

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at 8:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom (due to weather)

Meeting Call to order: 8:33 p.m.

Board Attendance/Roll Call:

Present via Zoom:

Jim Filisky, President
Kevin Bilkie, Vice President
Mike Graham, VP of Fields
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer
Cathy Loya, Secretary
Matt Bewley, Board Member
Kyle Deininger, Board Member
Nicole Gvora, Board Member
Brian James, Board Member (in at 8:41)
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Nick Lanese, Board Member (out at 9:40)
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member
Julie Moran, Board Member (in at 9:21)
Bobby Reville, Board Member
Kenny Sanger, Board Member
Marc Sprang, Board Member (out at 10:15)

Present via Telephone:

Andy Papile, Travel Coordinator (out at 10:10)

Absent:

Chase Senk, VP of Equipment

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from May 4, 2022

Jim made the motion to accept the minutes from the May 4, 2022, meeting. Motion first by Matt.
Motion second by Kevin. A unanimous voice vote was taken to accept the minutes.

II. President's Report

1. Macedonia SummerFest Fundraiser – Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11, 2022 (Beer Tent)
 - a. Home City Ice donation (from Andy)
 - b. NHAA contacts with City of Macedonia
(Jim, Matt, Chase, Melinda)
 - c. Volunteer schedule
 1. SignUp Genius

A discussion was had regarding needing Board participation during this fundraising opportunity at SummerFest. A brief discussion was had regarding how the purchase of alcohol takes place (i.e. tickets purchased separately). Melinda reported that there are many open shifts (2-hour shifts) and she will resend the SignUp Genius link to Board members. It was discussed having at least one Board member present each shift while asking NHAA coaches to volunteer as well. Dave will send an email blast to coaches asking for volunteer assistance.

Marc indicated that when sending the message to coaches it should be noted that fundraising dollars will go toward field improvements, equipment, etc. This will show coaches that dollars earned will be going back into the program. Dave will include

this information within the email to coaches.

2. Sagamore Hills Park concession stand

- a. Open for big events (Bash tournaments, All-Star Weekend, Babe Ruth, GMP, T-Ball Days)
 1. Volunteer schedule
 2. Inventory stock

Jim indicated that NHAA has access to the concession stand for big events. Having the concession stand open on a regular weekly basis is a challenge right now and should be discussed at a later date. Jim indicated that the refrigerator in the concession stand is broken, but the freezer does work.

III. Updates/Feedback on Leagues

Regular season began week of May 16, 2022

Regular season ends Friday, July 1, 2022

1. Girls Softball

- a. Girls Manager Pitch (Girls – Grades 2 and 3)
 1. Primary: Kevin Back up: Jim

Kevin reported one complaint that has been taken care of and reported that the 6-team league is running fine.

Kevin inquired about having umpires for GMP games (no umpires at any games yet). Jim indicated that more availability should be coming with umpires. Andy suggested umpires not be utilized in GMP this season and to reinvest the monies elsewhere because coaches do a good job communicating with each other. Matt indicated that umpires have not been available for any Boys Babe Ruth games this season either.

A lengthy discussion was had regarding the differences and similarities between Girls Manager Pitch and Boys Babe Ruth (re: strikeouts, using a tee, age range of leagues, etc.). A retrospective discussion of Girls Manager Pitch and Boys Babe Ruth will be discussed postseason.

- b. Girls A (Girls – Grades 4 and 5)
 1. Primary: Brenda Back up: Julie

Brenda indicated that everything seems to be running fine. Brenda mentioned that communication with other communities is needed regarding rain-outs, closing of fields, etc. Kevin indicated that they have contact information with other community teams, but no response was given in the particular incident discussed. Jim indicated that the late-day storms/rains are tricky to deal with.

- c. Girls AA (Girls – Grade 6, 7 and 8)
 1. Primary: Nikki Back up: Kyle

Nikki indicated that previous issues have been handled with no further correspondence.

- d. Girls AAA (Girls – Grades 9-12)
 1. Primary: Nick Back up: _____

Nick had nothing to report with a few Girls AAA games canceled last week and this evening due to weather. Nick indicated that things are running ok right now. Dave indicated that outside community games have not happened yet due to cancellations.

2. Boys Baseball

- a. Babe Ruth (Boys – Grades 1 and 2)
 - 1. Primary: Chase Back up: _____
- b. Willie Mays (Boys – Grades 3 and 4)
 - 1. Primary: Melinda Back up: _____

Melinda reported that everything is good in Willie Mays.

Kenny will discuss with Melinda separately a witnessed situation with one assistant coach. It was further discussed that if, as a Board member, something is witnessed, then something must be done.

- c. Pee Wee Reese (Boys – Grades 5 and 6)
 - 1. Primary: Kenny Back up: Mike

Kenny wishes to know more about field maintenance because of issues at Sagamore Field #3 and Ledgeview. Kenny also indicated complaints from all three (3) coaches regarding competitiveness with Hudson and Twinsburg. A brief discussion was had with feedback from previous seasons when the same issue was brought up. A review of league rules (re: stealing, rotating players, etc.) will need to be discussed at a later date.

- d. Sandy Koufax (Boys – Grades 7 and 8)
 - 1. Primary: Andy Back up: _____

Andy reported no issues and things are heading in the right direction.

- e. Colt (Boys – Grades 9-12)
 - 1. Primary: Bobby Back up: _____

Bobby indicated that everything is good. The league started Tuesday, May 31. Bobby reported a few uniform questions, but those have been handled.

- 3. Co-ed T-Ball (Kindergarten)
 - a. Primary: Cathy Back up: Marc

Cathy indicated that coaches are instructing during games with base running pattern, basic fielding and throwing to first base, etc. Cathy wanted to discuss with the Board moving T-Ball Day from Saturday, July 9 to closer to the end of the T-Ball season. The last games of T-Ball are on Thursday, June 23. Dave indicated that last season saw a dip in participation with such a time gap between the end of season and T-Ball Day. A brief discussion was had regarding moving T-Ball Day. Cathy will communicate with T-Ball coaches to inquire about moving the event to possibly during the evening the week of June 27. Cathy will report back to Marc, Dave, and Jim as soon as possible so logistics can be worked out with moving this event.

IV. Committee Reports

(Committee members names indicated below – chair is marked with a star *)

- 1. Finance Committee
(Scott *, Matt, Kyle)
 - a. Treasurer/Chair Report
 - 1. Current financial report
 - 2. Open invoices
 - 3. PayPal account

Current Balance: \$63,269.84

Scott detailed the financial activity report sent to all Board members reflecting activity for the month of May 2022. Scott pointed out that registration fees have all

been collected, thus revenue has decreased and expenses have increased. Large expenses were noted such as the uniform invoice, first round of umpire payments, and field maintenance expenses. A discussion was had regarding umpire payments, as well as additional invoices received that need paid (re: TruGreen; Aris).

2. Skills Clinic Committee
(Kenny, Kevin, Scott, Marc)
 - a. Chair Report

Nothing to report

3. Fields Committee
(Mike *, Brian, Kevin)
 - a. VP of Fields/Chair Report

1. Feedback on May 9, 2022, presentation to Sagamore Hills Township

Jim indicated that approval was given by Sagamore Hills Township Trustees to proceed with updating Sagamore Park Field #4. Jim expressed the concern of the Township about messing up the grounds with tire tracks, and Jim indicated that nothing would be done to mess up the property.

2. Field maintenance project (Brian)

Jim indicated that up to 10 tons of dirt can be delivered and dropped behind the service center for product to be pulled when needed. Brian indicated that approximately 40 tons of dirt will be delivered Saturday, June 3 to throw on a couple of fields (Middle School field to level for conditioner application, the field at Northfield along the base path). Brian indicated that 20-30 tons of dirt is being dropped at NMS in order to level the field. Brian also discussed dropping dirt at Sagamore Park. He also indicated that conversations need to be had with Northfield Village to drop dirt at one of their service centers. Jim indicated that he has a call into Jason Walters with Northfield Village regarding getting dirt for Magnolia and Smith Park. Brian discussed the field at Ledgeview and how he has limited access to the field to apply product. He can only get to the field when students are not there. Brian will work on a solution to correct the water issue behind home plate.

3. Walker Supply/Mike Sekula update
 - a. Update on conditioner availability

Jim indicated that the dirt coming in the weekend of June 4 will need to be applied first and leveled (at NMS) and then dry weather is needed in order to place dirt at Sagamore Park Field #4. This dirt is needed first before any conditioner can be applied.

Marc inquired about earmarking a period of time between the end of the spring season and Fall Ball to do this update to Field #4 and NMS. A discussion was had about the timing for the updates to be made to the fields. Marc suggested a mid-July to August time frame for execution of these proposed updates to Sagamore Park Field #4 and NMS. Jim indicated that a plan has been drawn up for Sagamore Park Field #4, but NHAA must work within the parameters of the process with the land owner and Mother Nature. Brian reminded the Board that adding dirt to these fields in order to level them out is the first step in the process for these final improvements and updates. Bids are in hand for everything. The supplier for the conditioner is waiting on NHAA to call and schedule delivery. Brian and the committee as a whole agree that by Fall Ball these fields will be updated and complete.

4. Confirmation on TruGreen (Weed Pro) work

Jim confirmed that the TruGreen weed kill application has been completed.

5. Update on removing orange marker ribbons on fences at all area fields
6. Lee Eaton fields – bases and anchors

A brief discussion was had regarding the fields at Lee Eaton, and Brian indicated that the fields have not been maintained this season due to lack of use.

7. Smith Field – feather holes

Jim expressed appreciation for Mike's work on the fields, but indicated that sometimes outside entities remove feathers from the fields without NHAA control or knowledge. A brief discussion was had regarding having the necessary tools (i.e. dig-out tool, measuring tape) to find an anchor. Kenny indicated issues with Sagamore Field #3 regarding the alignment of the third base anchor, which was confirmed by Brian. Brian also indicated that the pitcher's mound is to be marked by coaches by using a throw-down rubber. Brian confirmed that a hammer is inside each field box.

A discussion was had regarding proper measuring procedures when setting up bases and the pitcher's rubber. Mike confirmed measurement begins at the back corner of the plate/base to the far edge/back side of the base. Mike encouraged coaches to reach out to him if there are problems with the fields. (i.e. use of a metal detector to find buried anchors for base placement)

8. Feedback on coaches returning equipment to boxes and filling divots after each game
9. Discuss tarps to cover mound and home plate at area fields (Kevin)

Kevin sought the opinion of Board members regarding the pros and cons for getting tarps for the mound and home plate area so that early prep work can be done and then covered with a tarp. Dave indicated that if holes are covered up, then these areas are usually not a problem. Kevin indicated a general cost is a few hundred dollars for a 10' x 10' tarp with a better price for multiple tarps purchased. A brief discussion was had and in theory it was agreed upon as a great idea, but logistically it will be very difficult to place, maintain, and store tarps.

10. Discuss field maintenance/safety (Kenny)

4. Strategic Planning Committee

(Jim *, Bobby, Kevin, Scott, Nick, Mike)

- a. Chair Report
- b. Update on written future strategic plan to guide focused fundraising efforts

Nothing to report

5. Equipment Committee

(Chase *, Mike, Dave)

- a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

Nothing to report

6. Uniform Committee

(Julie *, Brenda, Cathy)

- a. Chair Report
 1. Feedback on Uniform Distribution Day
 2. Feedback on uniforms

Dave indicated that all uniforms have been distributed with a few pending due to late registration.

7. Discipline Committee

(Nick *, Bobby, Marc)

a. Chair Report

Nothing to report

8. Player Development Committee

(Andy, Nikki, Kenny)

a. Chair Report

Nothing to report

9. Marketing and Fundraising Committee

(Melinda *, Nick, Matt)

a. Chair Report

1. Update on fundraiser opportunities

a. Golf outing

1. Sunday, July 31, 2022, at Roses Run in Stow
2. Sponsorship
3. Advertisement to community
4. Registration

Matt indicated that there is no dinner planned for the golf outing. A discussion was had about the 6-hour beverage service. Jim suggested doing more of a cocktail hour after the tournament and a discussion was had on this topic.

b. Restaurants

1. Feedback Chipotle event (Tuesday, May 10, 2022)
2. Presentation of Culver's donation

2. Team/league sponsorship

- a. Combined team/league sponsorship with golf outing sponsorship
- b. Sponsor banners (Kimpton Printing)

1. Four banners

- a. Nordon Middle School
- b. Sagamore Park – Veterans Field (Field A)
- c. Sagamore Park – Field #1
- d. Sagamore Park – Field #3

Melinda and Mike indicated banners will be going up soon.

10. Technology Committee

(Dave *, Melinda, Mike)

a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

Dave indicated one new Colt player, but other leagues are closed. Nothing else to report. A discussion was had regarding updating scores in Sports Engine.

V. Travel Update

1. Travel Coordinator Report

a. League updates

Andy told of an incident in the Solon Tournament with the 11U Boys team where there

was an unnecessary and reckless play that resulted in the injury of the 11U catcher. Andy indicated that letters have gone out to the Solon Tournament and to the organization involved. Melinda and Andy indicated previous issues with the organization involved. Cathy indicated that her son plays for the 11U team and expressed appreciation to Andy, Jim, and Chase for working through the situation with the coaches and parents. Cathy indicated that the situation was just awful. Jim indicated the coach was advised to complete an insurance claim, but nothing has been received as of yet.

Andy indicated that travel teams are competing, doing well, and doing tournaments.

b. Bash updates

1. Boys Bash: June 3 – 5, 2022

- a. Reported 19 teams throughout divisions
- b. Confirmation on combination play with 11U and 12U

Scott indicated that 25 teams are registered for the Boys Bash across the five age divisions. Scott indicated keeping the tournament contained to Sagamore Park in order to keep umpires and to manage it all from one location.

2. Volunteer schedule

- a. SignUp Genius

Scott expressed frustration with lack of volunteers for the Boys Bash. A lengthy discussion was had regarding the 12U team and the Travel By-Laws as it pertains to the Bash. (Is the 12U team to not play in the Bash in order to run the tournament or does the 12U team play in the Bash.) The end result is the 12U team reaping financial benefit from the Bash to assist with a trip to Cooperstown. Dave indicated these specific details (i.e. play or not play) are not spelled out in the Travel By-Laws; they have more to do with multiple 12U teams and who receives the funds. Dave suggested that the expectation be put into writing. Jim reminded the Board that Nordonia teams in the Bash have entry fees waived.

c. Feedback on Girls Bash: May 20 – 22, 2022

Jim expressed his appreciation for the Girls 10U Team, as well as to Cathy, Brenda, Kevin, Scott, and Julie for their help during the Girls Bash.

Jim reported that the Girls Bash went well, especially Friday and Saturday, with 28 teams participating. Sunday was a bit challenging with the rain. All games were played even with the rain, as games were moved to Longwood Park. Jim thanked Jason Chadock and Mayor Nick Molnar for the use of Longwood Park to complete the Girls Bash. NHAA equipment was used on these fields and returned to the storage unit, and the fields were not dragged. Jim will give a final financial report on the Girls Bash at a later date. From there, proceeds will be split down the middle between Girls 10U and Girls 14U.

VI. Calendar Review

1. Feedback on Picture Day – Saturday, May 21, 2022

Melinda wishes to see the schedule published earlier for team pictures as there was much confusion. More notice for parents/coaches may eliminate some confusion and the rush to order.

Cathy indicated her experience helping with the event. She indicated that the photographers were great and had nice things to say about NHAA coaches, parents, and players. Cathy indicated her conversation with Debbie from Venditti that the Picture Day event is a fundraiser and it is a shame that about four or five teams did not participate. Cathy also indicated talking with the

photographers regarding what can be done about getting the word out sooner so that last minute/day-of ordering does not take place. The response from Venditti, who has decades of experience with this throughout multiple communities, indicated that last minute/day-of ordering always happens.

Jim indicated past concerns as expressed above and talked about the year a different photographer was used. Because of the poorer quality of photos, NHAA went back to Venditti Studios. A brief discussion was had regarding different photographers, but Melinda and Cathy stated that there is no problem with the photographer; better and earlier communication about the Picture Day event can make things less confusing for all.

Kyle indicated a conversation with Venditti regarding confusion about who was to set the team time slots. Jim indicated his understanding of the confusion, but the date was discussed during the Coach's Meeting and the date was also listed as an Important Date. Jim indicated that altering a time slot can be done by contacting Venditti directly. Venditti is very accommodating and willing to move things around; other teams had times adjusted. Jim indicated that going forward the Picture Day schedule with times will be published another week in advance, but indicated that previous years when the schedule was published early, teams still did not make Picture Day. Kevin will make it a point to remind coaches a week earlier about Picture Day and work to get times published earlier.

2. All Star Weekend – Saturday, June 25
3. June General Meeting date
4. End of Regular Season – Friday, July 1

VII. Open Discussion

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, July 6, 2022 **Time:** 8:30 p.m.

Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Sagamore Hills Park – Upper Pavilion

Meeting adjourned: 10:19 p.m.