

# NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Northfield Public Library

**Meeting changed to Zoom meeting to begin at 7:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Call to order:** 7:34 p.m.

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

### **Present via Zoom:**

Jim Filisky, President  
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  
Nicole Gvora, Board Member  
Brian James, Board Member  
Nick Lanese, Board Member  
Kenny Sanger, Board Member

### **Present via Telephone:**

Andy Papile, Travel Coordinator

### **Absent:**

Kevin Bilkie, Vice President  
Kyle Deininger, Board Member  
Brenda Kovi, Board Member  
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member  
Julie Moran, Board Member  
Bobby Reville, Board Member  
Marc Sprang, Board Member

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## **Minutes in Agenda Format:**

### **I. Review of meeting minutes from November 3, 2021**

Motion made by Jim to accept the minutes from the November 3, 2021, meeting. Motion first by Dave.  
Motion second by Mike. A voice vote was taken and the 11.3.2021 minutes were approved.

### **II. President's Report**

Jim reported this is a quiet time of the year.

### **III. Current Action Items**

#### **1. Off-season clinics (Set up in February/March 2022)**

##### **a. Strike Force**

1. Proposal for four (4) sessions; 90 minutes for boys/90 minutes for girls  
No charge coach's clinic  
Total cost: ~\$4,000.00

Jim indicated a need to further communicate with Bradley at Strike Force should the Board wish to move forward.

##### **b. Josh Bieneman**

1. Proposal for three (3) sessions; 90 minutes for boys and girls  
Session 1 for coaches; Session 2 for grades K-5; Session 3 for grades 6-12  
Total cost: ~\$1,350.00

c. Ron Deubel

Kenny to contact Ron Duebel regarding clinics. Jim expressed a need to confirm location for clinics. Chase indicated D-BAT in Solon was the location for previous clinics with Ron.

d. D-BAT

Jim will provide information received from D-BAT. Possible rental of D-BAT facility with Josh Bieneman as instructor. Jim to finalize membership to D-BAT facility, as a better rate is received as a member.

2. Establishment of Player Development Committee

- a. Suggest members to include Andy Papile, Kenny Sanger, and Nikki Gvora  
(Suggested removing Nikki from Equipment committee)

\*See attached proposed revision committee assignments

Nick expressed strong interest in providing instruction for development of softball (AA and AAA) pitchers and catchers. More balance among teams with these specialized positions, along with more hitting opportunities and better general play.

Jim indicated ability to reach out to previous NHS pitchers to possibly do community service with pitching and catching clinics.

Nikki indicated the ability to reach out to a pitching instructor (currently works with Solon Elite in Walton Hills) if Jim can secure gymnasium space. Nikki to follow up with cost of instruction. Jim to see what can be done to secure space, as space is tight right now.

Jim indicated the desire for clinics to take place in January/February (during registration).

3. NHAA Board knowledge and approval of all fundraisers (including Travel Teams) relative to 501(c)3 status.

- a. Add language to Travel Team bylaws

Jim indicated the need for notification and knowledge of when the NHAA 501(c)3 is being used for fundraising. Goal is not to overuse/overload the same locations for fundraising – need to space out fundraisers at locations between Travel and Rec NHAA.

Scott indicated the need to start simple with a notification. Goal is no overlapping fundraisers. Voice approval from several members was raised.

Cathy asked how this will be communicated to the coaches, and asked how the Board would like to receive such notification (i.e. specific form; simple email). Jim indicated that a simple email would be appropriate to show the date/time/location/the fundraising team. A simple written record is the goal.

Andy will be the contact for these notifications from Travel coaches. Andy indicated that he will contact each Travel coach (baseball and softball) and let them know the parameters that the Board wishes to see regarding fundraiser notification.

Jim indicated that knowing when/where fundraisers are being held may eliminate the same date being used by multiple teams. This knowledge should increase funds being raised.

Andy will forward to Dave all Travel coaches names and contact information.

Chase will work with Andy to formalize language to be added to the Travel Team bylaws to reflect fundraiser notification. This will be forwarded to Dave for posting. Jim suggested language such as 'Coaches agree to notify the Travel Coordinator of any upcoming fundraising with dates, times, locations.'

4. Relationship building with Nordonia High School players and coaches (baseball and softball)

Jim indicated no communication with NHS players and coaches.

5. Discussions with the City of Macedonia regarding use of Longwood Park

a. Dave has contacted

Dave emailed new contact, Kathy, at the City of Macedonia who indicated that scheduling of Longwood Park usage is still a few weeks out; however, there is knowledge that some teams claim to have already have reserved time at Longwood Park.

Andy communicated with the City of Macedonia and was told that they have nothing set as of yet regarding tournaments. Diamond Boys to play at Longwood. Dave asked if others (besides Sandy Koufax) wanted to play at Longwood. Scott indicated a desire for 12U to play at Longwood. Chase wanted to play at Longwood too.

Andy indicated that Mondays and/or Thursdays would probably be the days at Longwood. All four fields would be reserved and let go if not needed.

Scott indicated a desire not to get locked out of field use at Longwood with a new contact. Dave indicated that the new contact with the City of Macedonia seems aware of the NHAA relationship. Andy will communicate further with Dave once Travel coaches are contacted, which would be more appropriate to do in December 2021.

IV. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee

a. Treasurer/Chair Report

1. Current financial report

Full YTD financial report emailed to members on 12.1.2021

Balance: \$38,464.00

Notable items included Space Place, Toro payment.

2. Open invoices

- a. Uniforms – Status of \$4,800.00 uniform invoice. -Paid
- b. Fields

Scott indicated that the final payment to Brian is pending, being reviewed.

3. Checks received

Jim to forward to Scott a check from Chevy.

4. Status of payment of \$750.00 to Dan Lingo for 2021 fall umpire scheduling services – Electronic Board vote 11.17.2021

Payment was made after electronic vote and reflected in financial report.

5. Status of payment to Dave Hermann of \$1,250.00 for 2021 game scheduling services – Electronic Board vote 11.17.2021

Payment was made after electronic vote and reflected in financial report.

6. Insurance renewal status

## 7. Tax filing status

Scott indicated that NHAA taxes have been electronically filed.

Summarizing 2021, Scott indicated starting 2021 with +/- \$25,000.00 balance and anticipated a bit of a surplus (approximately \$10,000), which is where the finances stand.

Scott indicated a need to meet with the accountant regarding separate Travel individual accounts and the need to possibly report each account in QuickBooks and the use of 501(c)3. The NHAA Master Account is done through QuickBooks, but there are twelve (12) business accounts run by each of the Travel coaches. The accountant wishes to discuss these twelve (12) business accounts to see if these should also be run through QuickBooks with taxes being filed. If this scenario is needed, Scott recommends hiring a professional to manage this task.

## 2. 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)
2. Equipment boxes
  - a. Two (2) boxes from Sagamore Park put into storage
3. Additional maintenance prior to winter

Mike indicated a visit to the fields today, and they are wet and unplayable.

## 3. Equipment Committee

### a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

1. Update on Fall Ball equipment return status

Chase indicated two (2) outstanding coaches with equipment – James Cunningham and Frank Ditzig. Chase continues to be in contact with these coaches and hopes to see equipment returned soon. Jim indicated a form letter has been used in the past with the cost per piece of equipment if not returned. Dave suggested League Trustees can step in if needed to get equipment returned. Chase will continue follow up.

### 2. Inventory replenishment order

#### a. Update on vendor equipment quotations/bids

Chase has been in contact with the following vendors regarding new equipment:

- Harry Oschip at Five Tool Youth
- Dan Lemaster at PrimeTime
- BSN Sports

Chase will contact Seth Thompson at BSN Sports as no response as of yet from initial contact (Cameron Pruce ?).

Chase will continue to work on getting quotes and forward to the rest of the committee. If needed, an electronic vote will be initiated if needed prior the next scheduled meeting.

## 4. Status on the winterization and storage of the Toro and trailer

Brian indicated the Toro has been winterized and is in storage (key in Toro). Manual with Brian for record keeping. Trailer is at Brian's property secured under chain and lock.

#### 4. Uniform Committee

##### a. Chair Report

##### 1. Report on November committee meeting

- a. Six different vendors for quotes. Compile info and recommend uniform vendor at January or February meeting

Cathy reported on the recent committee meeting. Each member is to contact two (2) vendors for quotes and will then report to committee. After committee discussion, a recommendation will be made to the Board for approval. Jim indicated a desire to stay local. Cathy indicated local vendors are being contacted and she indicated that supply issues are a concern. Vendors being contacted include Badlime, Young's Printing, Steve's Sports, Kimpton Printing, Primetime.

Jim indicated the possibility of early ordering (sizes and colors) for teams prior to close of registration just to ensure product is in-hand prior to the start of the season.

##### 2. Add language to Travel Team bylaws regarding common uniforms

#### 5. Discipline Committee

##### a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

#### 6. Strategic Planning Committee

##### a. Chair Report

1. Update regarding additional quote(s) for reworking fields (Marc Sprang update)
- b. Please plan a small group meeting to define short-, mid-, and long-term objectives

Nothing to report.

Nick will initiate a meeting to generate ideas for big-ticket items. A plan on paper is needed.

#### 7. Marketing and Fundraising Committee

##### a. Chair Report

##### 1. Report on committee meeting

Nick and Matt reported on the recent committee meeting. Matt has reached out to a few golf courses about tentatively doing a golf outing as a fundraiser. The committee also discussed having tables at different Nordonia school events. The committee will utilize contacts with a Preschool group. The committee will reach out to the schools (including St. Barnabas) to send flyers home with students regarding NHAA registration and other events. The committee is focused on keeping the NHAA name visible for parents even in this slow season.

Jim indicated importance of letting parents know of upcoming January registration. Dave indicated that the NHAA website has been updated with this information. Dave indicated the ability to send an email blast to all previously registered families. Jim indicated the need to do an email blast in mid-December to promote new season.

Nick indicated support for electronic presence, as well as a visual in-person presence in the community. The committee reported the desire for a kick off day for in-person registration at a local gym. Nick indicated the desire to keep traditional restaurant fundraisers in late winter/early spring. More information will be presented next month. Facebook will be utilized more. A big goal is to identify NHAA very well to the community as the organization for baseball and softball programs, as many new parents to the area are unaware of NHAA.

## 2. Status on NHAA logos from Badlime

Jim indicated a desire for banners/signs to be posted at the corner of 82 and 8 to advertise upcoming registration. Dave indicated the belief in a positive return on investment with these signs. Nick will be in contact with Badlime for quotes on banners, and then initiate an electronic vote, if needed, in order to secure banners in a timely manner.

## 8. Technology Committee

- a. IT and Communications/Chair Report
- b. Online registration for 2022 Spring/Summer season

Dave indicated the website has been updated regarding January registration.

- c. Fee for 2022 Spring/Summer season

Dave indicated no registration fee increase for approximately 2-3 years. The question was posed to the Board to increase the registration fee to cover future expenses.

Scott proposed keeping the same registration fee/dues, but adding a separate fee as a line item/surcharge for fundraising (example \$10 or \$15). Concept similar to CYO. Jim indicated the need to have a strategic plan in place first in order to accurately report the use of surcharge fundraising dollars to the community.

Discussion was had regarding increasing the registration fee across all leagues. Jim made the motion to increase the registration fee by \$5 across all leagues. Scott second. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

- d. Discussion of in-person registration with mini-clinics

Jim and Dave indicated that all registration must be done via the website with payment only going through the website (no paper registration and no checks). Nick indicated the possibility of having functioning tablets for registration onsite for in-person events.

## V. Travel Update

### 1. Travel Coordinator Report

Andy indicated that Strike Force is set for Travel coaches. January will begin league meetings.

#### a. Boys Bash

Andy and Scott indicated dates for Boys Bash to be June 3-5, 2022. Sagamore Hills Township will be contacted in mid-January to reserve Sagamore Park for Bash.

#### b. Girls Bash

Jim indicated dates for the Girls Bash to be May 20-22, 2022. Sagamore Hills Township will be contacted in mid-January to reserve Sagamore Park for Bash.

## VI. New Action Items

Nothing to report.

Dave inquired about used baseballs from Harry Oschip. Chase indicated that over 200 used baseballs are in the storage unit and they are in gently used condition. Jim inquired about using some as game balls and this may be possible. Dave indicated need for practice baseballs.

## VII. Open Discussion/Comments

Nothing to report.

Jim indicated more meetings may be necessary moving into the new year. Jim advised to be open to in-person meetings as allowed along with an earlier or later start time for meetings.

Scott indicated the ability for committees to report to the Board via email between meetings.

**Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting:**

Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

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

via Zoom

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:27 p.m.