

**Minutes of Department of New Hampshire
Baseball Committee
Meeting of March 7, 2021 – Hudson Post 48**

Chairman Rick Harvey called the meeting to order at 9:45 am and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

He welcomed Zoom attendees and committee members John Bly, Craig Walfield, and Gary Wayman as well as in-person attendees Joe Dee of Laconia Post 1 and John Ryan of Salem Post 63 and committee members Jim Blake, Brian LaVeille, Pete St. Pierre, Wayne Perra, Keith Bowen, Norm Gravel, Steve Hernandez, and Steve Drescher.

Minutes of the fall meeting were approved after two corrections were made: Norm Gravel remained on the committee as Ron Lemay was the one who retired; the hard roster deadline will be June 25 rather than September 25.

Baseball Events and Budgets:

Discussion of each event included dates and costs totaling \$10,845 for all. The only significant change from the past is a dramatically larger field cost for the use of Gill Stadium. The per game fee is now \$112.50 compared to just \$75 before. Brian LaVeille and Chairman Harvey will continue negotiating for a lower rate and expressed confidence in being able to do so.

Legion Showcase, July 20, at Gill Stadium:

Workout and drills followed by a game will be hosted by the Baseball Committee. Total cost will be \$397.50.

Prep Tournament, July 9-10, at Gill Stadium:

All six teams will participate. Will also be hosted by the Baseball Committee. Total cost expected to be \$1,860.

Senior Tournament, July 23-27, at Holman Stadium:

Will be hosted by Frank Ulcickas and the Nashua Friends of American Legion Baseball. We will return to a straight double-elimination format and avoid the pitfalls that occurred in 2019. Total cost will be just \$1,175 as the field costs are \$0 and Frank will get revenues from gate receipts, ads in the program book, and 50/50 raffles. A large portion of proceeds will be donated to the championship team to help cover its costs of playing in the regional tournament. On the first night of the tournament, we will recognize the late Gubby Underwood and longtime baseball chairman, the late Gary Webster, with a special presentation to each of their families. The Tournament MVP will now be awarded with the Underwood-Webster Trophy, to be named in their honor.

Junior Tournament, August 8-10, at Gill Stadium:

To be hosted by the Baseball Committee one week later than usual as many of the other states in our region will not be starting their seasons until July 1. Their late starts and finishes are

because their high school seasons will run late. Total cost will be \$7,412. As many junior teams are very spread out, the 2022 travel schedule for each team shall be the reverse of this years.

Umpire Update:

Steve Drescher gave the update. All of our umpires are expected to join our umpire's association and pay annual dues of \$30. Gary Noyes will join our committee and assist Steve in managing all umpire matters.

Background Checks and Sexual Abuse and Awareness Training:

Steve Hernandez presented an update. Every volunteer in our program must undergo a background check every year and complete an online 45-minute sexual abuse and awareness course. This video program, conducted by USA Baseball and Protect Youth Sports, will cover one's training requirement for two years. ANY VOLUNTEER WHO DOES NOT UNDERGO THIS TRAINING CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN LEGION BASEBALL. Everyone is strongly encouraged to get both of these requirements done as soon as possible.

American Legion and New Hampshire Baseball Rulebooks:

National prints an updated rulebook every other year. Thus we will use the 2020 version this season. We also will print a streamlined version of our NH rules this year.

Criteria for Bringing in New Legion Teams:

Chairman Rick reviewed several items he uses to evaluate the viability of new teams wanting to join us. Discussion then focused on Pelham and the reasons why he rejected their plan to have a junior team this year. John Ryan then spoke on the damage such a Pelham team, in conjunction with Windham, would do to his program in Salem. Rick invited representatives from Pelham to come to this meeting and present their case, but they did not attend.

New Business:

Chairman Rick shared a conversation he had with Tim Lunn of Nashua regarding the possibility of games being cancelled due to COVID 19 and how we would handle various situations as a result. While this was left open for future discussion, there was a strong desire expressed that teams vying for playoff spots must make up those games.

Coach Joe Dee of Laconia Post 1 made a strong case for Legion baseball to establish a strong online and social media presence to promote and publicize our program and our players. We definitely would like to do this and will look for someone to lead this effort. Rick will use the department's "daily blast" to get the word out and will talk with Roger Brown to get his thoughts and recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted:

Jim Blake, Vice Chairman