

Exeter Junior Baseball & Softball League  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2015



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**Attendance**

David Morissette – President	<b>X</b>	Rick LaFleur – League Coord.	<b>X</b>
Troy Gilbert – Vice President	<b>X</b>	Mike LaNigra – Fundraising	<b>X</b>
Tim Bond – Treasurer	<b>X</b>	Doug Lenihan – Snack Shack	<b>X</b>
Stephanie Brackett – Secretary		Don Perrault – Softball	<b>X</b>
Lorraine Crist - Registrar	<b>X</b>	Eric Roffman – Scheduler	<b>X</b>
Bruce Fielding – Babe Ruth	<b>X</b>	Shawn Roussin – Equipment	<b>X</b>
Todd Gibbons – Uniforms	<b>X</b>	Matt Smith – Facilities	<b>X</b>
Paul Imbimbo – Umpire in Chief	<b>X</b>	Bryan Wall – Safety, Publicity	<b>X</b>

**Guests:** Jeff Morgado, Brian Hoyt

- 7:05 meeting convened.
- Guests were welcomed to the meeting
- Motion to approve February's minutes by Bruce, Mike 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor with no abstentions.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Tim Bond**

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- Our financial condition has improved with registration dues coming in
  - This is offset by the purchase of \$7,625 worth of baseballs
  - Earlier this month, Tim was able to transfer more registration money from the league's PayPal account
  - Tim has asked board members to please submit expenses as they come up

**REGISTRATION UPDATE: Lorraine Crist**

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- Registrations close this weekend – March 7th
  - So far, the registration numbers are down by 146 over last year for the entire league (Cal Ripken, Babe Ruth, Softball)
  - 9 Scholarships will be provided this year
  - Sibling discounts – 55 (@ \$20 per discount)
  - Rookie = 4 teams, 3 with 10 players, 1 with 11 players
  - A = 4 teams @ 11 players
  - AA = 4 teams @ 11 players
  - AAA = 4 Teams @ 11 players
  - Majors = 6 Teams @ 11 players

**Registration Discussion:**

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- (Jeff Morgado) Are other leagues such as Seacoast United or Mavericks impacting our numbers?
  - (Dave M) Likely not, most players who play in those leagues do both leagues



## EJBSL – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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- (Brian Hoyt) This might be a balance issue where there are some smaller age groups that are now working through the system and impacting the numbers
- (Dave M) Has heard that lacrosse numbers are down overall as well
- (Lorraine) For softball, 49 girls did not rejoin, but there are 40 new sign-ups for a net of (- 9)
- (Dave) We are making a joint local rule between Stratham and Exeter leagues that players cannot switch leagues.
- (Dave) The local Cal Ripken Commissioner has stated it may be a good time to explore merging the leagues, but this has not been seriously discussed due to the continued strength of both leagues

### LEAGUE COORDINATORS for 2015:

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- Rick LaFleur – Rookie League
- Paul Imbimbo – A
- Jay Swett (tbc) – AA
- Keith Palmer – AAA
- Doug Lenihan – Majors

### SPONSORSHIPS UPDATE: Mike LaNigra

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- Sponsorship drive is progressing nicely; sponsorships continue to add daily
- The sponsorship due date is 3/6/15, but Mike will continue to do follow-up calls over the next week
- The Platinum sponsorship level is proving to be very popular and has outpaced the Gold and Silver levels
- Exeter Hospital has been very eager to get involved in the league and has offered to sponsor several teams in the various leagues.
- Exeter Hospital has also offered services in other areas such as concussion awareness, concussion baseline testing, etc.
- ConvenientMD is also interested in a Platinum+ type of model including a large sign
  - This will have to be balanced with other sponsors
- Again this year, Mike is talking to the NH Fisher Cats. The Fisher Cats are again donating a prize for the Raffle and would like to host EJBSL Night at a Fisher Cats game this summer.
- EJBSL Night would also benefit the league as we will make \$3-4 from each ticket sold
- We are attempting to secure FRIDAY JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> for EJBSL night at the Fisher Cats
- Mike has gotten quotes from several sign companies (sponsorship signs / banners) and determined that our former provider was higher than the 6 other companies quoted. Therefore we'll be making a change.

### RAFFLE UPDATE: Mike LaNigra

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- Mike has filled out Raffle Sale Permits for Exeter, Stratham, Epping & Seabrook and will submit next week.
- Mike is working with Tom Gauthier from NH Fisher Cats on a raffle item they are donating
- **ACTION: Dave M has taken the action to attempt to secure some Red Sox tickets OPEN**



## EJBSL – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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- Mike and Tim will look into securing another prize such as an iPad or iPod
- Once all of the prizes are secured, Mike will get all of the tickets and signage created
- Cindy Tuttle has volunteered to create signage – she did an incredible job last year designing custom signs for the Twins.

### **UNITIL FIELD UPDATE: Mike LaNigra**

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- During Mike's meeting with Community Relations contacts from Exeter Hospital / CORE Physicians, they indicated they were interested in hearing more about our efforts to develop Unitil field.
- **ACTION: Mike will continue to engage with Exeter Hospital on various ways to get involved at Unitil Field OPEN**
- Troy asked whether we should start to ramp up the Unitil Field committee once again?
- Mike agreed and took that action to set up a meeting with the Unitil folks to review our parking lot design and determine next steps
- **ACTION: Mike will contact Unitil and set up a meet-and-greet with them OPEN**

### **2015 UNIFORMS UPDATE: Todd Gibbons**

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- The board decided to upgrade to a nicer game uniform for A, AA, AAA, Majors
- This new jersey is a 50/50 Cotton-Polyester 2-button jersey. This is an extra \$8 and includes printing. Todd was able to negotiate a 20% cost reduction
- We need to have the actual corporate logo printed on the jerseys for our Platinum sponsors
- We need the art file specs for printing on the jerseys – what does Floyd need to be able to print the actual logo?
- **ACTION: Mike will work with Todd and provide all of the corporate logos for Platinum sponsors OPEN**

### **FIELD & FACILITY UPDATE: Matt Smith**

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- Matt Smith provided his estimated 2015 budget, the budget is estimated at \$2,152.20
- Newfields batting cage may need a new net, or some repair
- Does Newfields require a larger storage shed?
  - This is a “nice to have” but not urgently needed
- Newer lime machines may be needed – Matt will do some research
- **ACTION: Matt Smith will research new lime machines OPEN**
- Since there is so much snow, do we need to plow the fields like last year?
  - Dick Wendell has told us not to plow the fields
  - Decision: We will comply and will not plow the fields this year; we will let nature take its course and melt the snow
  - Teams will have to find parking lots or other spaces for practices
  - The league discourages renting indoor space for practices as it is an unfair advantage that not all teams / players can afford
- **What is required for Field Prep?** Need a combination infield mix and conditioner



## EJBSL – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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- Newfields and Brentwood had field prepped for the first time in years last year. It made a big difference
- Our needs for this year are: Walsh, a refresh of Currier (since Currier was done in November to turn into a convertible 70'), Brentwood, Newfields & EKES
- **ACTION: Matt will contact Brad Poole to set up this work after the snow clears**  
**OPEN**
- **ACTION: Bryan will investigate setting up a batting cage at Foss** **OPEN**
- (Matt) Let's figure out maximizing Kensington, Currier, & Walsh.
- (Bryan) East Kingston paid to rehab Foss & EKES. EJBSL should share that burden with EK
- (Doug) We should also ask Seacoast United share some of the burden as they use both EKES and Foss Wasson for SU Pirates games
- (Don) Exeter Rec will not allow softball to use Exeter Fields – all the fields will be used for Soccer (EYSA) this spring.
- Don is inquiring whether he could use Kensington or another field for Softball
  - Softball requirements: Starting May 7 and 5 Saturdays thereafter
- (Todd) Kensington already has a softball league
- (Don) Some of the kids are coming over to EJBSL

### **MASTER SCHEDULING UPDATE: Eric Roffman**

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- APRIL 24 – MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> – April Vacation: No games in
- MAY 16<sup>th</sup> is GET FIT IN MAY fun run – no games until after the race is completed
- MAY 23, 24, 25 – Memorial day weekend: No Games Saturday - Monday
- JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> (Fri)– NO GAMES due to potential EJBSL night at FISHER CATS
- Board decided to keep 16 games for Majors
- **Regular Season Dates:** April 11 – June 4<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)
  - We will use Saturday June 6 for make-up games.
- **Playoffs:** Start Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>
- **Closing Ceremony:** June 13<sup>th</sup>
- What if we start April 18<sup>th</sup> due to snow – then can we extend the season by a week?
  - Answer: No due to Cal Ripken schedules & tournaments
- Indications are that we will have Walsh field for one more season, so we will plan on that with the backup plan of using Foss Wasson in Ea Kingston for 70' (Majors) games
- Saturday Schedules will be → 3 games at Walsh, 3 games at Currier (9, 11:30, 2)

### **PUBLICITY UPDATE: Bryan Wall**

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- (Mike) Would like to include our sponsor's name in Exeter newspaper write-ups
- (?) Should we send out bi-weekly newsletters during the season – sent to our email distribution – which updates our families on game results?
  - Yes – this will be the same write-ups as placed in Exeter Newsletter
- EJBL Photo Day – April 1
  - **Update: Photo Day has been moved to April 8 to allow for printing of logos on jerseys.**
- (Mike) Would like to have a media-blast later in the Spring raising awareness about Unifil Field



## EJBSL – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### EVALUATIONS UPDATE: Troy Gilbert

Evaluations will be held on **SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

Need to get equipment staged on Friday

Friday, March 13:

- Everything must come out of Media Shed at Currier and be brought to Thompson Cage
- Volunteers: Mike, Eric, Bryan, Lorraine, Troy, Tim, Todd, Paul (if he can), Stephanie
- Troy will determine the report time on Friday night

### Equipment List for Evaluations

Item	Qty	Who
Folding Chairs	12	Eric
Bottle Water	3	Lorraine
Clipboards	8	Lorraine
Large Folding Tables	3	Lorraine
L-Screen	2	Lorraine
Pens	box	Lorraine
Rating papers		Lorraine
Extension Cords	many	Mike
Zip Ties	many	Rick
Bucket of Balls	5	Shawn
Cones	many	Shawn
Dick's Coupon Books	2	Shawn
Empty Buckets	5	Shawn
Helmets	2 bags	Shawn
Pitching Machine	2	Shawn
Plastic Bases	2 sets	Shawn
Tarp	1	Stephanie
Ladder	1	Tim, Shawn
Whistle	1	Troy

Saturday, March 14: Matt, Paul, Bruce will not be there

- Setup at 7AM | First Group starts at 8AM | Closure 4PM

### SEASON SCHEDULE: Dave Morissette

#### 1. PLAYER / TEAM DRAFT will be held on FRIDAY MARCH 20th:

Paul, Bruce, Matt will be there

#### 2. COACHES MEETING – Saturday, MARCH 21st 8:30AM – 10:30AM Exeter High School

- Mike will explain the raffle tickets sales
- Coaches Meeting callout: Don't leave Lime in the lime spreading machines
- Coaches cannot pitch BP w/out using an L-Screen
- Respect the Umpires, especially the youth umpires who will be working this year

#### 3. EJBL PHOTO DAY – APRIL 1 (Updated to APRIL 8)

#### 4. OPENING DAY – Saturday, April 11 (Weather Permitting)



## EJBSL – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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### OPENING DAY COMMITTEE

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Rick, Tim, Troy, Mike

- Mike mentioned that we need to recognize our Platinum Sponsors during our opening ceremony

### COACHES COMMITTEE UPDATE: Dave Morissette

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- Coaches will be selected very soon by the Coaches Committee

### PRACTICES:

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EJBSL will **not** be renting space for indoor practices this year (due to late snow) since it is extremely expensive. We'll all be in the same boat with respect to finding outdoor space to get some practices in.

### MERITORIOUS AWARD:

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An award winner was chosen

### SOFTBALL UPDATE: Don Perrault

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- Typically has late registrations – would like to keep registrations open longer – so closing on Evaluation date
- Picture day is April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Uniforms will be ordered this week, but may not be able to do picture day on April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Exeter Hospital and others may want to sponsor some softball teams
- Softball Pitching Clinic – 8 weeks. Still looking for a location to hold that (Starts before the season starts)
- All Stars: U12 and U14 teams
  - Working to consolidate with Stratham for a larger pool of players only for All Stars
  - This may be an invitational team, not an All Star team
  - The team will be called the Seacoast Riptides

### OFFICIALS REPORT: Bruce Fielding

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- Umpire Clinic
  - March 14, 21 9-12 in Brentwood for the umpire's course
  - 12 kids are signed up for the umpiring course
  - They will be approx. 13-15 year olds
  - Hoping to get some of these kids to do Single A games as base umpires
  - There was discussion on how these youth get paired up with adult Umpires
- Babe Ruth started "Extreme Baseball" – attempt to combat AAU / Junior Legion
  - This is working its way up to the northeast
  - Manchester and Nashua is implementing Extreme Baseball this season
  - Similar structure to AAU - Saturday in-state games, Sunday out-of-state games
  - This is something Bruce is considering for next year



## EJBSL – BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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### **NEW ITEMS:**

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#### **Shawn Roussin**

DICKS EVENT IS MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>

11AM to 3PM – Shawn needs help staffing the table

*A motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn at 9:30PM.*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Mike LaNigra  
(due to Stephanie's absence)