

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Sagamore Hills Park – Upper Pavilion

Meeting Call to order: 8:09 p.m.

Board Attendance/Roll Call:

Present:

Jim Filisky, President
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
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Nick Lanese, Board Member (in at 8:15 p.m.)
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member
Marc Sprang, Board Member (out at 9:30 p.m.)

Present via Telephone:

Bobby Reville, Board Member
Kenny Sanger, Board Member

Absent:

Kevin Bilkie, Vice President
Chase Senk, VP of Equipment
Andy Papile, Travel Coordinator
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer
Brian James, Board Member
Julie Moran, Board Member

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from July 20, 2022

Jim made the motion to accept the minutes from the July 20, 2022, meeting. Motion first by Dave.
Motion second by Brenda. A unanimous voice vote was taken and the minutes were accepted.

II. President's Report

1. Sagamore Hills Park concession stand – calendar year 2023
 - a. Business plan/cost analysis (Marketing and Fundraising committee / Nick)
 - b. Present to Sagamore Hills Township Trustees

Nick indicated that he is working on the cost analysis, but has nothing to present at this time. Nick will present something at the next meeting. The Fundraising committee has not met and/or discussed this topic as a group.

2. Golf Outing

- a. Postponed until fall 2022
 1. Location
 2. Date
 3. Advertise to community

Jim confirmed the postponement of the Golf Outing. In discussions with Matt, they will work together to form a plan. The Fundraising committee and Jim will be meeting. Jim indicated he was able to do a little work on this. He reported that things are tight right now. Glen Eagles was contacted and Jim indicated their catering services must be used. Jim indicated that other courses available may not be the best fit for an NHAA Golf Outing. Jim indicated a few other courses could be contacted, but the Golf Outing may need to be tabled until 2023.

3. Sagamore Field #4 and NMS field upgrade

- a. Discuss fields for this upgrade

Jim indicated his discussions with Brian and Bill Cuprak from Sagamore Hills Township. Sagamore Hills Township will not allow dumping of dirt by their service station. Jim indicated talking with Bill regarding spraying for weeds before doing anything further. Jim indicated that Field #4 will require an additional 40 tons of dirt. Mike indicated his difficulty in speaking with Mike from Walker Supply.

1. Nordonia Schools new proposal

Jim indicated that he reached out to the Nordonia Schools regarding proposed projects. Several board members indicated a change in contact has been made. Jim indicated he will reach out to the new contact as well as the Superintendent of Schools for more information.

Jim discussed that if major upgrades are done to the NMS field and then the field is ripped up and removed based on the Nordonia Schools proposed projects, then NHAA should hold off on this location for upgrades at this time. Several board members expressed agreement with holding off on doing any work at the NMS until further proposed projects are known. It was suggested to possibly do upgrades to Field A at Sagamore Park in lieu of the field at Nordonia Middle School.

b. Scheduled date for field application before Fall Ball begins

Dave asked when field upgrades will be happening because Field #4 will be needed for Fall Ball. Jim indicated that no specific start date for these upgrades is available. Jim will coordinate further and meet with Bill. Melinda asked if dirt could be received in one day, then why not get dirt and go back for more as needed. Jim will follow up with Brian. Jim indicated that dirt that is to be cut out from Field #4 will need to be removed off site as well.

c. Promote to community these upgrades

4. NHAA Travel Program

5. General Meeting preparation – August 10, 2022 at 7:00

Dave will send an email reminder to the community regarding the General Meeting and open Board positions. Nick indicated that he has one member of the community interested in joining the Board. Melinda also indicated she has a person interested as well. With a 9U Travel Tryout scheduled for the same day, the General Meeting time will be moved to 8:00 p.m. after the 9U tryouts.

Jim indicated that this General Meeting is the time to accept new Board positions. Terms will start on the first Wednesday in September. All Board positions will be reviewed and reassigned at that point as well. The maximum number of Board members is 23 per the By-laws. The term for a Board member goes from September to September for 2 years. Resignations will be accepted at the General Meeting as well.

III. 2022 Fall Ball Preparation

1. Registration (closed July 29, 2022)

a. Total to date – 212 reported July 30, 2022

1. Numbers for each league
2. Progress on team formation

b. League practices start Aug. 15

c. Game schedule – weekends from Aug. 20 through Oct. 23

Jim indicated reaching out to JT with Sagamore Hills Township to secure the fields for Fall Ball. Dave asked if there were any foreseen conflicts and Jim indicated that there were no conflicts that he was aware of. Jim is waiting to hear back from JT on this matter.

2. Leagues to participate

a. Registration numbers in certain leagues

Dave gave the Board an update on all leagues registered:

- T-Ball: 14 players registered – two teams with 7 players each. One coach has registered; another coach is needed.
- Babe Ruth: 28 players registered. Dave indicated that possibly five players could be moved to Willie Mays because they are 3rd graders.
- Willie Mays: 24 players registered. Melinda indicated that three head coaches are registered and more players would be welcomed. Dave indicated Willie Mays will team up with Hudson.
- Pee Wee Reese: 26 players registered – two teams. Dave indicated Pee Wee Reese will team up with Hudson.
- Sandy Koufax: 32 players registered – could have three teams. Dave indicated Sandy Koufax will team up with Hudson. Dave indicated seeing seven 9th graders who should be moving up to Colt. Jim suggesting contacting these 9th graders and see about moving them to Colt.
- Colt: potentially 2-3 teams depending on 9th graders registered for Sandy Koufax. Dave indicated Colt will team up with Twinsburg and a few other communities like in years past.

Melinda indicated at this time that several community members have reached out to know more about the schedule. If games can be played on Sundays, more players may register. Matt indicated the same questions from community members with the same response; more players may register if games are played on Sundays.

Jim indicated that Fall Ball teams usually have more players because of potential conflicts.

Nick indicated the situation where registered players are playing down a league is what hurt Girls A two years ago. Nick encouraged playing up.

- Girls Manager Pitch (GMP): 8 players registered – one 1st grader, five 2nd graders, two 3rd graders.
- Girls A: 13 players registered – one 2nd grader; one 3rd grader, six 4th graders, and five 5th graders. Dave suggested having these 5th graders move up to Girls AA.

It was discussed that GMP players cannot be moved up to Girls A. Jim indicated the decision needs to be made about not offering GMP and Girls A this fall due to registration numbers. The players registered for Girls A would be given the option of moving up to Girls AA. Players registered for Girls AAA would also be brought down to Girls AA based on registration numbers. Nikki indicated this is the best decision. It was echoed by several board members that it was very important to be fair to all players. Melinda suggested that GMP be still formed but made into an instructional team with a coach to work on fundamentals. Dave indicated one 1st grade might be able to go back to T-Ball. Brenda will contact the players registered for Girls A and see what they would like to do this fall. Parents will need to make the ultimate decision about where girls should be playing.

Jim indicated registered players in GMP and Girls A should be contacted via email with the option of 1st graders moving back to T-Ball and older girls moving up to Girls AA with the full understanding that older players – 7th and 8th and 9th graders – will be playing. Kyle indicated that more girls may still register for Fall Ball if it is known that league play will happen on Sundays. Kyle suggested a definite date to end registration. The community will be notified that games will happen on Sundays and see if more players are registered. The deadline will be Friday night for registration.

Jim suggested creating two leagues – a young Girls AA and an older Girls AA. Each league would have 3 teams each. The Board discussed this and considered the idea of having girls in Grades 4-6 be part of the young Girls AA, and girls in Grades 7-9 be part of the older Girls AA league. Nick indicated that he was under the impression that one Girls AAA team was going to be formed to play in WRL this fall. Nick indicated a lack of communication with Mike Smith at WRL. This was discussed, but Board members indicated that it might be best to keep Girls AAA in house and not join WRL. Only 9th graders are registered for Girls AAA at this time.

Kyle suggested looking at skill level of players versus grade level of players when splitting Girls AA. This was discussed, and Nikki suggested just to keep it at grade level because next spring they will be playing by grade level again.

Kyle (Girls AA Trustee) and Brenda (Girls A Trustee) will work together to put the teams together. There will be two leagues – Grades 4-6 girls will be the younger division, and Grades 7-9 girls will be the older division. The specific names of the leagues will be determined this weekend.

- Girl AA: 40+ players registered.
- Girls AAA: 8 players registered.

It was discussed that the majority of games will be played at Sagamore Park on Sundays with overflow games being played on Saturdays.

3. Coordination with outside communities
4. Football/Cheer schedules
 - a. Saturday versus Sunday game scheduling

Dave indicated that it has been very difficult getting answers from the various football programs in the area regarding scheduling. Jim indicated speaking with one program and their schedule should be known this coming weekend. Kyle indicated that football has always been on Saturday from morning until mid-to-late afternoon. Dave indicated that Fall Ball can be played on Sundays. Dave will communicate with Hudson and see if they would be open to Sunday play. Kyle asked if the Board could just decide if Sunday is the ideal day for league play. Dave communicated with Hudson to do Sunday play while the meeting was taking place. A discussion was had about various football leagues in the area and cheerleaders associated with those leagues.

Jim indicated that Fall Ball should be geared for Sunday play as this may draw more players to register. Nikki indicated a concern for available space for all games to be played on Sundays – both boys leagues and girls leagues. Matt indicated that early Fall Ball games can be played during the week. Kyle indicated that this could be challenging because other activities have practices during the week. Dave indicated keeping things to the weekends.

5. Coaches
6. Umpire availability

Jim will contact Dan Lingo regarding umpires for the fall season.

IV. League Discussions

1. GMP and Babe Ruth
 - a. Match rules
 1. No strikeouts for both leagues

League rules will be updated to match.

2. Girls 18U

a. Rec and Travel approach for 2023

Dave discussed the negative experience his team had with the WRL. Girls did not want to travel a far distance to have a disappointing outcome. Dave indicated several times not being able to field a team because players would not show up. Communication was lacking with Mike Smith at WRL. Nick indicated not hearing of any of these problems until mid-July. Nick feels bad to hear of these problems as the final memory of play for older girls aging out of the program. Dave indicated that a fun and competitive game for the girls was against the other NHAA team at Longwood Park under the lights.

Nick discussed broadcasting to the community that there will be an A team and a B team. The A Team had tryouts (18U), but that the B Team would play against travel girls too. Dave indicated that Girls AAA usually had three teams, but not this spring. Jim indicated that some girls came from Twinsburg. Dave indicated that girls still want to play, but it was a very bad experience this season. Nikki indicated that 2023 might be different because a number of girls are aging out of Girls AA. Nick indicated that it would be best to not go back and forth with the community about being in WRL or not being in WRL; a decision needs to be made and we need to stick with it.

3. T-Ball

a. Ages 5 and 6 (Kindergarten only)

b. Ages 3 and 4 (refer to Macedonia Rec program; encourage to come back to NHAA when of age)

Cathy suggested that next spring we limit T-Ball to only Kindergarten students and possibly refer younger players – ages 3 and 4 – to Macedonia Rec for their Tot Ball program or do something with NHAA for these younger players. One coach this past spring had issues with the younger players. Kyle suggested doing three different divisions where younger players with advanced skills can play in a middle division. There was a brief discussion regarding creating a middle division. This topic will be tabled at this time as it pertains to next spring.

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: \$53,214.63

No report was given in Scott's absence.

Dave indicated that final bills from the City of Macedonia for June and July were just sent to Scott.

Jim discussed with Scott about finalizing all finances for Travel teams. Dave will send travel invoices to Scott.

Marc indicated wishing to see the finances from the Boys Bash as not reported yet to the Board.

2. Skills Clinic Committee

(Kenny, Kevin, Scott, Marc)

a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

Jim indicated that off-season skills clinics should be discussed and planned beginning in September. It can be discussed whether to hold these clinics in house or use an outside entity (such as Strike Force).

3. Fields Committee

(Mike *, Brian, Kevin)

a. VP of Fields/Chair Report

1. Review of field maintenance project

Marc indicated frustration regarding every year discussing upgrades to fields and it never happens. Dave also expressed why a date wasn't set after the spring/summer season in July for when the fields could be worked on and not disturb any league play. Marc wishes to see a firm date for these upgrades to be made. Several Board members expressed that upgrades will not happen for another year because we ran out of time before rain/snow hits.

Matt suggested not using a field during Fall Ball for a specific period of time so that upgrades could still be made. Dave indicated that other fields in the community can be used while a field is down from play for upgrades. Nick asked if approval was received to work on Field #4 at Sagamore Park and Jim indicated that NHAA has been approved to make upgrades. Jim indicated continued communication and coordination with Bill at Sagamore Hills Township, as well as Brian to get these upgrades happening.

Marc wishes to see more empowerment from committees to make things happen.

2. Fall Ball 2022 field maintenance contract – bid process

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. Update on equipment return from spring/summer season

In Chase's absence, Jim indicated that four more coaches returned equipment from the spring/summer season. Dave indicated that Colt and Girls AAA were still playing games after the last equipment return date of July 23rd. Dave indicated forwarding to Chase a few messages received regarding coaches wishing to return equipment. There is still a high number of coaches that have not yet returned equipment. Chase has the paperwork and will work with coaches to return equipment.

2. Equipment Distribution Day for Fall Ball

6. Uniform/Awards Committee

(Julie *, Brenda, Cathy)

a. Chair Report

1. Fall Ball uniforms

a. Final recommendation

Cathy reported the numbers given by RDP. After the last meeting, two other vendors were contacted for pricing – PrimeTime and D1. Revised pricing from RDP was shared with the Board along with pricing from PrimeTime. Brenda reported that different brands of shirts may be used by RDP and thus

a higher price was given that reflected this. Cathy reported that pricing from D1 was on the high side, but that they do everything in house including manufacturing shirts. In email communication, D1 wishes to be considered for the next season. Cathy reported talking with Dan at PrimeTime; inventory is in stock, he has the ability to do everything, and his pricing was comparable to the spring pricing received. Cathy reported that the committee is recommending to the Board switching uniform vendors for Fall Ball; use PrimeTime for the fall based on pricing.

Motion by Jim: Move to utilize PrimeTime Sporting Goods for Fall Ball 2022 uniforms.
Motion first by Brenda. Motion second by Matt.

Before a vote was taken, Kyle asked that the verbiage in the bid be changed so that 'spring and fall' is not included in the language.

Before a vote was taken, Marc asked why Steve's Sports was not contacted. Cathy indicated a time constraint. Marc expressed a desire for local vendors to be contacted and used by this local organization. A brief discussion was had regarding this topic.

Before a vote was taken, Nick asked if there will be any penalty if not using RDP for the fall. Cathy indicated she will contact Sue at RDP tomorrow. A brief discussion was had regarding this topic as well.

A voice vote was taken. By a 12-1 vote, the motion passed.

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

Melinda had nothing to report at this time.

1. Update on fundraiser opportunities

a. Restaurants

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

Nick has the donation check from Culver's in the approximate amount of \$247.00. Nick will present the check to Melinda who will deliver to Scott's house for deposit.

b. Chevy Test Drive program

1. Ending August 31, 2022 (confirm date)

Jim confirmed that the Chevy Test Drive program is ongoing through

August, 2022.

10. Technology Committee

(Dave *, Melinda, Mike)

a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

Dave had nothing to report.

VI. Travel Update

1. Travel Coordinator Report

No report was given in Andy's absence.

Melinda voiced concerns with the Travel program. Melinda suggested forming a Travel Committee to handle the program. A lengthy discussion was had regarding forming such a committee so that one person is not in charge of everything. Melinda suggested the committee be made up of 3-5 people. Nick voiced the need to have a Boys and a Girls point person for Travel. Dave suggested 3 people for the committee – one boys, one girls, and one neutral. Jim suggested 5 people; one boys coordinator, one girls coordinator, and three other members. All travel items will be discussed and would be put into action by this committee (i.e. posting travel tryout dates, run tryouts, evaluating talent at tryouts, coaches, etc). Melinda wishes for the Travel By-laws to be followed. A Travel governing body is needed so parents can express concerns or bring up issues. Melinda suggested also to look at other communities and how their travel programs are organized. In forming a Travel Committee, Nick indicated that one member of the committee should not have a child involved in the Travel Program to avoid bias. Board members voiced agreement with Nick's idea.

Motion by Jim: Move to create a Travel Committee made up of one boys coordinator, one girls coordinator, and three other members – one of these members should not have a child involved in the Travel Program.
Motion first by Melinda. Motion second by Kyle.
A unanimous voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Sign-ups for the Travel Committee will take place at the next meeting. Coaches will be presented with Travel By-laws and how to proceed going forward.

a. League updates

1. Recap on 2022 Travel season
 - a. Finalize Travel bank accounts
 1. Girls 10U
2. Travel team invoices for games
3. 2023 Tryout Schedule (see below)
 - a. Boys Travel (see attached with times listed)
 1. 8U (Coach Brumfield) – Tryouts completed
 2. 9U (Coach TBD) – Upcoming date of Aug. 10 at Sagamore Park
 3. 10U (Coach Senk) – Tryouts completed
 4. 11U (Coach Brumfield) – Tryouts completed
 5. 12U (Coach May) – Tryouts completed

Melinda indicated that there is one additional 9U tryout coming up.

A lengthy discussion was had regarding issues with outside evaluation at tryouts; 8U, 9U, and 11U were discussed. Matt also discussed the lengthy process to find out the results of the tryouts for his child in 8U. Melinda cited the Travel By-laws when it comes to evaluation. A lengthy discussion regarding the entire process was had. Melinda expressed concerns regarding the 9U tryouts and the revealing of the team coach. Melinda indicated that several 9U boys have already made other travel teams and there is concern among

the kids that there may not be a 9U team.

- b. Girls Travel (see attached with times listed)
 - 1. 10U (Coach Griffith) – Tryouts completed
 - 2. 12U (Coach Jerry Lowery) – Tryouts completed
 - 3. 14U (Coach TBD) – Tryouts completed
 - 4. 18U (Coach Filisky) – Tryouts completed

Jim confirmed the completion of Girls Travel Tryouts. Jim gave the following update regarding the Girls Travel Program:

- Girls Travel 10U should be fine. Brian Griffith and Scott Lanzilotta will be coaches for the 10U team.
- Girls Travel 12U will have a team. Jerry Lowery will be the coach for the 12U team.
- Girls Travel 14U is at 9 or 10 girls right now. A few more are needed. It was indicated that 12 girls are desired. This team is still being worked on. There is no coach yet for the 14U team.
- Girls Travel 18U will have a full team. Offers are being made now. Jim indicated that other girls have come back to the league, some new girls, etc. Jim and Jerry Lowery will be coaches for the 18U team.

Nick indicated that at least three girls trying out for 18U could still qualify for 14U. Jim indicated that they are looking into that.

- 4. Coaches to be named
 - a. Girls 12U coach named – Jerry Lowery
 - b. Girls 14U coach still needed

VII. Calendar Review

- 1. August General Meeting – Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 7:00 p.m. at Sagamore Park
- 2. Fall Ball season begins
 - Practices begin: Monday, August 15, 2022
 - Games begin: weekend of Saturday, August 20, 2022, and Sunday, August 21, 2022

VIII. Open Discussion

Jim indicated that he will contact Aris to remove the portable restrooms from the other fields.

Jim indicated that the field on Blue Jay will get some drainage work done. Jim has been in conversation with Rick Wolf with the Nordonias Schools, and NHAA will move games accordingly. Jim indicated that no specific date was given for the work to begin; just that it would be within a month or two. Dave will work with TBL to schedule games to not be played at Blue Jay while work is being done.

After further conversation with outside communities, Dave confirmed that NHAA Fall Ball games will be primarily on Sunday with the possibility of Saturday games. Jim indicated that some games can be played during the week while there is daylight.

Date of NHAA General Meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 8:00 p.m.

Location of NHAA General Meeting: Sagamore Hills Park – Upper Pavilion

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 **Time:** 8:00 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned: 9:38 p.m.