

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the March 14, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting
Commissioner Kevin Conklin called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Kevin Conklin, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Bob Lathrop, Dick Nabel, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Jim Greeley and Bill Hettinger

Players present: None

1. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting that immediately followed the VSS Annual Meeting on October 26th, 2015, were reviewed. (See attached) A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2. PLAYER COMMENTS

None

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dick Nabel reported that he is now the official signer for the checking account and Commissioner Conklin is the backup signer. He also mentioned that the checking balance looks good going into next year, based on anticipated income from registrations and sponsorships and anticipated expenses. He then gave the Treasurer's report (complete report attached) for the month of October. There were no items of income. Account activity consisted of a check being issued for a gift for Past Commissioner Bob Lathrop. The ending checking account balance was \$5,161.95. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Conklin first welcomed the new Board members, i.e., Jim Greeley, Bill Hettinger, and Dick Nabel, and expressed his appreciation for them wanting to serve. He then talked about his goals for 2016. He would like to see an increase in new members to the league and an improvement in the travel teams. Discussion followed. One suggestion was to issue an email broadcast to the league membership asking all current players to be active recruiters for VSS. Commissioner Conklin also wants to meet with all managers in the spring to discuss their needs for the upcoming season. That meeting is set for Tuesday, April 5th, 2016, at 6:15 pm.

Commissioner Conklin asked the Board to review the player comments from the Annual Meeting on October 26th. Each of the comments was discussed with no specific action taken on any. There may be further discussions in the spring, especially about requiring all pitchers to wear a protective mask and obtaining a mat for the batter's box.

5. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER & HEAD OF UMPIRES

No report

6. INTERNAL COMPETITION

Bob Lathrop reported for Bill Hettinger. He noted that VSS uses Town of Vernon waiver forms as part of the player registration process and the Town advises keeping 2 years of waiver forms, i.e., the current year and the previous year. He mentioned that the registration form and cover letter need minor adjustments and then should be ready to go. He also noted that the 2016 In-Person Registration dates are Thursday, March 31st, 2016, 5:30 to 7:00 pm and Saturday, April 2nd, 2016, 2:00 to 3:30 pm.

7. EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Rich Andreoli had nothing to report.

8.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr reported that the response for the Holiday Party has been slow so far, but she expects it to pick up as the event gets closer.

9.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Cromwell wondered if the VSS website could be modified to accept online donations using a credit card. He would like to see if this is feasible to do.

10.OLD BUSINESS

None

11.NEW BUSINESS

None

12.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14th, 2016, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Gamzon

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the November 19, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting
Past Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Jim Greeley, Bob Lathrop, Dick Nabel, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Kevin Conklin and Bill Hettinger

Players present: None

1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report

2.PLAYER COMMENTS

None

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

No report

4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

No report

5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

No report

6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

No report

7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

No report

8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report

9.OLD BUSINESS

None

10.NEW BUSINESS

This was an organizational meeting to match Board positions with Board members. After a brief discussion, the Board settled on the following assignments:

Commissioner: Kevin Conklin

Past Commissioner: Bob Lathrop

Assistant Commissioner & Head of Umpires: Jim Greeley

Secretary: Bill Gamzon

Treasurer: Dick Nabel

Internal Competition: Bill Hettinger

External Competition: Rich Andreoli

Social Committee: Helen Orr

Public Relations: Tim Cromwell

A motion to approve the above composition was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th, 2015, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Gamzon

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

These minutes will be approved at the March 14, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Keven Busque, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Kevin Conklin and Mary Gracyalny

1. COMMISSIONER'S OPENING REMARKS

Commissioner Bob Lathrop welcomed all members to the annual membership meeting of the Vernon Seniors Softball League. He thanked everyone for coming and noted that 38 members were in attendance (list is attached) and therefore the League Bylaws requirement of a quorum was satisfied (quorum for tonight's meeting was 36).

2.SECRETARY'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop distributed copies of the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes for review. He commented on the Board's deliberations regarding #11 Members Comments. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Kevin Conklin, Commissioner Lathrop presented the Treasurer's report for Fiscal Year 2015, covering 10/1/2014 - 9/30/2015. In summary, the Beginning Checking Account Balance = \$8,962.96; Income = \$10,505.00; Expenses = \$14,206.01; Ending Checking Account Balance = \$5,261.95. The full report is attached. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4.AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Audit Committee Chairperson Joe Handleman read the report of the Audit Committee (see attached). Motion to accept the Audit report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

5.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop highlighted a number of accomplishments this year, singling out team pictures being done professionally at no cost to VSS players, ordering VSS shirts for the second year at a cost of \$5 to VSS players, and reducing the cost of the Christmas party. He thanked the Board for its work and thanked in particular two retiring members, Keven Busque and Mary Gracyalny. Commissioner Lathrop's full report is attached.

6.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Keven Busque complimented Bruce Chamberlain on Bruce's efforts to make teams competitive and to achieve parity in the league. Keven urged players to recruit new members to replace those players who do not return and to grow the league. He thanked the umpires and noted that it was difficult to always have two umpires at every game, but that remains the goal.

7.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Rich Andreoli reported that it was a problem getting the travel teams organized early enough to enter any tournaments other than the Cape Cod Classic in September. He stated that this needs to be worked on and improved for next year. He mentioned that both travel teams had a decent showing at the Cape last month.

8.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr noted that the Christmas party is Sunday, December 6th at Maneely's. The cost will be \$10 per person and Tim Cromwell will be returning as the DJ.

9.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Cromwell reported that the league had the same full sponsors this year as last, a total of 17. He added that VSS could always use new sponsors and that he has created a generic letter to hand out to potential sponsors, copies of which were available for those in attendance to take.

10.OLD BUSINESS

None

11.NEW BUSINESS

Mike Lowell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, stated that there were five open positions on the Board of Directors. He presented the following slate of five nominees: Kevin Conklin, Bill Gamzon, Jim Greeley, Bill Hettinger, and Dick Nabel. Commissioner Lathrop asked for nominations from the floor. There were none forthcoming. A motion to close the nominations and to have the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate of nominees was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Rich Andreoli asked for a moment to recognize Bob Lathrop for all the work he has done as Commissioner. Bob received a round of applause and a small gift of appreciation.

12.MEMBERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Lathrop encouraged all members to bring any issues, thoughts, and ideas to the board for its consideration throughout the year. The following comments were offered by various members in attendance tonight:

- get mats for the batters box;
- fix the water fountain at Community Field;
- play all games with 11 v 11, not 11 v 10 (a show of hands favored keeping the status quo);
- revisit the courtesy runner rule (again);
- “senior” softball bats are too lively and pose a safety issue, so VSS doesn't allow their use;
- have pitchers wear masks or use a safety net;

-do something to avoid collisions on the base paths, especially around second base.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

After adjournment, there was a drawing for a free 2016 VSS registration from the pool of members in attendance at tonight's meeting. The winner was Howie Bromage.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Gamzon

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes will be approved at the October 26, 2015 meeting

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Keven Busque, Kevin Conklin, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Mary Gracyalny

Players present: None

1. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting on August 12th, 2015, were reviewed. (See attached) A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2. PLAYER COMMENTS

None

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Conklin gave the Treasurer's report (complete report attached) for the month of August. There were no items of income. Account activity consisted of checks being issued for VSS player shirts and for team pictures taken and processed. The ending checking account balance was \$6,806.91. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop reported the following:

- The Nominating Committee has 5 volunteers for 3 Board positions.
- He has a few VSS player shirts available for sale, 2 large and 2 extra large.
- He will check with Town of Vernon regarding how long to retain paper records since VSS uses town forms in the signup process. VSS league information is kept primarily in databases on computer and he would like to keep retention of paper data within reason.
- He will be ordering a new batch of softballs for next year, as well as new score books and new bats. He and Rich Andreoli will take VSS equipment from the shed at Community Field and store it for the winter elsewhere.

5. INTERNAL COMPETITION

Keven Busque gave the ICC and Umpire Report. He congratulated the Blue Jays for winning both the regular season and the playoff tournament. He commented that overall it was a good year for VSS, and that the Hawks still need help to be more competitive.

6. EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Rich Andreoli reported that the 65's and 70's travel teams did well at the Cape, both making it to the semi-final game on their respective championship day. There was discussion about organizing the travel teams earlier next year, which would allow for more practices and friendly games to be scheduled before tournament play.

7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr reminded everyone of the end-of-season picnic on Sunday, September 20th.

8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Cromwell mentioned that he is delivering the certificates of appreciation to VSS sponsors.

9.OLD BUSINESS

None

10.NEW BUSINESS

None

11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is an organizational meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 26th, 2015, at Vernon Police Station.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Gamzon

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 12, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the September 16, 2015 meeting

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Keven Busque, Kevin Conklin, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Mary Gracyalny, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: None

Players present: None

1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting on July 16th, 2015, were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2.PLAYER COMMENTS

None

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Conklin gave the Treasurer's report for the month of July. Account activity included income from 2015 registration fees and a sponsorship. Checks were issued for Cape Cod tournament entrance fees, sponsorship certificates, Pagani tournament entrance fees, and new bats. The ending checking account balance was \$8,725.91. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop reported the following:

- The Nominating Committee currently consists of Keven Busque (Board member), Rich Andreoli (Board member), Mike Lowell, and Howie Bromage.

- The lightweight blue or red accented shirts with VSS lettering will be available as of Monday, August 17th.

-The VSS season ending double elimination tournament will start Tuesday, August 18th, with games at Community Field and Henry Park.

-Team pictures have been taken and produced in the last several years by Karen Andreoli at considerable expense in terms of her time and what she spends on materials. After discussion, a motion to pay Karen the sum of \$750 to take and produce the team pictures this year was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Keven Busque gave the ICC and Umpire Report. The umpiring setup for the playoffs will be the same as last year, where the current game at each field would be umped by umpire(s) who played in the game immediately preceding the current game or who will play in the game immediately following the current game.

6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Rich Andreoli reported that both the 65's and 70's travel teams are all set for the Cape. The 65's have 18 players on their roster and the 70's have 14 players on their roster.

7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr put forward the idea of having a caterer for the picnic in September. Discussion ensued. Consensus of the Board was to table the proposal for now and consider for next year.

8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Cromwell mentioned that the certificates of appreciation for VSS sponsors are almost ready.

9.OLD BUSINESS

None

10.NEW BUSINESS

None

11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th, 2015, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Gamzon

MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the August 12, 2015 meeting

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:21 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Keven Busque, Kevin Conklin, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Mary Gracyalny

Players present: None

1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting on June 9th, 2015, were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2.PLAYER COMMENTS

None

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Conklin gave the Treasurer's report (complete report attached) for the month of June. Account activity included income from a 2015 registration fee and a sponsorship. Checks were issued for a deposit to Maneeley's (holiday party in December), new shirts for the Ravens, sponsorship banner maintenance, and equipment. The ending checking account balance was \$10,197.29. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop reported the following:

- The season continues to go well, including the rule eliminating runners from home.
- Pool players Larry Sherman, Angel Rodriguez, and Bill Usher need to be assigned to teams. A lengthy discussion ensued. Assignments were made by vote of the Board. Commissioner Lathrop did not participate in the voting. Larry Sherman was assigned to the Blue Jays with six votes for and zero against. Angel Rodriguez was assigned to the Owls with four votes for, zero against, and two abstentions (Keven Busque, Bill Gamzon). Bill Usher was assigned to the Cardinals with six votes for and zero against.
- A Nominating Committee, consisting of five VSS members including two Board members, needs to be constituted to come up with a slate of candidates to replace Board members going off the Board at the Annual Meeting in October. Keven Busque and Rich Andreoli volunteered to be the Board members on this committee.
- The lightweight blue or red accented shirts with VSS lettering will be available at the same price as last year, \$5.
- The VSS playoffs will be the same as last year, a double elimination tournament starting August 17th.
- Bruce Chamberlain submitted his resignation from the VSS Board. The Board accepted it.

5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Keven Busque gave the ICC Report and Umpire Report. He said that the goal continues to be to have two umpires at every game and it works out for most games.

6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Rich Andreoli reported that the 70's travel team roster is short of enough players at this point, so sending a 70's team to the Cape is in jeopardy.

7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr had nothing to report.

8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Cromwell mentioned that he is working on certificates of appreciation for VSS sponsors.

9.OLD BUSINESS

None

10.NEW BUSINESS

Helen Orr asked for a clarification of the rule for a runner returning to a base. The runner can not overrun the base and is allowed to dive or slide back.

11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11th, 2015, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Gamzon

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes ere at the JULY 16, 2015 meeting
Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:19 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Keven Busque, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Mary Gracyalny, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Bruce Chamberlain and Kevin Conklin

Players present: None

1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting on May 12th, 2015, were reviewed. (See attached) A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2.PLAYER COMMENTS

None

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Kevin Conklin, Commissioner Lathrop gave the Treasurer's report (complete report attached) for the month of May. Account activity included income from 2015 registration fees and sponsorships. Checks were issued for the use of Community Field, new shirts for the Eagles, a newspaper ad to attract new players to VSS, a deposit for the end of season picnic, new bats, and expenses for maintaining VSS on the internet. The ending checking account balance was \$10,988.33. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop mentioned the following:

-The season seems to be going pretty well so far. Of the eight VSS teams, seven are competitive, but the Hawks not so much. Discussion on how to help the Hawks ensued. Consensus of the Board was to move Pete Johnson from the pool to the Hawks effective Thursday, June 18th.

-If a team only has seven players for a game, the manager should call Bob beforehand so the game can be rescheduled. Otherwise, showing up at Community Field with seven players will result in a forfeit.

5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

In the absence of Bruce Chamberlain, Commissioner Lathrop gave the ICC Report. He reported that Bill Usher is now available as a pool player.

Keven Busque gave the Umpire Report. He said that we continue to be doing OK in regards to officiating games.

6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Rich Andreoli reported that both the 65's and 70's travel teams have a manager and co-manager in place.

7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr noted that deposits for the end of season picnic on September 20th and the Christmas party on Sunday, December 6th, have been mailed.

8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Cromwell reported that everyone who was a full sponsor last year has renewed as a full sponsor this year. As a result, this year's total sponsorship money is very nearly the same as last year's total.

9.OLD BUSINESS

None

10.NEW BUSINESS

None

11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 16th, 2015, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Gamzon

MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the JUNE 9, 2015 meeting

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Keven Busque, Kevin Conklin, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Mary Gracyalny, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Bruce Chamberlain

Players present: None

1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting on April 15th, 2015, were reviewed. A correction to the wording of the Courtesy Runner rule was needed. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2.PLAYER COMMENTS

Speaking as a player, Rich Andreoli said that the Blue Jays are in urgent need of a player. Discussion ensued regarding the availability of pool players for assignment. A motion to assign John Massey to the Blue Jays effective May 18th, 2015, was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Conklin gave the Treasurer's report (complete report attached). Account activity included income from 2015 registration fees. Checks were issued for the use of Community Field, new shirts for the Eagles, and a newspaper ad to attract new players to VSS. The ending checking account balance was \$10,032.77. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop mentioned the following:

- A Vernon Park and Rec Department employee who has been very helpful to VSS over the years is retiring. By consensus, the Board approved the expenditure of \$25 as a good will gesture towards that retirement event.
- The new Courtesy Runner rule appears to be working out well. There's been no negative feedback of which he's aware.
- Four new bats have been purchased, 2 Easton and 2 Miken. With newer bats, discussion regarding the wearing of protective masks, especially by pitchers, took place. A motion to buy a mask to be available for use by any VSS pitcher was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- The first week of games from the league schedule will be made up during 4th of July week.

5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Bruce Chamberlain was absent, so there was no ICC Report. Keven Busque gave the Umpire Report. He said that there have been some games with only one umpire, but overall we're doing OK in regards to officiating games.

6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Rich Andreoli reported that there is still no manager for the 65's travel team.

7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr mentioned the end of season picnic on September 20th at East Windsor. Also, the Christmas party will be Sunday, December 6th. Tim Cromwell has volunteered to be the DJ again.

8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Cromwell reported that he is working on a few more sponsorships. There was discussion of recognition of sponsors. A motion to spend up to \$350 for certificates and frames for full sponsors was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

9.OLD BUSINESS

None

10.NEW BUSINESS

The condition of the home plate/batter's box area at Community Field was discussed.

11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th, 2015, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Gamzon

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the MAY 12, 2015 meeting

Commissioner Bob Lathrop called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Keven Busque, Bruce Chamberlain, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Mary Gracyalny, Bob Lathrop, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Kevin Conklin

Players present: Paul Davies

1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting on March 10th, 2015, were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2.PLAYER COMMENTS

None

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Kevin Conklin, Commissioner Lathrop gave the Treasurer's report (complete report attached). The ending checking account balance was \$10,528.77, with the only account activity being income from 2015 registration fees. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lathrop brought up the following items:

-The Board's approval is needed to issue a \$1000 check to the Vernon Park & Rec Department for use of Community Field. A motion to approve the check was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

-DeMarini white steel bats are no longer being made. The league will need to look at ASA bats as older VSS bats are phased out next year.

-New player evaluations are almost done, allowing for open practices for the rest of this week. With warmer weather slow to arrive, the April practice schedule will be pushed back a week, i.e., the weeks of the 20th and the 27th both set aside for team practices. The season will start on May 4th with week 2 of the regular league schedule. The first week's games will be made up on Fridays as the season progresses. A motion to approve the above practice and league schedules was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Bruce Chamberlain reported the following:

-Returning/new player registrations: It's not been a good recruiting year. The league lost more players than it gained, necessitating some movement of players from one team to another. The consensus of the Board was to let Bruce make any final roster assignments as needed.

-League rule changes for 2015: The Short Team rule was discussed. To play a game, a team must have 10 players, 8 of which need to be from the team's own roster (less than 8 forfeits the game). The existing card system shall be used to get the 9th and/or 10th player. Everyone bats, including the 9th and/or 10th player at the end of the lineup. The Courtesy Runner from home was revisited. The Board consensus was to amend the present rule so that all batters must get to first base before they can have a courtesy runner. Once a batter reaches first base they can request a courtesy runner. Players may only run once per inning and only twice during the game. The Board will grandfather-in a few exceptions to this new courtesy runner rule change. The names must be submitted by league managers to be approved by the Board prior to the start of the season. The Board will provide a list of these players to all managers and umpires. A motion to accept these rule changes was made, seconded, and approved.

Keven Busque went over the roster of umpires that are available for 2015.

6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Rich Andreoli reported that VSS travel teams will participate in the Cape Cod Fall Classic this year and he is looking for other tournaments for the travel teams. Rich Sheehan and Kevin Conklin will manage the 55's team, and Paul Davies will manage the 70's team. Managers are still needed for the 60's and 65's teams.

7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr had nothing to report.

8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Cromwell reported that there will be a logo change on the sponsorship banner for one of the sponsors and that he is working on a few more sponsorships.

9.OLD BUSINESS

None

10.NEW BUSINESS

None

11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12th, 2015, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Gamzon

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

These minutes were approved at the APRIL 15, 2015 meeting

In the absence of Commissioner Bob Lathrop, Immediate Past Commissioner Mary Gracyalny called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. NOTE: This meeting was scheduled for March 3rd, but it was rescheduled to tonight, March 10th, due to a snow storm on the 3rd.

Board members present: Rich Andreoli, Keven Busque, Bruce Chamberlain, Kevin Conklin, Tim Cromwell, Bill Gamzon, Mary Gracyalny, and Helen Orr

Board members absent: Bob Lathrop

Players present: None

1.SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes from the last Board meeting on November 12th, 2014, were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2.PLAYER COMMENTS

None

3.TREASURER'S REPORT

Kevin Conklin gave the Treasurer's report (complete report attached). The league checking account balance as of March 1st is \$6,473.77. Account activity since the last report at the November meeting included income from holiday party ticket sales and expenses from the purchase of softballs and scorebooks, registration with the Connecticut Secretary of State, and the holiday party at Maneeley's. Kevin also mentioned upcoming expenses of an insurance premium and the purchase of shirts for two VSS teams. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

4.COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

No report

5.INTERNAL COMPETITION

Bruce Chamberlain reported that he has started to receive 2015 player registrations and that he has heard some reaction to the courtesy runner rule change.

6.EXTERNAL COMPETITION

Rich Andreoli reported that play at this year's fall Cape Cod Classic will start the day after Labor Day. The 70's team will play Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (September 8th, 9th, 10th), and the 65's team will play Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (September 11th, 12th, 13th). He also mentioned that he would like to set up a local weekend tournament during the summer, as was done last year, and that he wants to look into organizing a 55's team.

7.SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Helen Orr noted that the fall VSS picnic will take place on Sunday, September 20th.

8.PUBLIC RELATIONS

Tim Cromwell reported that he sent out letters to prospective sponsors and, as a result, there are 8 full sponsors and 2 partial sponsors so far. A full sponsor is one that has donated \$250 or more. In return, the full sponsor gets a plaque and its name on the sponsorship banner. A discussion about setting up sponsorship levels ensued. The idea was tabled to be revisited in the fall.

9.OLD BUSINESS

Fixing the batters box/home plate area for better footing was discussed.

10.NEW BUSINESS

None

11.NEXT BOARD MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th, 2015, at 6:15 pm at Vernon Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Gamzon