

# NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 8:30 p.m. **Location:** Sagamore Hills Park – Upper Pavilion

**Meeting Call to order:** 9:27 p.m.

## **Board Attendance/Roll Call:**

### Present:

Jim Filisky, President  
Kevin Bilkie, Vice President  
Chase Senk, VP of Equipment  
Mike Graham, VP of Fields  
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications  
Cathy Loya, Secretary  
Matt Bewley, Board Member  
Kyle Deininger, Board Member  
Nicole Gvora, Board Member  
Brian James, Board Member (out at 11:00)  
Brenda Kovi, Board Member (out at 11:13)  
Nick Lanese, Board Member (out at 11:05)

Melinda Malyuk, Board Member

### Present via Telephone:

### Absent:

Andy Papile, Travel Coordinator (present until 9:18 p.m.)  
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer  
Julie Moran, Board Member  
Bobby Reville, Board Member  
Kenny Sanger, Board Member  
Marc Sprang, Board Member

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## Agenda:

### I. Review of meeting minutes from June 1, 2022

Jim made the motion to accept the minutes from the June 1, 2022, meeting. Motion first by Kevin.  
Motion second by Nikki. A unanimous voice vote was taken and the minutes were accepted.

### II. President's Report

#### 1. Feedback from Macedonia Summer Fest fundraiser (Beer Tent)

Jim reported that final Pay Pal confirmation with Scott is needed before finalizing the Macedonia Summer Fest fundraiser. Jim will follow up with Scott and then with the City of Macedonia for final payments.

#### 2. Sagamore Hills Park concession stand

##### a. Open for big events this season or organize for next season

A discussion was had regarding holding off on using the concession stand for the remainder of this season. Lack of staff and potential for left over stock were seen as key points to not use the stand at this time. Jim suggested reaching out to teenagers willing to work the stand under adult supervision for community service hours or even paying an hourly wage. It was discussed that possibly a new Board member could take this project on in the future. Cathy inquired about the requirements to serve hot food at the stand (i.e. pizza, hot dogs, etc.) because of comments made from customers at recent events. Jim explained that the Summit County Board of Health requires a specific license to serve these types of items and the individual licensed would have to work all the time that hot foods would be served. Jim indicated that grilled items could be prepared but not sold; donations could only be accepted for these items. Jim will discuss future use of this concession stand with Sagamore Hills Township.

### III. Updates/Feedback on Leagues

Regular season began week of May 16, 2022

Regular season ended Friday, July 1, 2022

#### 1. Feedback on All-Star Saturday – Saturday, June 25, 2022

Feedback provided by various trustees and Board members in attendance suggested that All-Star Saturday was a success. It was noted that some comments were made regarding the concession stand not being open for this event. It was also discussed doing a skills competition in conjunction with the All-Star Game, but Nick noted that a larger community effort (and Board member commitment) will be needed in order to make this possible. Staffing this event was low this year and more commitment is needed.

#### 2. Girls Softball

##### a. Girls Manager Pitch (Girls – Grades 2 and 3)

1. Primary: Kevin                      Back up: Jim

Kevin discussed thoughts for GMP Day scheduled for Saturday, July 9, 2022. Due to potential low player turnout, Kevin discussed that two games will be played; one game for girls that will be moving up next year and a second game for girls that will be remaining in GMP. Board members agreed this was a good idea.

Further discussions were had regarding writing out the format for both GMP Day and Babe Ruth Day to avoid future ambiguity.

##### b. Girls A (Girls – Grades 4 and 5)

1. Primary: Brenda                      Back up: Julie

Brenda discussed two incidents with area community teams that came up. Another issue discussed was adhering to time limits posted in the rules. Brenda indicated that some coaches do not follow the time limits as specified.

##### c. Girls AA (Girls – Grade 6, 7 and 8)

1. Primary: Nikki                      Back up: Kyle

Kyle indicated there have been some incidents with coaches following rules. Nikki reiterated that Community Rules apply to this league because of the nature of the league with various communities playing. NHAA Rules do not apply. Dave suggested that coaches should carry these Community Rules to games and reference when issues arise. Nikki suggested that in the future trustees be involved with the rule making process for these leagues that play with outside communities. Jim indicated there is no problem with this; however, league meetings generally take place on a weekday at noon either remotely or in person in Independence.

##### d. Girls AAA (Girls – Grades 9-12)

1. Primary: Nick                      Back up: \_\_\_\_\_

Dave indicated issues with the pitching agreement made with Western Reserve League (WRL) prior to the season beginning. WRL teams are pitching their ace pitchers for multiple innings where NHAA players have no chance. The agreement was that WRL teams would not utilize ace pitchers against NHAA teams, but rather second and third string pitchers for competitiveness. Nick will reach out to WRL for further discussion on this.

#### 3. Boys Baseball

##### a. Babe Ruth (Boys – Grades 1 and 2)

1. Primary: Chase                      Back up: \_\_\_\_\_

Chase indicated that game assignments have been finalized for Babe Ruth Day scheduled for Saturday, July 9, 2022. Chase indicated that the games will be staggered with recognition of each player and presentation of trophies. Popsicles will be given at the end of each game. Chase indicated that help will be needed with Babe Ruth Day due to Chase's availability on Saturday.

Chase did indicate an issue with one coach.

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

1. Primary: Melinda                      Back up: \_\_\_\_\_

Melinda did indicate an issue with two individual coaches, both Board members, ending games early. It was discussed that time limit rules must be followed.

Melinda inquired about teams that may not have enough players, if they are allowed to get replacement players. It was discussed that as long as the opposing team is given fair advance notice of this and they approve, then play commences. If not, a team that does not have enough players will be forced to forfeit.

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

1. Primary: Kenny                      Back up: Mike

In Kenny's absence, Jim indicated that Pee Wee Reese has been an issue this season with complaints from coaches and complaints about coaches. In order for this league to continue, partnership with Twinsburg and Hudson must remain. Issues with specific coaches were discussed at length. Nick discussed an issue with a Twinsburg (TBL) coach as well that needs to be addressed. Pee Wee Reese League has ended for the season.

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

1. Primary: Andy                      Back up: \_\_\_\_\_

In Andy's absence, Jim indicated that Sandy Koufax League is doing well and still playing.

e. Colt (Boys – Grades 9-12)

1. Primary: Bobby                      Back up: \_\_\_\_\_

In Bobby's absence, Jim indicated that Colt League is doing well and still playing.

4. Co-ed T-Ball (Kindergarten)

- a. Primary: Cathy                      Back up: Marc

1. Feedback on the T-Ball Season (T-Ball Day was 6/30/2022)

Cathy indicated that T-Ball Day was a success with almost full player participation on each team. Trophies were presented and popsicles were given to all players. Cathy briefly mentioned that end-of-season communication with coaches has been had and coaches wish to see more practices.

IV. Fall Ball Preparation

1. Registration Dates

Dave indicated that registration will be created soon and linked to the website. It was discussed to communicate with Twinsburg (TBL) to coordinate registration dates and start of season so that leagues can start together. Dave will reach out to TBL to inquire about their registration time frame and league start date. Once registration dates, link, and starting time frame are finalized, the Fall

Ball registration link will be opened on the website.

## 2. Leagues to participate

Dave indicated that teams and leagues formed are all based on the number of registrants. Dave indicated that last Fall Ball there was no T-Ball and no Girls AAA due to lack of registrants. Cathy indicated that spring T-Ball coaches were notified of this opportunity in the fall and she will let coaches know again when Fall Ball registration is open.

Melinda inquired about making Fall Ball more of instructional practice within entire leagues. Nikki indicated that individual coaches can schedule as many practices as they wish and work with teams that way. Kyle suggested coordinating with Fall Football and Cheerleading to allow interested kids to play both Fall Ball as well as participate in football/cheerleading.

It was indicated that close to 400 kids participated in Fall Ball last year.

## 3. Registration Fee

A lengthy discussion was had regarding the registration fee for 2022 Fall Ball.

Motion by Jim:                      Move to set the 2022 Fall Ball registration fee at \$100.00.

Motion first by Kevin. Motion second by Brenda.  
A unanimous voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

## V. 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

Current Balance: \$55,655.42

Scott sent to all Board members the Year-to-Date activity report. In Scott's absence, Jim highlighted a few items such as umpire fees as well as an issue with an April invoice from Aris that Scott will be looking into. Jim indicated an open invoice with Baker as well.

### 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. Review of field maintenance project
  - a. Prepare and schedule for conditioner application prior to Fall Ball Season

Brian indicated he is in communication with Sagamore Hills Township regarding dirt application for Field #4 as the first step needed for the conditioner to be applied. Brian indicated that the dirt applied at Nordonia Middle School (NMS) is holding much better, but an additional 20 tons may need to be applied. Brian reiterated that applying dirt is the first step in the application of the conditioner. All other parties to make this happen are

waiting on a phone call for when application can begin. Again, Brian reiterated that working with the owners of the property and coordinating schedules takes time and the goal is to do things right.

b. Sagamore Park dirt and spray application

Brian indicated he will be in continued communication with Sagamore Hills Township regarding spray application to fields to control weeds, as well as communication regarding dirt application.

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
  - 1. Equipment Return Date – Saturday, July 23, 2022
    - a. Volunteers
    - b. Procedure to coaches

Chase indicated that Saturday, July 23 is the equipment return date. More details will follow. Dave suggested making kits for each league regarding equipment needed. More discussion is needed on this idea.

Cathy indicated that all T-Ball equipment was turned in by coaches after T-Ball Day on June 30, 2022. She is working with Chase to coordinate a time/date to get this returned to the storage unit.

6. Uniform Committee

(Julie \*, Brenda, Cathy)

- a. Chair Report
  - 1. Preparation for Fall Ball uniforms
    - a. RDP

Jim asked the Uniform Committee to get new quotes from Sue at RDP for Fall Ball. Cathy asked Board members if they were pleased with the quality of uniforms and hats from the spring/summer season. A discussion was had and it was determined to keep the same uniforms and hats for Fall Ball.

2. Volunteer to handle awards

Cathy discussed the idea of the Uniform Committee handling the ordering of awards earlier in the season so that specific product will be available and received in a timely manner. Kevin did indicate that girls trophies once again have a boy pictured. This was discussed and the Uniform Committee will take on this responsibility.

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
5. Volunteers needed to work the event

Matt asked for more promotion of this event, as more support and registration is needed at this time. Matt indicated that the minimum cut-off is 80 players. Right now registration is well short of this mark. Melinda asked that information be sent again by trustees to team coaches.

b. Restaurants

1. Presentation of Chipotle donation (Tuesday, May 10, 2022)

Nick presented the check from Chipotle in the amount of \$67.63. Kevin was given the check to pass to Scott for deposit.

2. Presentation of Culver's donation (Monday, April 25, 2022)

Nick will be presenting this check at a later date.

Jim asked that the Chevy Test Drive fundraiser also be pushed by League Trustees to team coaches for participation.

10. Technology Committee

(Dave \*, Melinda, Mike)

a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

1. Fall Ball preparation

- a. Registration
- b. Fee structure

Nothing further to report. See Fall Ball Preparation above.

VI. Travel Update

1. Travel Coordinator Report

a. League updates

1. Current season

2. Try-out dates for next season

a. Boys 8U and Boys 11U scheduled for Longwood Park

In Andy's absence, it was indicated that boys travel try outs have been scheduled and will be posted on the website.

b. Girls 14U to be scheduled

c. Propose establishing Girls 18U team

A lengthy discussion was had regarding the Girls Travel program and possibly adding a 12U Travel team due to other teams in the area

disbanding.

A discussion was also had regarding establishing a Girls 18U team because of low turnout with Girls AAA league. The goal is to gauge interest in this type of team for older players to continue. Advertisement of these tryouts will be needed to attract players. Nick suggested gauging interest by holding tryouts and go from there.

### 3. Coaches

Further discussions were had about written travel expectations and standards so that the community is aware of all that is involved with the travel program. Melinda expressed the desire to have spelled out information regarding expectations, the process, the cost, etc. Melinda also suggested that a Travel Committee be established. It was indicated by several Board members that such a committee once existed, but this committee has since disbanded. A lengthy discussion was had on this topic and Jim suggested writing and posting on the website more specific and rigid travel league guidelines such as practice, cost, fields, etc. Chase did indicate that individual coaches set a lot of their own guidelines and expectations themselves.

Discussion was had regarding other communities that have travel league try out dates set and published already. Andy is working with Dave to get these dates posted and available for the community to be made aware of.

- b. Feedback on Boys Bash: June 3 – 5, 2022
- c. Feedback on Girls Bash: May 20 – 22, 2022 (financial)
  - 1. Payment to City of Macedonia

### VII. Calendar Review

- 1. Make up week – July 5-8, 2022
- 2. GMP Day at Sagamore Park – Saturday, July 9, 2022 at 11:00
- 3. Babe Ruth Day at Sagamore Park – Saturday, July 9, 2022 at 1:30
- 4. Playoff week – July 11-15, 2022
- 5. Championship Saturday – July 16, 2022
- 6. Equipment Return – Saturday, July 23, 2022
- 7. Golf Outing – Sunday, July 31, 2022
- 8. August General Meeting – Wednesday, August 10, 2022

### VIII. Open Discussion

After first discussing with coaches, Melinda indicated she has ordered runner-up medals for the Willie Mays league because of the number of teams playing this season.

**Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 **Time:** 9:00 p.m.

**Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting:** Zoom

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:18 p.m.