



Exeter Junior Baseball & Softball League
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 04, 2014

Agenda:

- Approve August Board of Director Minutes
- Treasurer's Report – Ed Gullison
- Autumn Field Clean-up Day – Matt Smith
- Kensington Usage Fees discussion with Keith Palmer
- Wooden Bat Discussion – All
- Board Member Recruitment – Dave
- Open Issues / New Business
- Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 1 October, 2014 → Location TBD

Attendees:

Board Member Present

Dave Morissette (Pres)	Troy Gilbert (VP)
Ed Gullison (Treasurer)	Lorraine Crist
Chris Crawford	Brett Elmore
Todd Gibbons	Brian Hoyt
Paul Imbimbo	Doug Lenihan
Matt Smith	

Board Members Absent

Lee Rollick
Brian Wall
Bob Stephens
Rick LaFleur

Guests Present

Bruce Fielding (Babe Ruth Coordinator)
Eric Roffman
Shawn Roussin
Tim Bond
Mike LaNigra

Call to Order at 7:02 PM by David Morissette

Item 1: Approve August Board of Director Minutes

Motion to approve the August BoD Meeting Minutes was seconded and approved.

Item 2: Treasurer's Report → Ed Gullison

- Ending balance for EJBL bank account (ending August 31) is **\$16,934.20**
- This compares to over \$20,000 last year at this time
- The difference is largely due to hosting the 10 Y/O NE Regional Tournament and the expenses incurred hosting that event
- Money (field fees) is still owed to Kensington. This amount is still under negotiation – Doug Lenihan donated a bunch of leftover food and water after the NE Tournament Opening Day cookout.

- Ed reported that he has not invested much money into the new “Unitil” field due to the fact that the EJBL bank account is lower than in year’s past.

New Business – Treasurer:

- Ed is recommending that we apply for a \$5,000 to \$10,000 line of credit
- We may need to build up a line of credit in case we need to invest in a large project in the future
- The Board agreed that Ed should inquire with local banks, starting with Citizen’s Bank

Action: Ed Gullison will make an inquiry with Citizen’s Bank regarding opening a line of credit, and determine how much Citizen’s Bank would offer EJBL (Due: Oct. 1st)

Item 3: Field Report → Matt Smith

- Autumn field clean-up day will be this SUNDAY at 10:00 AM at Currier / Walsh
- A question was raised about taking down batting cages at the other local fields
- Troy made it known that the batting cage at Brentwood belongs to EJBL
- Tim Bond offered assistance – if needed – with Brentwood’s cage
- Matt will inquire into Kensington, Newfields and Brentwood
- It was also made known that kids know the combinations to some (all?) of the storage lockers and that the equipment shed at Currier has been vandalized.
- This is not a new problem apparently
- Matt will start to look into a new “programmable” lock system for all fields so that lock combinations can be changed as frequently as required to keep equipment secure.

Action: Matt Smith will inquire about and coordinate the tear-down of the remaining batting cages in Kensington, Brentwood and Newfields (Due: tbd)

Action: Matt Smith will investigate a new locking system with changeable combinations that can be propagated through the network of fields (Due: Oct. 1st)

Item 4: Wood Bat Discussion for Majors → Dave Morissette

- Dave M has given this a lot of thought since the last meeting and has concluded that he’s not ready to turn to a wood bat league. “If it isn’t broken, why fix it”
- Doug L stated that this warrants additional investigation, perhaps using wood bats for a portion of games
- Brian H asked why wood bats? The answer from the several folks was for safety reasons (how quickly the baseball comes off of the composite bats)
- Matt S referenced research from Easton which says that the speed of the ball off of a composite bat is 3-4% greater than a non-composite bat. So it comes down to whether this constitutes an increase in risk
- Dave M mentioned that – in conversations he’s had with other coaches – there is risk of a wood bat snapping and hitting a pitcher as well
- Ed G mentioned research that he’s done on pitcher safety and of the 8 deaths he found, 6 were wood bats (note: no ages, leagues, or specifics were provided). There seems to be more injuries due to other events than those caused by bats

- Dave M and Doug L suggested using wood bats for a portion of the season or in preseason scrimmages to judge the impact on the game (batting average, ability for kids to hit with the heavier bats, power, etc.). Dave M would be willing to invest in (say) 10 bats for this purpose.
- Mike L inquired about the cost impact of new wood bats to the league – Paul I mentioned he could get them for free.
- Matt S proposed that perhaps the Board is focusing on the wrong area and we should be looking at protection for the players in the field – e.g., helmets and facemasks for pitchers, etc.
- Dave M stated that he is not opposed to having the league offer this type of equipment if players choose to wear it
- **Decision?** Try wood bats for pre-season scrimmages in Majors...

Item 5: Board of Directors Recruitment → Dave Morissette

- Several members of the board are up for re-election, including: Dave, Troy, Lee, Brian, Paul, Brett, Chris, Bob
- The following Directors indicated they would be willing to run for re-election: Dave M, Troy G, Brian H, and Paul I.
- The following Directors indicated they will not run for re-election: Lee R, Brett E, Chris C
- Undeclared: Bob S.
- Dave and Troy both indicated that they would be willing to perform in their current capacities, as President and Vice President, respectively, for one more year
- Ed Gullison has indicated that he must step down as Treasurer citing time commitments
- The Board of Directors has a total of 15 seats
- Board of Director elections will be held at the October 1st meeting

Item 6: OPEN ITEMS / NEW BUSINESS → All

- **Insurance protection** of Board Members was a point that was raised, specifically whether Don P (Softball coordinator) and Bruce F (Babe Ruth coordinator) were covered by the Board's Insurance policy

Action: *Troy Gilbert will contact the insurance company to determine whether the EJBL policy currently covers non-board members and what the cost impact will be to include this coverage going forward. (Due: Oct. 1st)*

- **Walsh Field's Status** (Major's 70' Ball Field) was asked about by Todd G.
- Discussion ensued regarding whether the tear down of Walsh had been simply delayed, as Troy heard during the June Town Meeting, or rumors in MSS that Mike had heard that the parking project had fallen through altogether.
- EJBL has not heard any updates from Dick Wendell on the status.
- Todd G asked what EJBL's "Plan B" is if we lose Walsh for next season?
- One proposal is to have more games at Foss-Wasson field in East Kingston. Todd G warned that F-W field is heavily used by E.K. and may not be available for all of EJBL's needs. Todd does not know when he'll have any additional information on field availability.

Action: *Todd Gibbons will inquire about Foss Wasson field availability for the 2015 season and whether EJBL might be able to use it for some / all of the Major's 54 games (6 teams, 18 game regular season) schedule (Due: Oct. 1st)*

- Additional Walsh Field Discussion focused on several topics...

(1) Unitil Field: Will Unitil field be ready?

- a. Ed G indicated there was still a lot of work to do.
- b. The infield is very dry and without adding irrigation, planting grass seed is proving a futile effort.
- c. The outfield has wetness issues that are "easily fixed".
- d. Mike L inquired about the lack of parking (Unitil will not allow EJBL to use their parking lot). Ed G stated that Brad Poole could build a ramp from the road down to a field where cars could park. Mike questioned this strategy in wet springtime conditions.
- e. It would take some money to convert Unitil to a 70' diamond (\$8K?), but it can be done.
- f. When does this decision need to be made to convert to 70' base-pads? Is it too late to convert in the Spring, especially considering the late-thaw we had in 2014?
- g. Currently, Unitil Field is set to be 200' to the outfield fences which matches Walsh

(2) Currier Field:

- a. Currier could be converted to a 70' diamond also. Approx. cost is \$8K(?)
- b. This cost does not include moving the outfield fence back to accommodate 200' – there was some discussion about the cost impact of moving the fence back or making the fence taller to make it more difficult to hit homeruns for Major's teams that may be playing there
- c. As with Unitil, when does the decision need to be made for converting the field from 60' to 70'? In the Fall or can the decision be made in the Spring?

- d. Dave's preference is to convert Currier, to allow Major's to play on these fields again and save Unitil as a 60' diamond

(3) Walsh Field:

- a. It is still uncertain whether EJBL will be able to use Walsh Field next year (2015)
 - b. Dick Wendell has indicated that we will have space allocated to build another field if/when Walsh is destroyed *but* the new field will not be built until the parking project is completed and may require some up-front funding from EJBL.
- **Equipment Collection:** There are still 6 teams which have not returned their equipment. Brian H will be conducting yet another equipment return on **MONDAY, September 8th from 6:30-7:30PM.**

Motion to adjourn was approved at 8:07PM

Respectfully submitted by: Mike LaNigra