

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

21 October 2025 / 7:00 PM / Elmwood Community Center

Sarah Winiarski - meeting minutes

Attendees: Joslyn Austin, Mike Talbott, Mike Moran, Sarah Winiarski, Dara Madeiros, Gary Lafferty, Jayson Kuhnly, Aaron Lyles, Matt Danziger, Amanda Moras, Amy Bieniek, John Calabrese

Start Time: 7:15

Board Updates: Since September Meeting

- Evaluating our 10 year plan last updated in June 2023. Will work to establish new goals and schedule time with Town Manager, Leisure Services and Equity Director
 - 10 year plan can be found on the West Hartford Girls' Softball website
 - Attendees are encouraged to review it and give feedback
 - EBO needs to set a meeting with the Town officials
- EBO voted 4-0 to re-affirm the voting rights of the Webmaster in the upcoming election

Election Committee Established

Mike Talbott, Josh Brier, Lindsey Leung

- 2 year term from Jan 2027 - Dec 2028 (Pres, VP, Treas, Sec)
- 11/30: submissions close
- 12/1: list of candidates released to candidates and voting members (1 official nomination received for President; 1 email inquiring about Treasurer position availability)
- 12/10: Polls open
- 12/15: Polls close
- 12/16: Results announced at Annual Board Meeting
- Elected EBO will learn the job in 2026 from existing EBO

Fall Ball Update:

- Season is complete. First year with D7 playoffs. West Hartford Purple (Majors) and West Hartford Pink (minors) made the championship game and finished as runner up.

- Discuss umpires and use of Carlo for most of the season
- Discuss team / coach meeting and feedback

Treasurer Report

Total Funds (as of 10/20/2025): \$71,664.74

- Checking Account: Bank of America: \$18,567.45
- CD: Bank of America: \$51,096.29
- Cash: \$892.00
- Venmo: \$1,109.00
- PayPal: -
- Online Registration/StackPay: -

Money Market Account

- Moved \$50,000 from BOA Checking to high yield CD; 7-month term, interest rate of 3.74% APR (3.80% APY). Interest earned to date: \$934.50
- CD extended by 7 months through 4/26/26
 - Explore potential endowment funding

Significant Expenses Since Last Meeting:

- \$

Pending Expenses:

- Fall Ball Jerseys and Socks

Reports/Updates: By Committee

Aaron Lyles - volunteered to explore how best to recruit new volunteers via communications

- Mike M. and Aaron will meet to discuss further ways to communicate league volunteer needs
- **Food & Entertainment:**
 - No Update
- **Scholarship:**
 - Checks sent for Mattingly Ford (Conard) and Samantha Shifrin (Hall)
- **Fundraising & Sponsorship (Amanda Moras Chair):**
 - Spring Sponsor Plaques delivered by Marianne Esposito

- Sarah, MM, & Amanda will work together to develop fundraising opportunities for scoreboard, shed, etc at Norfeldt
 - Hartford Stage fundraiser ticket sales (block of 100) for A Christmas Carol matinee show
 - Other fundraising ideas: Luna Pizza, Joey's Pizza, Chipotle give a percentage back on sales on specific nights

- **Fields & Facilities: (Mike Talbott Chair - Seeking replacement)**
 - Flagpole at Norfeldt - *COMPLETED*
 - Hang District 7 Banners - *RECEIVED. DISCUSS CEREMONY/HANGING AT NORFELDT FIELD*
 - MM will work on putting together a celebration for hanging the banners
 - Sterling Field Backstops replaced by West Hartford DPW, not sure about Norfeldt
 - Portable scoreboard options: wooden scoreboard made by local high school class, digital options through Amazon

- **Communications (Mike Moran - Chair):**
 - Continuing to do more social media
 - Followers are up to 155, +25 net new in the last 90 days
 - Facebook Group has 264 members, +19 in the last 90 days
 - Discuss other ideas for growth or improved communication. Feedback from surveys?
 - Added new banners to the website for accomplishments, programs and seeking volunteers
 - Posts and follow ups for the pending elections in October to promote interest

- **Equipment & Uniforms (Jess Bula/Beth Hamilton Co-Chairs):**
 - Mike will need to collect and store fall ball equipment
 - Fall Equipment Bag organizing and inventory
 - What is needed for the Bay Path Clinic on 10/25?
 - Bownet clips
 - Catchers gear - majors needs, minors needs
 - More Bownets

- **Player & Coach Development (Donna Fish Chair):**
 - U-Hartford Clinics: Coach not responsive, will follow up

- Bay Path to do Fall Clinic on 10/25, 21 players registered so far
 - Saint Joe's Clinic, Feb/March
 - Amy looking into coach manuals - Chat GPT
 - Female Coaches on every team
 - 24 hour rules - parent expectations to sign/click agree pre-season.
 - Canned email for coaches to send out to parents by coaches at the start of the season
 - Amy will reach out to DBat to schedule winter clinics February/March
 - Winter spaces for training- UHart, USJ. Lisa Lansger will reach out to UHart for space.
 - UHart- utilize gym space for assessments?
 - Coach Development-MM & Amy will explore online coach training
 - develop a ½ day training for coaches to review drills, rules, etc.
 - Discuss MegRem Softball & Dominate the Diamond
 - MegRem: \$2,000 for up to 25 coaches. Includes video library and practice plans. Focused 100% on softball.
 - Dominate the Diamond: \$1,600 for up to 25 coaches. Full video library, drills, practice plans and coach tips and training. Includes baseball and softball, but does have a softball module.
- **Best Practices & EDC (Open Chair):**
 - Idle committee
 - **Rules & Competition (Matt Danziger Chair):**
 - Playoffs-definition of what those games should look like
 - Early assessments
 - Reinforce positive sportsmanship
 - Realignment of age divisions
 - **Travel Committee (Joslyn Austin NCGSL Chair/Matt Danziger Little League Chair)**

Summer season (Approx 75 players)

10U and 12U All Stars (10U All Stars D7 Champs)

10U and 12U D7

12U Fury 2 teams

15U Fury- NCGSL Champs

18U Fury

- Redistricting D7 Matt D update
 - CT will be losing 2 districts. WH has asked to move to District 6 in order to keep travel time minimal for families

2025 Important Dates/Information

- Next Meeting - Tuesday, 11/18 at Elmwood Community Center
- 11/30 - Nominations for EBO 2027-28 positions close

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30