



Department of NH American Legion Baseball
Committee Meeting Minutes
Sweeney Post #2 Manchester, NH
03/06/2016

In Attendance:

Rick Harvey, Jay Hunnewell, Ron Lemay, James Dupont, Averill Cate, Pete St. Pierre, Steve Hernandez, Steve Drescher, Adam Guereckis, Wayne Perra, Gary Wayman, Norm Gravel, Russell Spaulding, John Graham, Bill Roy, Emil Ouellette

Meeting Called to order by Chairman Harvey at 9:07am

Chairman Harvey provided agenda and copy of the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the previous meeting with a second, motion passed.

Chairman Harvey discussed State Tournament and provided dates for the Sr. Tournament. The 2016 Senior Tournament will be held at Holman Stadium in Nashua from July 22nd through July 26th with rain dates through the 28th. The Junior Tournament will be held at Gill Stadium in Manchester from July 29th to August 2nd with rain dates through the 4th.

Chairman Harvey brought forward an idea offered by Southern NH Youth Sports (SNHYS) Frank Ulcickas for an essay contest. Legion Baseball Players would submit an essay describing what playing American Legion Baseball meant to them. Essay winner to be determined by SNHYS and could earn a \$500 cash prize. Motion made by Jim Dupont to approve SNHYS request for player essay contest, Second by Jay Hunnewell. Motion Passed.

Chairman Harvey discussed the junior program 17 game regular season schedule and state tournament to be held at Gill Stadium. Averill Cate and Junior Director Rick Harvey will co-chair the Junior State Tournament. It was also noted that volunteers are needed to assist with the junior program and Tournament. The 2016 Junior Regional Tournament will be held in Massachusetts at a site yet to be determined. Chairman

Harvey mentioned that he had received complaints about last minute changes being made to the junior program in regards to teams entering, dropping out and or realignments. Despite the additional work needed to right the program after last minute changes it was generally agreed upon that the effort was worth it in order to provide more players with an opportunity to play American Legion Baseball. The junior program offers more flexibility allowing for changes while the senior program is strict or rigid from the National level on down.

Pete St. Pierre expressed his concern of the tournament format in that a number one seed would be required to play the 9:00am game on day one. Having earned the number one seed it appears unfair to have to travel to the tournament site for a 9:00am game. Pete made a motion to switch game#1 pairings with Game #3 start time on the tournament schedule, second by Adam Guereckis. After discussion it was determined that there was no negative affect on the brackets for the remainder of the tournament. After discussion concerning host post option to play game four on day one of the tournament the motion was amended to remove host post option from the tournament format. The motion to move game #1 pairings to the 3rd game of the day and move game #3 pairings to the 1st game of the day with the amendment to remove the host post option for day one passed.

Umpire in Chief Steve Drescher suggested a change to the Tournament umpire schedule structure. A rotating umpire with crews coming in as assigned and leaving as opposed to remaining at the tournament site will eliminate the need for hotel rooms to house umpire crews for the duration of the tournament. Cost avoidance with a rotating umpire schedule could save tournament host as much as \$900. Steve also informed the committee that some teams are not paying the mandatory \$80 fee for umpires to work Sr. games and asked for assistance in enforcing this policy. Chairman Harvey will send out notice to Posts having a baseball team and notify team managers of the umpire fee schedule. Also discussed was fee schedule relative to forfeits and resumed games.

Drescher suggested that umpires be paid in full if they arrive at the ballpark to work and the game is forfeited. Drescher also suggested that when a suspended game is resumed, the umpire receive \$25 at start of resumed game and \$10 per inning thereafter with a not to exceed fee of \$80. A motion was made By Jim Dupont, second by Jay Hunnewell to adjust the State Rulebook to reflect umpire fee schedule for forfeited games and resumed games. Umpires are to be paid in full by home team for games forfeited less than three hours prior to schedule start time. If the home team is not the forfeiting team, the Department will reimburse them. The forfeiting team will be fined in accordance with the State Rule book. Umpires will also receive a \$25 fee to re-start a suspended game and \$10 per inning thereafter with a not to exceed fee of \$80. Motion Passed

Steve Hernandez spoke about the background check policy and provided a hand out of frequently asked questions. The background check program is mandated by our insurance underwriters and must be done every year.

Chairman Harvey will communicate with Gary Webster to determine what is needed for supplies such as player ID cards and other needs for the committee.

Chairman Harvey informed the committee that there was little to no response to an elite travel team and a mid-season showcase or All-Star game. Rick will put out information again to see if this is something that could be done in the 2017 season.

Chairman Harvey discussed how efficient it was to have complete schedules for teams prior to the meeting and polled the committee on the need to continue with the spring meeting. Although the advent of e-mail and all forms of electronic communication have streamlined the scheduling process it was generally agreed upon that the committee meet each spring with an open invitation for team representatives to attend on a voluntary basis. If major rule changes were anticipated or other circumstances arose where it made sense to have the league in attendance, the committee would then request mandatory attendance for across the board representation.

Department Commander John Graham spoke about the scholarships and the need to get the word out to those eligible to apply. Commander Graham thanked the Baseball Committee for all their work in administering the baseball program. Commander Graham also noted that this year's Legion Convention is earlier than usual and that the baseball budget be submitted in March instead of April this year.

Chairman Harvey informed the committee that long time (40 years) committeeman Don Holmquist has retired from the baseball Committee. With regards to Don's retirement and the passing of long time member Bob Wyman last year, Chairman Harvey questioned Commander Graham on how we go about adding new members to the baseball committee. He responded is that we ask legion members who love and care about baseball to volunteer. In attendance was Norm Gravel from Sweeney Post #2 who volunteered to join the committee. Commander Graham made it official and appointed Norm to the committee going forward.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:23am
Respectfully, Jay Hunnewell