

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 2, 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 (in at 8:15)
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
Brenda Kovi, Board Member

Nick Lanese, Board Member
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member
Julie Moran, Board Member (in at 8:04; out at 9:16)
Bobby Reville, Board Member (out at 9:22)
Kenny Sanger, Board Member
Marc Sprang, Board Member

Present via Telephone:

Absent:

Andy Papile, Travel Coordinator
Nicole Gvora, Board Member

Brian James, Board Member

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from February 16, 2022

Motion made by Jim to accept the minutes from the February 16, 2022, meeting.
Motion first by Brenda. Motion second by Kenny. The minutes have been approved.

II. President's Report

Jim reported speaking with Venditti Studios and they are happy to do pictures for the upcoming season. Jim also expressed that they are interested in doing a fundraising event again this year. Picture day is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2022, with a delivery date by All Star Weekend (Saturday, June 25, 2022).

A review of Jim's email from February 27, 2022, was discussed.

III. NHAA League Trustee Assignments

Jim discussed the assignments listed below and no objections were made by any members. Jim did ask members to consider signing up to fill the openings.

1. Confirmation on assignments

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

1. Primary: Cathy Back up: Marc

b. Babe Ruth (Boys – Grades 1 and 2)

1. Primary: Chase Back up: _____

- c. Willie Mays (Boys – Grades 3 and 4)
 - 1. Primary: Melinda Back up: _____
- d. Pee Wee Reese (Boys – Grades 5 and 6)
 - 1. Primary: Kenny Back up: Mike
- e. Sandy Koufax (Boys – Grades 7 and 8)
 - 1. Primary: Andy Back up: _____
- f. Boys Colt (Boys – Grades 9-12)
 - 1. Primary: Bobby Back up: _____
- g. Girls Manager Pitch (Girls – Grades 2 and 3)
 - 1. Primary: Kevin Back up: Jim
- h. Girls A League (Girls – Grades 4 and 5)
 - 1. Primary: Brenda Back up: Julie
- i. Girls AA League (Girls – Grade 6, 7 and 8)
 - 1. Primary: Nikki Back up: Kyle
- j. Girls AAA League (Girls – Grades 9-12)
 - 1. Primary: Nick Back up: _____

2. Further discussion regarding drafts

The discussion on drafts will be put on hold as this can be handled among trustees.

IV. Umpires

1. Confirmation on proposed umpire classes

Jim confirmed the below dates are set for the umpire classes. Dan Lingo and Mr. Lahrmer will begin classes next week. Jim confirmed that classes will be held at the Nordonia Middle School cafeteria. Jim encouraged those with older children interested in umpiring to attend these classes. Jim indicated that in the past payment was rendered to participants in the classes. (i.e. Attend two classes get paid at rate of one game). Several members voiced agreement with this payment.

a. Dates

- 1. Monday, March 7, 2022
- 2. Thursday, March 10, 2022
- 3. Monday, March 21, 2022
- 4. Thursday, March 24, 2022

b. Location

- 1. Confirmation on secured space at Nordonia Middle School (gym versus cafeteria)

c. Advertisement and registration for classes

Dave indicated that advertisements for umpires has been made via the website. Melinda inquired about making a flier to advertise the umpire classes and she will put something together. Scott asked if there was an umpire problem last year as he knew of umpires that wanted more games. Dave indicated that there was umpire availability problems on certain days. Nick echoed this sentiment. Jim confirmed Dan could not fill all dates, so parents at rec games stepped in. Jim will follow up with Dan regarding advertising classes.

2. Confirmation on order placed for umpire books (6 baseball and 6 softball)

Scott confirmed that umpire books have not been ordered yet. Scott will order these umpire books (10 baseball and 10 softball).

3. Confirmation on order placed for umpire uniform shirts

Dave confirmed ordering 25-30 shirts of various sizes through Prime Time.

4. Confirmation on umpire pay rate for travel baseball and travel softball

A discussion was had about follow up from Dan regarding a flat rate for rec league umpires. Jim

will follow up with Dan on this issue. Jim indicated that certified umpires will be needed for older leagues (i.e. Sandy and Colt). Dave indicated that base rate was \$20, \$25, and \$30.

V. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee

a. Treasurer/Chair Report

1. Current financial report

Current Balance: \$54,003.55

March payment for storage rental was paid (\$280.00)

March Toro payment (\$212.46)

Insurance payment – 1 year premium (\$3,637.70)

Income from Sports Engine received via registration.

Scott indicated that the \$1,000.00 deposit was paid to Sagamore Hills Township for both Bash tournaments. The deposit should be returned pending any damages.

2. Open invoices

a. Sports Engine

Discussion was had regarding this payment and it will be an automatic payment. Scott will confirm payment once made.

b. Schedule Werks

Scott confirmed payment to Schedule Werks.

3. Confirmation on final payments to Brian James (re: field maintenance)

Scott confirmed final payment to Brian James.

4. Confirmation on receipt of check from Venditti Studios from 2021 Picture Day

5. Update on insurance renewal from Jeff Sindelar (expires March 1, 2022)

Jim indicated that the insurance policies are now active as of March 1, 2022. These policies have been submitted to Nordonia schools, Northfield Village, Sagamore Hills Township. Travel teams will have access to policies for their needs via the website.

6. Preview of Operating Budget for upcoming 2022 season (present March 9, 2022)

Scott reviewed the prepared Budget with the Board and no questions were raised. Scott did indicate that Fall Ball is included in the prepared Operating Budget.

2. Skills Clinic Committee

a. Strike Force Clinics

1. Clinic dates with Board representation at each session

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

Melinda confirmed that five (5) Board members signed up to be present for the baseball clinic and four (4) Board members signed up to be present for the softball clinic on March 6th. The SignUp Genius link includes volunteer spots for the other clinic dates as well. Scott indicated that Strike Force will have five (5) instructors present for each clinic as well. Scott indicated that Strike Force hired a softball instructor and she will be there for this March 6th softball clinic. Scott confirmed that Strike Force is responsible for setting up/facilitating the drills and all the training. Strike Force will run the clinics.

Sunday, March 13, 2022, 2-4 p.m. baseball and 4-6 p.m. softball
Sunday, March 20, 2022, 2-4 p.m. baseball

2. Registration through Strike Force with maximum of 40 participants each session above

A discussion was had about following the Strike Force registration link posted on the NHAA website. Dave confirmed this information was sent to all past and present registered members via an email blast sent February 27, 2022. Nick suggested posting this registration information to Facebook.

Dave confirmed that Bradley at Strike Force would need to be contacted to see the participants registered. Scott will follow up with Bradley Thursday evening while at Strike Force to see how the numbers look for this first clinic.

Jim indicated that these clinics are for recreational players primarily. If there are openings the day before the scheduled clinic, travel players can register for clinic.

Jim expressed appreciation for Scott's communication with Bradley in order to set up the clinics.

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

a. Registration for coaches

4. 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. Updates regarding written formal proposal for Sagamore Hills Trustees (March 2022)
Combined effort with Strategic Planning Committee

Jim indicated that the Fields Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee met, and the combined plan is to prepare a written proposal for Sagamore Hills Township (field work at Sagamore Park), for Nordonia schools (for field work at NMS), and Northfield Village for proposed field work. Jim indicated that additional communication was had with Baker Vehicle Systems regarding bulk product (i.e. dirt, field conditioner). Jim also indicated a possible contact in Twinsburg who is handling reconditioning/redoing fields in Twinsburg (Liberty Park). Messages have been left with Jim Putnam (sic), but no return call has been received as of yet. Jim indicated that Twinsburg will be converting all of their fields to the infield mix with conditioner and crushed brick. Jim indicated the estimated cost given to him from TBL was \$9,000.00 to do one (1) field (i.e. conditioned top dirt/soil/crushed brick, level field, redo field for better drainage). Previous estimates received indicated a price of upwards of \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 per field.

Jim indicated that estimated pricing on clay for pitcher's mound and batters boxes to be \$700.00 - \$800.00. Goal is to level out these areas. Digging out these areas would require a skid steer with tracks system. Jim indicated rental pricing to be approximately \$1,000.00 for a week. Nick indicated timing of major work on the two (2) fields could be combined with the digging out of these areas on the other fields to maximize time with the rental equipment. Bobby indicated that a pulverizer (like a rototiller) attachment for the skid steer is available for cutting work.

Jim inquired with Marc regarding utilizing Specialized Contracting (i.e. cut out Sagamore Field #4 approximately 6 feet). They have done field work in the past. Jim indicated other work would be cutting down the lip on the infield. Marc and Jim will discuss further at a later date.

Jim indicated that Brian discussed the water runoff onto the NMS field. Discussion

with the schools will be had to see about diverting stormwater runoff away from the field. Nick indicated the Brian drove the parking lot at NMS and there is a drain in the parking lot that could be used to divert stormwater away from the field. Approval would be needed from the schools before doing anything.

Nick indicated that the committees met and looked at a variety of items including large capital projects (long-term projects requiring municipality cooperation). Nick indicated the committees discussed dugouts, fences, playing surfaces. Nick indicated that a goal would be to do one (1) to two (2) fields the summer of 2022 and the other fields would get the "old fashioned work" (i.e. adding regular dirt, spreading it around, making as level as possible, raising up as much as possible). The goal is to get two (2) fields done nicely; professionally leveled, conditioned, clay on the pitcher's mound, clay in the batters boxes. Nick indicated the committees identified one (1) field from each entity:

- *Sagamore Field #4 in Sagamore Hills Township

- *Nordon Middle School Field in the Nordon Middle Schools

- *Magnolia Field in Northfield Village

Nick indicated that additional quotes will be obtained and they will put together a formal proposal to share at local municipality Board/Trustee meetings. The scope of work will be outlined as well as the cost that NHAA will incur. Permission to do the work on Township/School/Village property is being sought. Nick indicated that this is a continuous long-term plan where each year two (2) fields are identified for major work. This will slowly turn each field into the more premier fields (with crushed brick and professionally leveled).

Dave inquired if a different attachment would be needed for the Toro for field maintenance with new playing surface. A brief discussion was had and more information will be needed to see if this is the case. Jim indicated no different equipment is used on the field by Blue Jay Trail.

Jim asked Scott the estimated investment that could be made into a field, such as capital overall budget based on projections going into 2023. Jim indicated the estimate received from Baker shows buying product in bulk. Scott indicated an estimate of \$15,000.00 for capital improvements.

Jim indicated setting up delivery with Aris for portable bathroom facilities. Delivery is to be done by April 18, 2022, to all locations. A discussion on payment was had about being invoiced versus doing a direct payment. Scott will follow up with Aris regarding payment.

2. Additional discussion regarding maintenance before start of season

4. Strategic Planning Committee

a. Chair Report

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

Please see Field Committee report.

5. Equipment Committee

a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

1. Confirmation on shipping date of 3/2/2022 on baseballs ordered from BSN Sports

Jim indicated that equipment through the Chevy Youth Sports program has been ordered. This usually will arrive in four (4) to six (6) weeks. It will be taken to the

storage unit upon receipt. Jim has the list of items ordered.

Chase indicated that baseballs from BSN Sports will ship on 3/16/2022. Chase did indicate that the NHAA order is the first order to ship from BSN.

6. Uniform Committee

a. Chair Report

1. RDP Sports Plus vendor for uniforms

a. Port and Company hat (RN90836) to begin production (180 hats)

Julie discussed that RDP Sports Plus would like to get hats in production now because of the longer process with the embroidery. Jim indicated that years ago the Board decided to go with a higher quality hat for longer use after the season. A brief discussion was had and Julie indicated the 2022 hat is thinner than the 2021 hat, but it is a Velcro adjustable hat. Chase and Kevin confirmed that the hat is thinner on the back, but both feel the hat will hold up for the season. Julie suggested that the hat can be used for the summer season and then reevaluated for use during the fall season. Jim indicated that purchasing a bulk quantity of hats prior to the close of registration may be warranted due to potential backorder situations.

7. Discipline Committee

a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

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

1. Friday, August 5, 2022 – location update (Signature of Solon or Valleaire)

Matt indicated that the golf outing will not happen at Signature of Solon due to double booking. Matt has reached out to Roses Run in Stow and Valleaire for a late July/early August golf outing. Matt will follow up and book a date. After booked, advertisements will need to happen for the event.

b. Restaurants

Nick indicated that a Chipotle fundraiser is scheduled for a Tuesday in May. Email blasts and social media posts will be made prior to the event. Nick will follow up with other restaurants (i.e. Culver's, Chick-fil-A, Cane's), but suggests we stay with two (2) or three (3) restaurant fundraisers.

Melinda shared a fundraising opportunity with clogs and slides using Nordonia colors and logo. It is a completely online fundraiser. Melinda indicated that Nordonia has nothing like this fundraiser and suggested that NHAA offer this fundraising promotion. Melinda indicated that pricing can be set by the organization or use the suggested pricing on the site. Jim indicated that permission may be needed from Nordonia schools in order to use the logo. Jim and Dave suggested looking into this opportunity further.

2. Updates/comments on advertising registration and upcoming season

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

Melinda indicated advertisements on social media (Facebook); however, a lot of the groups only allow posting once a week or even once a month. Bumping current posts will be done by members. Melinda indicated she is monitoring searches for baseball/softball, but nothing at this point. She indicated from last year that more searches happened mid-to-late March. Dave indicated that typically 75-100 registrants come in after the deadline. Melinda suggested marketing the registration fee as a savings prior to the deadline versus a late fee after the deadline.

Melinda indicated that Dr. Clark confirmed that he, along with all building principals, will email blast out the registration flier along with the website.

Melinda indicated that Twitter just does not have the following yet. This year can be used to gain followers.

Melinda indicated the need for doing paper fliers for younger elementary kids as they get more attention than an email. A discussion was had about seeking quotes printing fliers for kids in grades 4 and under. The target audience would be kids in grades 2 and under. Any flier that is printed will need to be distributed quickly as registration is closing.

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

Jim indicated that this needs to be tabled until Fall Ball, as registration will be closing soon for the summer. Reusing signs would be ideal.

Melinda did indicate that Dale from Kimpton Printing was the best pricing with a quick turnaround for signage.

4. Update on pricing regarding sponsor banners for league play

Discussion on sponsor banners will be held in the future as more sponsors will be signing up.

Julie indicated that RDP Sports Plus is interested in being a sponsor. Dave directed her to the website for the sponsorship form. Julie will get in contact with RDP.

5. Discuss Board members soliciting for sponsors versus coaches

A brief discussion was had regarding a year Marc called various businesses to solicit sponsorship.

10. Technology Committee

a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

1. New registration numbers (176 reported previously)

Dave confirmed sending email blast to all past and present registered families regarding the upcoming general meeting, upcoming March clinics at Strike Force, and registration for the new season. Registration estimates are up over 200s.

Dave inquired about further bids for the posted field maintenance services, and Jim indicated no bids have been received.

General meeting info as well as clinic info is on the website per Dave.

Dave indicated the individual insurance forms are posted to the website in a single zip file under the Resources tab. Dave will confirm with the City of Macedonia regarding receipt of the new insurance form. Dave indicated that he does not have confirmation on Longwood or Sugarbush as of yet.

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

VI. Travel Update

1. Travel Coordinator Report

- a. Additional updates

- b. Additional Bash updates

1. Girls Bash: May 20 – 22, 2022

- a. Previously reported half full in 10U, 5 teams in 12U, and 3 teams in 14U.

Jim indicated updated Bash numbers: 10U has 8 teams, 12U has 8 teams, 14U has 2 teams. Melinda will continue pushing promotion of the Bash via social media. Jim indicated capping a limit at 10 teams per division. Jim indicated the possibility of splitting divisions based on participants.

2. Boys Bash: June 3 – 5, 2022

- a. Previously reported 7-10 teams across the divisions

Scott indicated team numbers are good, except for the older divisions – 11U and 12U. Scott indicated a discussion with Ken Wilson and the Boys Bash will be a One Nation tournament. This will give a broader reach for marketing. Melinda will continue pushing promotion via social media.

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

Please see Financial report for update.

Chase provided an update in Andy's absence. Baseball 8U, 9U, 10U, and 12U are hoping to use Longwood. Baseball 10U and 14U are splitting the use of the Blue Jay field. Baseball 11U will be using Sagamore A field on Wednesday's. Chase indicated that schedules should be set very soon. Scott indicated that baseball 12U scheduling will be happening on March 12th.

Scott discussed using Sagamore A for practices versus Longwood fields. Practice days and locations need to be scheduled. Jim indicated that Sagamore A gets a lot of use for rec games by various teams (i.e. older kids), and games will supersede practice. Dave indicated that normally one travel team is allocated a field and then work around things. Two teams could be a challenge.

Jim indicated the Strategic Plan discussed earlier regarding Sagamore #4 being expanded for older kids as an option for games and practices (travel and rec) at Sagamore Park.

VII. New Action Items

1. New updates on discussions with outside leagues

- a. Twinsburg (baseball)
- b. Hudson (baseball)
- c. Aurora (baseball)
- d. Western communities (softball)

Jim indicated that TBL and Hudson are interested in partnering up this coming season with boys leagues. Jim and Dave will be meeting with these communities soon.

Jim indicated a meeting is scheduled March 10th at noon with the western communities for girls softball partnership. Jim and Dave will be on that call.

2. Calendar review

Monday, March 7, 2022 – Umpire training class at NMS
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 – General meeting at NMS
Thursday, March 10, 2022 – Umpire training class at NMS
Monday, March 21, 2022 – Umpire training class at NMS
Thursday, March 24, 2022 – Umpire training class at NMS
Thursday, April 14, 2022 – Coaches training at NMS
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
Saturday, May 21, 2022 – Picture Day with Venditti Studios
Saturday, June 25, 2022 – All Star Weekend
Sunday, June 26, 2022 – All Star Weekend rain date
Monday, July 11, 2022 – Beginning of playoff week

a. Discussion for other dates

1. Regular season starting date

The first week of regular season games will begin Monday, May 16, 2022. Three weeks of practice, one week of pre-season games, then the regular season will begin.

2. Rain dates

A discussion was had about setting rain dates and it was determined best to let coaches agree upon make up dates upon availability.

VIII. Open Discussion/Comments

Board attendance at the General Meeting is needed. Dan Lingo will attend this meeting. A brief discussion was had regarding this meeting and it will be advertised on social media via push notifications.

Date of NHAA General Meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 **Time:** 7:00 p.m.

Location: Nordonia Middle School – cafeteria

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 **Time:** 8:00 p.m.

Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 p.m.