc Sprang, Board Member (out at 9:23)

Present via Telephone:

Absent:

Nicole Gvora, Board Member
Andy Papile, Travel Coordinator

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from January 19, 2022

Motion made by Jim to accept the minutes from the January 19, 2022, meeting.

Motion first by Dave. Motion second by Cathy. A unanimous voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

II. President's Report

1. Communication and emails being sent to outside communities prior to review

Jim advises all members that communication between outside entities in the community (i.e. municipalities, schools, etc.) to please have all of these communications reviewed by other board members prior to sending out.

III. NHAA League Trustee Assignments

Jim gave a brief overview of the duties of a League Trustee. The League Trustee will be responsible for running that particular league, communicating with the coaches, providing updates for the league, putting together the draft, putting together teams, etc. The League Trustee is the primary contact if/when there are issues. The League Trustee can bring issues to the Board if needed. Jim encouraged new board members to be a league trustee.

Discussion was had regarding a League Trustee not playing/coaching in that particular league. Jim expressed the conflict of interest this presents. Marc expressed there are plenty of board members to fill League Trustee positions without any overlap of playing/coaching.

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

Cathy volunteered to be League Trustee this year, and Marc expressed interest in helping because of his past experience here.

2. Babe Ruth (Boys – Grades 1 and 2)

Chase volunteered to be League Trustee again this year.

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

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

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

6. Boys Colt (Boys – Grades 9-12)

Bobby volunteered to remain as League Trustee again this year.

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

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

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

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

Marc suggested doing a SignUpGenius for the other positions open. Melinda will set this form up and email to members to complete. The ultimate decision on League Trustee positions will be determined by the board.

IV. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee

a. Treasurer/Chair Report

1. Current financial report

Financial update was emailed to all Board members on 2/2/2022.

Balance: \$40,882.88.

Usual expenses noted on report (i.e. Storage rental fee, Toro monthly payment)

Income noted as registration is open and payments are being received.

Equipment payments noted on report (Play It Again and BSN).

Travel accounts have been established and access is available for coaches.

Scott inquired about past board interest in shadowing his work as Treasurer. Matt and Kyle expressed an interest in doing so. Scott will reach out to Matt and Kyle.

2. Open invoices

a. Fields

1. Status on pending final payment to Brian

3. Update on insurance renewal from Jeff Sindelar (due in March/April for 12-month policy)

Scott will follow up with Jeff Sindelar as no further communication was received after sharing participation numbers.

4. Update on discussion with accountant regarding possible need for twelve (12) separate Travel business accounts, tracking through QuickBooks with professional assistance

Scott indicated that no further discussions have been had on this matter.

5. Prepare Operating Budget for upcoming 2022 season

- a. Have budget available for community review prior to the start of the season

Jim inquired about a budget showing projections for the coming season. Jim indicated a public meeting will be scheduled for sometime in March. Dave indicated the public meeting in 2021 was on March 9. Further discussions will be had in order to set the 2022 public meeting date. Scott will begin working on this budget in preparation for this public meeting.

2. Skills Clinic Committee

- a. Update regarding five (5) clinics to be held at Strike Force

1. Confirmation on clinic dates

Sunday, March 6, 2022, for two (2) clinics

Baseball clinic 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Softball clinic 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 13, 2022, for two (2) clinics

Baseball clinic 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Softball clinic 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 20, 2022, for one (1) clinic

Baseball clinic 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Scott indicated that Bradley at Strike Force has been notified that they have been chosen to host these clinics. Scott indicated that the dates listed above are being held by Strike Force for NHAA clinics. Discussion was had over specific time slot, and Cathy indicated 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. were the time slots indicated at the previous meeting. Scott will follow up with Strike Force regarding proposed clinic schedule listed above. Once clinic schedules are confirmed with Strike Force, Dave will update the website and Melinda will advertise on social media.

Kyle indicated that gym space at the Nordon Middle School (large gym) will be available on particular dates in March (Monday – Friday). Further discussion will need to be had regarding how best to utilize the space. Clinics for coaches may be a good option for this space, but Scott will follow up with Strike Force regarding clinics for coaches. Jim suggested a registration/sign-up for coaches to participate in clinics as previous sessions had very low turnout.

Kevin will communicate with D-BAT regarding not utilizing their services.

2. Confirmation on registration through Strike Force

3. Update from Strike Force regarding outside softball pitching instructor (Becky D'Amato)

Scott will confirm with Strike Force about bringing in an outside softball pitching instructor. Jim indicated this has been done in the past.

3. Fields Committee

a. VP of Fields/Chair Report

1. Written proposal for Sagamore Hills Trustees (re: 9.13.2021 Trustee meeting)
(re: NHAA improvements to Sagamore Park)
2. Additional maintenance before start of season

Brian discussed proposed maintenance/work that is needed at various fields. Jim forwarded to all members the written copy of the information Brian presented. Brian indicated that all fields need work. Major work is needed at the Middle School (i.e. water issues/drainage from the road). Brian indicated the desire to make Sagamore 4 a bigger field for older players. Brian proposed cutting the infield out at least 10 feet. Jim indicated through previous conversations that Sagamore Hills Township will not allow NHAA to do this much of a cut; they will allow 6-7 feet only. It was discussed that Sagamore 4 has 70-foot bases already, with second base being at the grass line. Brian indicated that making a 6-foot cut will work. This will be a big project in cost and scope. Sagamore 2 has a persistent water issue around second base. Collectively, Brian indicated adding 300+ yards of dirt at a cost of approximately \$30-\$35 per yard. Labor is not included in addition to any drainage issues that need to be resolved.

Scott indicated the struggle of continuing to add dirt to fields only to see product wash away. The temporary solution to a bigger problem is not working. Marc indicated that focus must be made to one particular issue/field and let product settle to have a bigger impact. Mike indicated the need to plan further in advance for these improvements. Nick indicated the time to discuss these issues is between spring/summer season and Fall Ball. Jim indicated options at Sagamore Park to work on a field while using other and keeping open fields for community use. Jim will need to seek approval from Sagamore Hills Township for improvements that NHAA will make to fields.

Kevin suggested utilizing Macedonia fields more as the City maintains fields versus NHAA. Discussion was had and more fields are needed than just fields in Macedonia. Dave indicated use already of Longwood. Brian did clarify that fields in Macedonia offer a different material; clay brick is utilized versus dirt/sand at other community fields. Jim indicated the need for use of all community fields, and NHAA maintains these fields that otherwise may disappear from neglect.

3. Securing fields for 2022 season

- a. Update regarding scheduling and pricing at Longwood with the City of Macedonia
 1. Updates/comments from Kevin

Kevin indicated meeting separately and discussing with Mayor Molnar, Jason Chadock at Macedonia Rec, as well as Council rep Jessica Brandt to the Parks and Rec Committee regarding NHAA use of Longwood Park. Kevin indicated he is awaiting follow up conversations regarding this topic.

b. Secure community and school fields for use (St. Barnabas, Northfield, Sagamore)

Jim has made contact with all schools and municipalities regarding field use for the upcoming season. Contracts will be faxed or emailed to each entity on February 3, 2022.

4. Equipment Committee

a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

1. Update on receipt of equipment ordered from Play It Again Sports in Twinsburg

Chase confirmed receipt of this equipment. All equipment is at the storage unit.

2. Update on receipt of softballs ordered from BSN Sports

Chase confirmed receipt of this equipment. All softballs are at the storage unit.

3. Update on backorder situation with baseballs ordered from BSN Sports

Chase confirmed baseballs are scheduled to ship 2/21/2022.

5. Uniform Committee

a. Chair Report

1. Update on bids received (due date 1/31/2022)

2. Recommendation of a uniform vendor

Julie discussed the bids received back from vendors – Steve's Sports, Primetime, and RDP Sports Plus. Julie indicated the quick responsiveness of RDP Sports as well as being the lowest bidder. Julie indicated that TBL has used RDP Sports for many years and after speaking with a TBL reference, Julie indicated only good things were said about this vendor. Julie indicated that RDP has stock in house now. Julie indicated the committee's recommendation to go with RDP Sports Plus for uniforms.

Jim inquired about the 2-button dri fit jersey for older boys and Julie indicated she will follow up with RDP Sports on pricing as not included with bid. Jim inquired about the quality of the hats priced and Julie indicated she will follow up with RDP Sports on hat quality. Marc inquired if work was done in-house at RDP and Julie indicated it was. Dave inquired about embroidery on hats and Julie will need to follow up with RDP Sports for further clarification on in-house embroidery. Nick indicated that good feedback has been received from the boys on the quality of the hats from previous year. He expressed the desire to see that same quality this upcoming season. Julie indicated she will go in person to RDP to show the hat that is desired, as well as inquire about the 2-button jersey for older boys leagues. Julie indicated that RDP can meet deadlines as outlined in the bid.

Motion by Jim: RDP Sports Plus to be uniform vendor for the upcoming season as long as they can replicate previous hat quality and 2-button jersey for older boys with comparable pricing.

Motion first by Brenda. Motion second by Matt.

A unanimous voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Jim indicated the need to offer a timely response to other bidding vendors that the selection has been made for the upcoming season.

6. Discipline Committee

a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

7. Strategic Planning Committee

a. Chair Report

b. Update on written future strategic plan to guide focused fundraising efforts

Nick suggested doing a more focused and larger effort to one or two of the current fields. Scott expressed need to focus on one field and do it right. Jim indicated that all fields must be maintained for use. Nick indicated that over time both objectives will be accomplished. Nick will follow up with committee as well as work with his employer regarding grant opportunities (due end of March) for this effort.

8. Player Development Committee

a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

9. Marketing and Fundraising Committee

a. Chair Report

1. Update on fundraiser opportunities

a. Golf outing

Matt will be able to advise further in two weeks for a late July or August scramble golf outing.

b. Restaurants

2. Updates/comments on advertising registration and upcoming season

a. School PTA's

Melinda indicated that fliers need to be printed in order to be distributed. Desire for an email blast would be more cost effective. Julie indicated that electronic blasts work best with older students. Discussion was had about Dr. Clark possibly electronically blasting out information to the Nordonia district and even reaching out through social media.

b. Local businesses

c. Social media

d. Website

e. Print media

Dave indicated he has sent advertising information to the *NewsLeader*, the *Sagamore Voice*, as well as Nordoniahills.news.

Kyle indicated that emails were sent through the NBA basketball program regarding baseball/softball registration. Nordoniabasketball.com

3. Update regarding quote from Kimpton for banners/signs to advertise registration

Melinda will be contacting other vendors for quotations. Cathy indicated Signs 330 in Munroe Falls was very responsive when discussing banners. A quotation on a banner was also received from PrimeTime by the Uniform Committee. Jim indicated Badlime, as well as VMS as possible vendors. Two (2) signs desired for advertising registration. Melinda will follow up with municipalities to seek approval to post signage advertising registration. Dave indicated Route 82 and Route 8 are prime spots. Kevin suggested contacting Northfield Center about advertising on digital sign at Olde Eight and Route 82, as well as advertising on digital sign at Route 82 and Valley View/North Bedford intersection.

4. Update on pricing regarding sponsor banners for league play

5. Discuss Board members soliciting for sponsors versus coaches

10. Technology Committee

a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

1. Sponsor form – updated for banners and posted on the website

Dave confirmed update on sponsor form and it is posted to the website.

2. Maintenance bid form – Discuss any changes to form (Need to add to website)

Dave updated Maintenance bid form to include Ledgeview and posted it to the website.

b. Continued discussion of in-person registration with mini-clinics

c. Update on travel team player contact information for future NHAA communication

Dave indicated there is a way to upload travel player info, but their info is only added to the overall directory. One specific registration for email communication cannot be done. Discussion was had and registration would be needed for each individual user. Melinda suggested a separate registration form with basic info (i.e. name, email, phone). Dave indicated that Andy has contacted Travel coaches to turn in contact info on all players.

Dave confirmed posting to the website fliers for the Girls Bash and Boys Bash.

Discussion was had about the availability of www.nhaa.com as a domain name. Dave indicated a \$20 annual fee with Go Daddy. Discussion was had about adding this new domain to the current domain.

Motion by Jim: Adopt both www.nhaa.com and www.nhaa.info and Dave will work on it through Go Daddy to capitalize on both domain names.

Motion first by Brenda. Motion second by Scott.

A unanimous voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Dave inquired about advertising more with www.nhaa.com and it was discussed to be a gradual advertising transition.

V. Travel Update

1. Travel Coordinator Report

a. Update on travel meeting with all travel coaches to determine fields

Jim indicated that Andy did send out communication to travel coaches regarding dates.

b. Bash updates

1. Girls Bash: May 20 – 22, 2022

a. Confirmation on field reservation (and concession stand) at Sagamore

Jim indicated all is set with the Girls Bash.

2. Boys Bash: June 3 – 5, 2022

a. Confirmation on field reservation (and concession stand) at Sagamore

Jim indicated all is set with the Boys Bash.

Jim indicated that tournament forms are all set for submission to Sagamore Hills Township on February 3, 2022. Jim will discuss with Scott the deposit needed (for restrooms) as well as rental fees. Scott confirmed one deposit for both tournaments.

Melinda will post Girls Bash and Boys Bash fliers to social media. She will be

connecting with outside communities through social media as well.

VI. New Action Items

1. Update on discussions with Twinsburg Baseball League (TBL) and Hudson for Willie Mays and/or Pee Wee Reese

Jim indicated that further communication is needed with TBL and western communities for girls softball leagues, and TBL and Hudson for boys baseball leagues. Dave indicated he will reach out to western communities for discussions.

2. Confirmation of discussed dates and further updates

- a. Proposed dates:

Saturday, April 16, 2022 – Equipment distribution (morning)
Saturday, April 16, 2022 – Field maintenance day (afternoon)
Monday, April 18, 2022 – Practice to begin
Monday, May 9, 2022 – Pre-season games to begin

- b. Discussion for other dates

1. General Meeting
2. Coaches training
3. Umpire training (Dan Lingo?)
4. Regular season starting date
5. Picture day
6. All-Star weekend
7. Playoffs
8. Rain dates

VII. Open Discussion/Comments

A brief discussion was had about drafts for team selection and this will be further discussed at the next meeting. Jim indicated the League Trustee will work with coaches on a league-by-league basis regarding drafts. Jim asked that members think about this topic and be ready for further discussion at the next meeting.

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 9:31 p.m.