

**SACHEM YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**January 21, 2014**

Present: Rich Michienzi, Kevin Murray, Tricia Henderson, Ken Lampert, Michael Creane, Christie Falkenberg, Bernie Schipelliti, Bob Nutile, Peter Carellas, Ellen LeMay, Chris Centurelli, Jim Fair, Angie Burbine, Keith Vinciguerra, Matt Henning

**Call to Order – 7:34 p.m.**

**I. MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 18, 2013 Board of Directors meeting were approved unanimously.

**II. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Ken Lampert reviewed the SYBS November - December 2013 P&L compared to prior year. He reported that timing issues account for the major differences.

Rich Michienzi asked for clarification about the SYBS insurance coverage and whether we need commercial property coverage since we don’t own the building. Ken will scan renewal policy and send to Rich for review. Kevin Murray asked if we had coverage for the Board, and Rich confirmed SYBS insurance does not cover Directors and Officers but our Babe Ruth policy does provide this coverage.

**III. VP REPORTS**

**A. SOFTBALL**

Bernie Schipelliti had nothing new to report.

**B. BASEBALL 13 AND OVER**

Mike Creane reported that he is still in discussions with other towns about joining the Minuteman League and is making some progress with Burlington and Medford. Bedford is struggling to field enough teams to stay in the league, but Watertown now has four teams, up from one, which is positive.

Mike also mentioned that there are changes coming with district play, which he will address next month.

**C. BASEBALL 10 – 12**

Nothing to report.

**D. BASEBALL 6 - 9**

Christie Falkenberg had nothing to report.

**IV. DIRECTORS REPORTS**

**A. CAL RIPKIN 9 YR OLD STATE TOURNAMENT**

Rich Michienzi reported that we have decided to host this year. The dates are July 19-26<sup>th</sup>. It is a 10 team tournament (9 teams plus the host). Rich will be speaking to the manager from last year. The motion to host was approved unanimously.

**B. CAL RIPKIN RULE CHANGES**

Bob Nutile reported that the biggest Cal Ripkin rule change is that the Cori checks will now be done at the national level, not just state wide. Peter Carellas asked about the review process for the new Cori reporting. Rich reported that they will still be reviewed by the EVP, who will designate two additional members of the Board to review any issues and vote on eligibility. The additional Board member identities will not be disclosed to the Board.

Bob also reported that Cal Ripkin will adopt “dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike” by the catcher at the Major 60 level (11 & 12 yr olds only). Bob suggested we consider incorporating into the Major league rules, but raised the point that we are not currently producing catchers to be able to play at this level.

There was a motion made to approve adoption of the dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule for the Majors, which was unanimously approved.

**C. BY-LAWs AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

Kevin Murray will try to distribute a draft of the updated by-laws to the Board before the February meeting. He is in the process of cleaning up and updating them so they can be approved by the Board.

Kevin asked if there were any questions on the updated Board of Directors Job Descriptions. There were no questions and they were unanimously approved.

**D. BOARD OF DIRECTIONS PHOTO'S**

All Board members present had their picture taken and they will be posted to the SYBS website.

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **A. BASEBALL & SOFTBALL CLINIC**

Rich reported that there is no space available at the WHS Field House. As an alternative, he has been speaking with the owners of the A's Baseball Center in Woburn about holding winter clinics there. The facility has a 70X70 space with 4 tunnels. He made a suggestion that we hold Saturday and Sunday clinics during March for Baseball 13 & Over, Senior Softball, and Baseball 10-12 (2 groups). The space can accommodate 30 players at a time.

Available March Dates:

Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-6 PM (3 clinics per day, 1 ½ hours ea)  
Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>nd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 PM (1 clinic each day)

Three week sessions would be offered to each age group for a nominal fee.

Rich is waiting for a proposal from the A's, and feels this will create good pre-season excitement for the program. All agreed. There was a request to have some SYBS coaches available for the clinics, and Peter suggested trying to involve the WHS coaches and players. Matt Henning suggested holding an outdoor clinic similar to the one we ran last year. Mike would like the 13+ coaches present to see the drills.

Bernie requested the 1-2:30 slot on Saturdays for the girl's softball.

The next step is for Rich to work through the costs with the A's and then to get Joe McCabe to update the website with the clinic information and sign up link.

## **B. 50/70 BASEBALL DIAMOND**

Peter Carellas delivered an excellent presentation on behalf of the committee that outlined their progress to date. The goal of the presentation was to educate the Board on the pros and cons of moving to a 50/70 Diamond, highlight issues others have faced with the transition, and promote a discussion by the Board.

Ken Lampert raised a concern that the current crop of 12 year olds is not a deep group in terms of numbers, and that it might be a tough transition for them. This was not viewed as a deal breaker, but there is a question about the best time to move to the new format, and spring 2014 may be too aggressive. Rich likes the idea of moving to 50/70 and feels it gives the benefit back to the hitters that get dominated by strong pitchers with the current format. He would like to see us try for this summer. Mike agreed that it is a great format and will help us to keep better players. Jim and Christy are also in favor but said the summer might be aggressive. Bob likes 50/70 and would like to see us build a new field.

Rich asked the committee to put together a plan for this summer. All are in favor of pursuing further, and there were no objections. Rich asked Jim and Christy to join the committee.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. TRIVIA BEE**

Kevin Murray asked for a motion to approve the annual \$300 donation to WFEE for the Trivia Bee. It was unanimously approved by the Board.

### **B. SPRING UNIFORMS**

The question was raised about whether we want to keep the existing vendor, Bay State, or put the uniforms out to bid. Ken likes Bay State, and although he doesn't know how their prices compare, he feels they are very reasonable and we have a good relationship with them. Rich would like to see us get another proposal to compare. Mike will get a proposal from Staples, and we may get a 3<sup>rd</sup> bid from a contact of Christie.

Rich would like to see a new logo for the summer hats which incorporates "SYBS".

### **C. SPRING FUNDRAISER**

Jim Fair asked the Board if there was interest in having an adult fundraiser in addition to the rubber ducky's event. The idea was well received, and Rich suggested maybe having a comedy night.

### **D. ONLINE STORE**

Bob Nutile wants to look at selling SYBS merchandise on our website. He suggested Anaconda as an option because they would manage the entire process and we would not need to stock the items. Mike would want us to have a say in the merchandize we are using and to be consistent with brand and quality. Rich asked Bob to come up with 10 items to review at the next Board meeting. Rich would also like to come up with a new logo and asked anyone with ideas to email Rich or Bob. Chris Centurelli's brother in law may be able to help with creating a logo. He will reach out to him.

### **E. WALK-IN REGISTRATION**

Rich would like to see us take walk in registrations so he will run with it.

### **F. NEWSLETTER**

Rich would also like to see us create a newsletter to help promote the program.

**G. Other**

Rich mentioned that there is a new varsity coach coming to WHS and we may be able to tie him into the clinics.

Rich also informed the Board that WHS girl's softball is going to be using the West Side Fields again as a permanent home and Ultimate Frisbee is taking over Ginn Field. This was not welcome news to the Board, as Ginn is the most likely short term option for a 50/70 Diamond.

**Meeting adjourned – 9:00 p.m.**

**DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014  
7:30 P.M.  
WINCHESTER ROOM (*PLEASE NOTE  
ROOM CHANGE THIS MONTH*)  
TOWN HALL**

**TO DO LIST**

<b><u>TASK</u></b>	<b><u>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</u></b>	<b><u>DATE OF MEETING</u></b>	<b><u>COMPLETED</u></b>

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AGENDA

- I. MINUTES
- II. TREASURER'S REPORT KEN LAMPERT
- III. VP REPORTS
  - A. SOFTBALL BERNIE SCHIPELLITI
  - B. BASEBALL 13 AND OVER MIKE CREANE
  - C. BASEBALL 10-12 RUSTY SULLIVAN
  - D. BASEBALL 9 AND UNDER CHRISTIE FALKENBERG
- IV. DIRECTOR REPORTS
  - A. CAL RIPKEN 9 YR. OLD STATE TOURNAMENT RICH MICHIZENZI
  - B. CAL RIPKEN RULE CHANGES BOB NUTILE
  - C. BY-LAWS AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS KEVIN MURRAY
  - D. BOARD OF DIRECTOR PHOTO'S BERNIE SCHIPELLITI
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. BASEBALL & SOFTBALL CLINIC
  - B. 50/70 BASEBALL DIAMOND
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. TRIVIA BEE
  - B. SPRING UNIFORMS
  - B. SPRING FUNDRAISER
  - C. ONLINE STORE
  - D. WALK-IN REGISTRATION
  - E. NEWSLETTER

