



FINAL Minutes

VSS Board of Directors Meeting December 19, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM

Board Members Present –

League Commissioner – Kevin Conklin

Internal Competition – Bill Hettinger

Internal Competition – Tim Poloski

Treasurer – Richard Nabel

Social Committee – Brian Battles

Recording Secretary -Gail Gretzmacher

Umpire committee -Matt Kellie

Public Relations - John Murphy

Public Relations - Jack Frascarelli

Guests: Kari Martin, Ken Hartwright, Mike Smith, Mike Calabra, Mike Bard

- *Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2022 meeting and the October 24, 2022 meeting. Motion passed and Bill will post to the league website.*
- *Opening Comments*
 - *Commissioner noted that the fall picnic and party were well-attended and that the league had a good year.*
- *Treasurer Update – Dick*
 - *\$2871 in the operating account*
 - *\$1650 expected for insurance payment in the Spring*
 - *~\$3600 anticipated for the field use during the summer season*
- *New Business:*
 - *Tim Cromwell contribution to the league – there was a suggestion and discussion noting the significant contribution Tim Cromwell has made to the league over many years. present an appreciation \$100 for his many years of PA service*
 - *A motion was made and passed to purchase a local restaurant gift certificate in the amount of \$100 for Tim Cromwell.*
 - *Equipment*
 - *Balls – there was discussion and assessment of possible change to the ball used in 2022 to reduce cost. The 2022 season used the Trump Stote and a similar ball being presented as an alternative was the Baden Fire. Both have a core of 44 and compression of 375. It was felt that about 10 dozen new balls would sufficiently cover our season. Pricing being collected from a few sources for a board decision at next meeting.*
 - *Trump Stote- \$72/dozen; Dudley for \$58/dozen from John Brandt*
 - *Discussion about sourcing the balls; pricing being sought*
 - *Bats- An inventory of league bats will be taken so that the Board can determine needed purchases for the 2023 season. Also discussed was the need to etch our league bats to clearly delineate the bats the league owns.*

- *A motion was made and passed to purchase an etching hand-held device for \$30 for engraving the bats.*
 - *Bats to be collected from the shed and brought to the next Board meeting.*
- *Rules committee* – The list of volunteers who wish to be on the Rules committee was reviewed: Matt Kellie, Fred Valenti, Rich Krajewski, Mike Calabro, Tom Krajewski, Mike Bard, Gail Gretzmacher, Keven Busque, John Hardy
 - *A solicitation to the membership will be sent to collect any proposed rule changes*
 - *First Rules Committee meeting will be January 16th, 6pm at Sheas;*
 - *It is anticipated that 2 meetings will be needed*
 - *Bill will act as the Chair of the committee.*
- *Build the Sponsorship*
 - *\$2000 was raised in 2022*
 - *\$4000 is our target*
 - *Current return to our sponsors- posting sponsors on Facebook and webpage (on bottom of front page)*
 - *\$250 was our standard amount of ask*
 - *John Murphy will define a consistent strategy for sponsorship of our league and present at the next Board meeting*
 - *John Murphy will pull demographic data from our registration information. Kevin Massey had provided some demographic data by team with his work on Historical Record and this was shared with John Murphy*
 - *Jack shared a sample sponsor printed brochure (Buy Local Passport South Windsor Support Small Business) with examples full and half page sponsor content that could be explored for use by our league.*
- *Registration fees for the 2023 season were set*
 - *A motion was made and passed to raise the league membership fee to \$75 for returning players.*
 - *A motion was made and passed to increase the entrance fee for new players to \$100. (Note: this allows the expense for the new member's shirt and cap to be covered)*
 - *Schedule of key dates for 2023 season:*
 - *Jan 1 – registration opens*
 - *April 15 – in-person registration*
 - *April 16 – last day of registration*
 - *Week of April 17 – evaluation of new players*
 - *Week of April 24 – Practice week for teams*
 - *May 1 – Season begins*
 - *Note: When a league member recruits a friend, effort will be made to place that new member on the same team; however, the Board works to assure parity in the league and that all teams are competitive and that aspect will also be considered.*
- *Umpires*
 - *Matt will determine if any 2022 volunteer umpires umped a minimum of 15 games which supports their free registration for 2023*
- *Heat Index* –
 - *Current league rule* –
 - **SECTION Q – POSTPONEMENTS**
 - If the heat index using National Weather Service data for Windsor Locks at approximately 1 pm is 97 or above, the games will be canceled.**
 - *A suggestion was made to consider lowering the heat index for league play. An evaluation will be made of the 2022 season for how many games would not be*

played in the heat index was lowered to 95. Decision to be made at the next Board meeting.

-
- *Suggestions/Questions:*
 - *Brian shared the opportunity for using an email reflector subscription service to send our league communications rather than sending them out with a long string of member emails preceding the message. Topic to discussed further.*
 - *Mike Smith – are rainouts necessary to be made up? Commissioner noted that rainouts will only be made up to bring the equal number of games for each team or those games needed for playoff positions. It was also shared that games are not schedule for Fridays.*
 - *Bill expressed interest in having a defibulator at the field. Board felt this might have merit and so the Commissioner will discuss this with the Vernon Parks and Rec.*

Next meeting: January 30 6pm at Shea's

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded at 7:28 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Gretzmacher, Recording Secretary
12/19/2022*