

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Call to order: 8:03 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 (in at 8:13; out at 9:16)
Cathy Loya, Secretary
Matt Bewley, Board Member
Kyle Deininger, Board Member
Nicole Gvora, Board Member
Brian James, Board Member
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Julie Moran, Board Member (in at 8:06)
Kenny Sanger, Board Member

Present via Telephone:

Andy Papile, Travel Coordinator

Absent:

Nick Lanese, Board Member
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member
Bobby Reville, Board Member
Marc Sprang, Board Member

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from February 2, 2022

Motion made by Jim to accept the minutes from the February 2, 2022, meeting.
Motion first by Dave. Motion second by Nikki. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

II. President's Report

III. Umpire discussion with Dan Lingo

Dan Lingo was welcomed to the meeting as the NHAA head umpire. Jim indicated that Dan and John Lahrmer will work on securing umpires for the upcoming season. Advertisement for more umpires will be needed.

Dan, Jim, and Dave expressed that payment of umpires is done via check and this form of payment is accepted by all parties involved.

Dan indicated speaking with surrounding communities such as Twinsburg and Aurora, and umpires are looking for time limits as well as increased pay. Dan indicated that rule books will be needed for upcoming classes to be offered in March. Proposed umpire classes to be held the following dates for 90 minutes each class:

Monday, March 7, 2022
Monday, March 21, 2022

Thursday, March 10, 2022
Thursday, March 24, 2022

Jim will work to secure either cafeteria or gym space at Nordonia Middle School (NMS) to accommodate these classes. Dan wishes to see umpires attend all classes offered, especially the final class. Dan has

prepared a flier to post at NMS. Dan will approach NMS about posting, as well as approach the Nordonia High School Athletic Director to distribute fliers. Dave asked that Dan include information on the flier so that new umpires register through the NHAA website (nhaa.info). Dave indicated two (2) new umpires (along with some veterans) have registered via the website already.

Dan indicated that it would be nice to have gymnasium space for especially the final class. Kyle indicated his bookings (for basketball) with NMS for gym space that he will relinquish and make available for umpire classes. Kyle indicated that he has reserved through March 18. Kyle did confirm that NMS gyms are reserved for volleyball after this time period and poses an issue for March 24 use. Jim will follow up with other buildings for space or NMS cafeteria can be utilized for this final class.

Jim asked Dan regarding a request for a raise for umpires. Dan indicated that many umpires also go to surrounding communities (Twinsburg and Aurora) and pay structure needs to be comparable to attract certified umpires to NHAA. For example, Dan indicated the pay structure for travel baseball umpires is \$60 each for a two-man crew and \$80 each for a solo. Andy confirmed this pay structure at the end of the 2021 travel season. Dan indicated that travel softball may not command these quoted prices. Rec league umpire fee structure has no specifics.

Jim asked that Dan solidify umpire pricing for travel baseball and travel softball so that travel teams can adjust their budgets as needed. Dan will provide this information and report to Jim.

Scott asked Dan for assistance with securing umpires for the Girls Bash (May 20 – 22, 2022) and the Boys Bash (June 3 – 5, 2022) with payment at a flat rate for umpires for both tournaments. Scott indicated there may be a few games on Thursday, June 2 for the Boys Bash. Dan indicated that the dates given for both the Girls Bash and the Boys Bash do not conflict with tournaments happening in Twinsburg and/or Aurora. Dan does not see a problem with securing umpires for both Nordonia tournaments.

Dan indicated that jerseys are needed for umpires. Jim asked Dave to contact Prime Time to order these shirts new. The Board voiced approval and Dave will follow up with Prime Time for ordering. Scott will pay the invoice once received.

IV. NHAA League Trustee Assignments

Dave sent out the following info to all board members regarding trustee duties:

- Figure out number of coaches needed and recruit more if needed (Based on registration)
 - Figure out how to split up teams (you do it or setting up a draft)
- (Just make sure that teams are even and have pitching)
- Get rosters and uniform size details by team to Dave (from registration info)
 - Help with setting up all-stars teams (instructions in the handbook)
 - Deal with any issues that arise (behavior problems, parents questions, coaches questions, uniforms)
- (Behavior issues may result in an email to the other board members ... so we all know what's going on)

A discussion was had regarding trustees needing to attend games and Dave indicated that attendance at games is not really necessary unless specific circumstances warrant attendance.

Jim indicated to the Board the importance of new members to take on these trustee roles as current members will be aging out soon from the association.

1. Results of SignUpGenius and assignments by the board:

- a. T-Ball (co-ed) (Kindergarten)
 1. Cathy volunteered. Marc expressed interest in helping here.
- b. Babe Ruth (Boys – Grades 1 and 2)
 1. Chase volunteered
- c. Willie Mays (Boys – Grades 3 and 4)

Melinda volunteered via SignUpGenius
d. Pee Wee Reese (Boys – Grades 5 and 6)

Mike volunteered via SignUpGenius. Jim voiced his appreciation for Mike volunteering for this trustee position; however, Jim expressed concern with the field duties that Mike already has. A discussion was had and Kenny will be the primary and Mike will be the back up. Kenny accepted the position as long as he has a clear understanding of the duties. Mike accepted the back up position.

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

Andy volunteered via SignUpGenius

f. Boys Colt (Boys – Grades 9-12)

1. Bobby volunteered

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

Kevin volunteered via SignUpGenius. Jim volunteered to assist Kevin as a back up.

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

Brian volunteered via SignUpGenius; however, Jim suggested Brian will have his hands full with field duties, but he appreciates Brian stepping up. A board member needs to be a league trustee and there is a limit of one (1) board member per family/household. Brenda volunteered to be the primary and Julie agreed to be the back up.

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

With no volunteers via SignUp Genius, Jim inquired if Nikki would be interested. A discussion was had and Nikki agreed to be the primary and Kyle agreed to be the back up.

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

With no volunteers via SignUp Genius, Jim volunteered Nick for the position. Jim will contact Nick about this position. A decision will be made regarding a back up.

2. Discuss team selection by league utilizing a draft

Brenda inquired about a draft per league and Nikki indicated it is usually left up to the league trustee to decide. Jim indicated his desire to see a draft; however, handling requests and making teams as even as possible is always a challenge. Jim suggested reaching out to the Board for assistance with team assignments as needed. Jim also suggested inviting kids to play in front of league trustees and coaches to determine team selection. Dave reiterated the importance of even teams especially when only kids are pitching.

V. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee

a. Treasurer/Chair Report

1. Current financial report

Financial update was emailed to all Board members on 2/16/2022.

Balance: \$51,638.71.

The payment to TruGreen was discussed as there was an issue with timely billing on the behalf of TruGreen. Jim indicated that this issue is now resolved and at no fault of NHAA.

Usual expenses noted on the report (i.e. Storage rental fee, Toro monthly payment) Scott indicated that SpacePlace (storage rental) fee will be increasing to \$280 a month (versus \$264 as noted on financial statement).

Additional income noted as registration is open and payments are being received.

Travel accounts have been established and coaches now have access to all capabilities.

Jim inquired about a payment to Sports Engine. A discussion was had and an automatic withdrawal should be taking place for this payment. Scott indicated that he has not seen anything yet, but he will review.

Scott indicated that an invoice for Schedule Works will be paid shortly.

Jim indicated receipt of a check from Venditti Studios from 2021 Picture Day for the amount of \$1500.00+. Several board members voiced appreciation for the check and Jim suggested moving forward with Venditti Studios again for 2022 pictures. Again, several board members voiced approval.

Scott indicated receipt of a sponsor form from The Workz in Cuyahoga Falls.

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)

Jim inquired about payment for the insurance policy renewal. Current policy is set to expire on March 1, 2022. Jim indicated that field reservations within schools and/or communities require valid proof of insurance. Tournaments also require valid proof of insurance when registering. Scott will review the message received during this meeting from Jeff Sindelar and advise the Board accordingly. Scott does not see an issue with being up-to-date going forward with this renewal policy.

4. Prepare Operating Budget for upcoming 2022 season

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

Jim inquired about the operating budget for presentation at the General Meeting. Scott will work on this and have this ready in time for the Wednesday, March 9, 2022, General Meeting.

2. Skills Clinic Committee

a. Confirmation regarding five (5) clinics to be held at Strike Force (Scott)

1. Confirmation on clinic dates

Sunday, March 6, 2022, 2-4 p.m. baseball - 4-6 p.m. softball

Sunday, March 13, 2022, 2-4 p.m. baseball - 4-6 p.m. softball

Sunday, March 20, 2022, 2-4 p.m. baseball

Scott confirmed the above dates and times for clinics to be held at Strike Force.

Jim indicated that there needs to be Board representation at these clinics. Jim will not be available for these Sunday clinics. A schedule for representation will be discussed.

2. Update on advertisement of clinics

Scott indicated that advertising these clinics through an email blast as well as posted to social media and the website are appropriate at this time with confirmation on dates and times.

3. Update on coach's clinic (utilize Strike Force or Nordonias gym space)

Scott indicated a request send to Bradley at Strike Force for a coach's clinic on Saturday, March 5 in the afternoon. Confirmation is still needed.

a. Registration for coaches

4. Confirmation on registration through Strike Force

Scott indicated that Strike Force will set up the registration for these clinics, and a discussion was had about a cap of participants per clinic with the Board indicating forty (40) participants being an appropriate number.

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

b. Notification to D-BAT about not utilizing services (Kevin)

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)

Jim voiced appreciation for Brian for putting together pricing, and requests that the Fields Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee meet to put together a formal written proposal for work to be done at school fields and at Sagamore Park. A meeting of these two committees will need to happen before the March 2022 Sagamore Hills Trustee meeting (scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022). The goal is to give a written proposal to Sagamore Hills Township at this meeting with budget-friendly work to be done at multiple targeted fields.

Andy expressed concern about use of Sagamore Park being in jeopardy should they follow the City of Macedonia. A brief discussion was had and Jim indicated Sagamore Hills Township does not do the field maintenance. Jim stressed the importance of preparing and presenting a formal written proposal to the Sagamore Trustees to show the improvements to be made at NHAA cost as investments into the community and Sagamore Park.

2. Additional discussion regarding maintenance before start of season

Mike indicated nothing new to report.

Brian indicated he has been working on the trailer (i.e. paint touch up, axle work, fixing boards and gate, adding new lights). Brian will also work on the lift assist.

3. Securing fields for 2022 season

a. New updates re: scheduling and pricing at Longwood with the City of Macedonia
1. Any new updates/comments from Kevin

Jim confirmed securing Sugarbush Park in Macedonia. Jim confirmed the NHAA field cost for Longwood fields will be \$55 per game (rec and travel). Further discussion will be needed regarding field assignments/allocation.

- b. Confirmation on securing community and school fields for use (sent 2/3/2022)
(St. Barnabas, Northfield, Sagamore)
Jim confirmed all the paperwork has been submitted for school fields,
St. Barnabas, Northfield Village, and Sagamore Hills.

4. Equipment Committee

a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

- 1. Confirmation on shipping date of 2/21/2022 on baseballs ordered from BSN Sports

Chase indicated that the baseballs are now set to ship on 3/2/2022. All other items ordered are in the storage shed.

5. Uniform Committee

a. Chair Report

- 1. RDP Sports Plus vendor for uniforms
- 2. Confirmation on notices being sent to other vendors whose bids were not accepted

Julie indicated that the other bidding vendors (Prime Time and Steve's Sports) were notified via email that their bid was not accepted.

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

Please see notes above in the Fields Committee.

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 indicated that he is communicating with Signature of Solon and Valleaire Golf Club regarding an NHAA Golf Outing. Matt is targeting Friday, August 5, 2022, as the date for this outing. Matt indicated he wants to secure this date and a location soon so that sponsorship can be solicited.

- b. Restaurants

- 2. Updates/comments on advertising registration and upcoming season

- a. School PTA's
 - b. Local businesses
 - c. Social media
 - d. Website
 - e. Print media

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

Matt indicated that quotes were still pending.

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

Dave indicated 2022 registration is open. New umpires have signed up and currently 176 kids have registered for the upcoming season.

b. Additional update on travel team player contact information for future NHAA communication

VI. Travel Update

1. Travel Coordinator Report

a. Additional updates on travel meeting with all travel coaches to determine fields

Andy indicated that communication has been sent to all travel teams (baseball and softball) gearing up for the season. Details include what is needed from each team, coach information, field assignments, etc. A discussion was had regarding Andy having a formal meeting (either in person or Zoom) with coaches to determine field assignments versus an informal text thread. Andy indicated that league meetings have already happened and scheduling meetings will be happening in March. Andy indicated he will discuss with the travel coaches the importance of submitting rosters for entry into the main database.

b. Bash updates

Jim indicated additional advertisement is needed for these tournaments. A strong social media presence is needed. Dave confirmed advertising this on the website. Andy indicated he will do an email blast to contacts from last season regarding this year's tournaments.

Scott asked Andy for information regarding the flat rate paid to umpires at the 2021 tournaments. Andy will secure the info and provide it to Scott.

Jim asked Andy for assistance with the fine details of these tournaments. Scott will also be included. Andy indicated he will help. The three plan to meet in the near future.

1. Girls Bash: May 20 – 22, 2022

Jim indicated that the Girls Bash is half full in 10U, 5 teams in 12U, and 3 teams in 14U.

2. Boys Bash: June 3 – 5, 2022

Scott indicated that he is starting to see registrants for the Boys Bash – 7-10 teams across the divisions.

c. Confirmation on deposit and tournament forms submitted to Sagamore Hills Township

VII. New Action Items

1. Update on discussions with outside leagues

- a. Twinsburg Baseball League (TBL)
- b. Hudson

Jim indicated that discussions still need to take place with TBL, Aurora, and Hudson regarding combining with leagues for boys baseball.

c. Western communities

Jim indicated that discussions with the western communities for girls softball will need to take place in March (this is when they start meeting).

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

a. Discuss specific date – March 2022

A discussion was had and the General Meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Nordonia Middle School. Jim will contact the schools for reservation of the space.

2. Coaches training

A discussion was had and this training will be Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Nordonia Middle School. Jim indicated that coaches that cannot attend this meeting can attend a Zoom session offered at a later date.

3. Umpire training (Dan Lingo?)

Please see above.

4. Regular season starting date

5. Picture day

A discussion was had and Picture Day will be Saturday, May 21, 2022, with Venditti Studios.

6. All-Star weekend

A discussion was had and All-Star weekend will be Saturday, June 25, 2022, with a rain date of Sunday, June 26, 2022.

7. Playoffs

A discussion was had and playoffs will begin Monday, July 11, 2022, ending on Saturday, July 16, 2022.

8. Rain dates

VIII. Open Discussion/Comments

Kyle indicated a desire to come up with developmental work (i.e. group sessions/combined practice sessions before games) for Girls Manager Pitch. A discussion was had and Kyle will work with the girls from a coaching standpoint.

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 **Time:** 8:00 p.m.

Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 9:19 p.m.