

**Westwood Baseball Association
Meeting Minutes**

December 8, 2014

Board Attendees:

Rob Gotti , Neal Roper , Jason Kissell , Marc Pezzuto , Mike d'Entremont, Mitch Katzman, Jennifer Latchford-Perkins, Kathleen Holland, Dave Reilly, John Loughnane, Kevin McDonald, Tom Bean, Mike Curtain, Gary Cappuccino, Peter Cahill

Absent:

Paul Luongo, Wendy Fahey, Mark Jessup, Brian Hunt

Agenda Review:

Rob Gotti called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

Secretary's report (Neal Roper)

Rob affirmed that no changes were proposed to the annual meeting minutes.

BOARD ACTION: The motion to accept the Secretary's report minutes was unanimously approved.

Action Item status (Rob Gotti)

The board reviewed the status of the pending action items.

- Update officers on LLI & BRI website
- Need volunteer for foul ball mitigation plan
- Scorer's Booth Construction
- Prepare on-going maintenance for bid purposes
- Review age change impact to Westwood

Foul Ball Mitigation (Rob Gotti)– still an open item.

- A request was made by one of the neighbors at Morrison to find a way to reduce the number of foul balls that cross East Street into their yard.

Action Item: Tom Bean to consult with DPW to inquire as to whether the town will help with the nets at Morrison for foul balls.

Action Item: Secretary to make inquiries to both LLI & BRI regarding liability to passersby for any injury or property damage from foul balls.

Babe Ruth Update (Mark Matanes, Rob Gotti).

Mark Matanes, the Eastern Massachusetts Baseball Commissioner of Babe Ruth baseball spoke with the board about the process of obtaining charters, involvement in town programs and the general benefits of Babe Ruth Baseball.

- Babe Ruth and WLL fall under the board oversight. One of the benefits of this arrangement is consistency in policy making (ex. – player/coach selection processes) across the baseball experience in town.
- Mark confirmed that Babe Ruth does not get involved in individual leagues or how each town sets it up. Babe Ruth’s involvement is limited to helping to establish a league (i.e. setting up league charters), but each league may modify, adapt, adjust and run its league as it sees fit.
- Other towns within Babe Ruth baseball have similar arrangements as Westwood.
- Babe Ruth does require that each league’s Board of Directors get put together by public notice, public meeting, nominations and elections and have an odd number of board members. Westwood Baseball Inc. sets up its board consistent with Babe Ruth’s requirement.
- **Babe Ruth baseball recognizes the board that is listed on their database as the authority over Babe Ruth in each town. However, the board that has been reflected on the Babe Ruth site in years past has not been consistent with Babe Ruth requirements, and so in order to keep in compliance with the election process, Westwood needs the Babe Ruth site to reflect the actual Westwood Baseball Board of Directors.** This change needs to occur immediately. The current Charter expires on December 31st and the new Charter would take effect January 5th.

Action Item: Gary Cappuccino to provide the access id and pw to the Babe Ruth International database to the webmaster (J. Latchford) or Secretary (N. Roper) so that the Babe Ruth Charter can be renewed with the Westwood Baseball Board members appropriately and accurately listed in the Babe Ruth registration database.

Treasurer’s Report (Marc Pezzuto)

- Marc reviewed the current status of the Westwood Baseball account. The account balance should start rising from new registrations.
- Tax exempt status has been filed with state
- Roche Bros acknowledged that they will be paying their promised donation amounts. They will be paying part of the balance in December and the remainder in 2015
- Also outstanding is one payment from bank donor. Mike D’Entremont to follow up with donor for final payment of \$8,333.

Action Item: R. Gotti to secure Roche Bros. payment. Mike D’Entremont to secure bank payment

Sponsorship Planning (Jason Kissell)–

- Jason sent out a spreadsheet to each board member prior to the meeting with sponsorship information.
- Signage: Jason asked to get names of those sponsors that will get free signage.
- The league continues to work on the design and manufacturing of signs that are consistent with town requirements.
- The league will be reaching out to a local pizza establishment to propose a “hit homerun and get a free pizza” promotion.
- The league is settling on two pricing tiers for sponsors (\$300/\$500).

Action Item: All board members should be soliciting new and renewing existing sponsors and updating on the Google doc provided by Jason.

State Championship/Site Visit (Rob Gotti):

- State was impressed with Westwood site.
- Final decision will be made in March.

Board Action: None.

Operations (Jennifer Latchford-Perkins):

- Registration dates are open.
- Fees remain unchanged.
- Late fees are attached Jan 25th.
- Close is 11:59 on January 31st.
- The league needs to post signs around town to advertise registration.

Action Item(s): John Loughnane has the baseball registration signs and will fill out permitting requests in order to allow us to post those signs around town.

Winter Player Development: (Mitch Katzman).

- Solicited and received proposals from Sluggers, TJO, Dirt Dawgs
- Proposals are for Saturday's in January – the 10th/17th/24th/31st
- Time of day varies per proposal.
- Prices are all about \$4K for 4 hour and half sessions.
- Ages 7 – 12 (could do by age or by grade). Preference might be by grade.
- Cost: \$60 per kid.

Recommendation: TJO Sports

Kathleen makes motion, Jennifer seconds.

Board Action: The motion to use TJO's was unanimously approved.

Action Item(s): M. Katzman to make final determination on grade v. age groupings and communicate to Registrar/Webmaster. J. Latchford-Perkins to open registration ASAP and promote to user base.

Age Change Impact (Peter Cahill):

- Peter reviewed in detail the change in the cutoff date for determining "baseball age."
- Led discussion surrounding potential impact to summer teams (SYBL & Friendship League)
- Suggested some type of public Q&A forum to review change once we have final determination on our course of action

Board Action: (Pending) The changes do not appear to be final as of yet. The board will continue to reach out to get more information as to any further tweaks or guidance from Little League International and how other towns plan to implement. John Loughnane will reach out to his contact from Friendship league to find out what their plan of action is. Rob Gotti to discuss with Eric Wilfinger regarding SYBL plans.

Morrison Maintenance (Tom Bean).

- Tom has provided a punch list of things we need to do to maintain Morrison field on a weekly, monthly, annual basis (turned after every rain, raking out, patch sod annually, etc).
- The Board needs to decide whether to hire an outside company to do this maintenance.
- The provided (unofficial) estimate by Tom would be \$10K for spring and summer weekly maintenance, plus \$5K for annual maintenance. \$15K total.
- This would eat up sponsorship money.
- Different board proposals include hiring for 1 year and training volunteers for future years, Paying the town to have it done, and forgoing volunteers all together and hiring an outside company.

Board Action: (Pending) Gary will own getting a proposal from the town and from prescription turf. Tom will submit his proposal. This will be done for the next meeting.

Equipment Purchase (Rob Gotti):

- Rob Gotti presented pricing options for getting tarps for Morrison Field.
- Teams/coaches would be responsible for putting on and taking off tarps before/after games.
- Tarps could limit wear and tear of field and discourage pick-up games, etc.
- Cost is around \$1800 (depending on what tarps the board approves purchasing)
- Jason Kissell proposes approaching sponsors to raise the money

Board Action: (Pending). Jason will inquire about having a sponsor donate money towards the tarp. The proposal is tabled until February.

Summer B Reilly (John Loughnane)

- Proposal made to consider setting up a summer tournament (similar to the Reilly tournament) for the summer 'B' league teams.
- B teams should have opportunity to play on the field for a tourney.
- Putting this topic out for discussion.
- If there is interest from parents, then we should have a committee to discuss and organize.

Board Action: (Pending).

Committee Planning:

- Reviewed the different committee's and proposed getting some feedback from each at January meeting.

Board Action: (Pending). To be reviewed in January.

Morrison Project Update (Rob Gotti):

- Bricks are down.
- Roof trusses will be delivered this week. Estimated complete on December 19th.
- Metal roof install is still pending.

Board Action: None.

New Business.

- Bricks can still be purchased.
- Rob will send out notice to broader group to inform them that bricks are installed, and can still be purchased.

Board Action: (Pending). Rob to send out a broader notice to parents.

Adjourned 9:39p