

**CAPE COD SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE**  
**BOARD MEETING MAY 27, 2020**  
**ZOOM MEETING**

**ATTENDANCE:** Bob Callahan, Ben Caswell, Peter Cutler, Jim DeVoe, Brian Hastings, Terry Moran (Ex commissioner), Charlie Salerno, Don Saulnier and Commissioner Van Khachadoorian

**ABSENT:** John Hession and Bill Prodgers

Meeting Called to Order at 6:35 PM by Commissioner Khachadoorian

*(Each member was given the opportunity to give their view on whether the league should play the season/Classic in the light of Covid-19 epidemic)*

**Bob Callahan:** We should hold off for several weeks, follow the governor's directions. We could possibly get part of the season in. Suspend the playoffs and play into Sept. If we were to cancel the Classic, I would agree to that.

Liability might come into play. But, after talking with knowledgeable lawyers, they don't think we would have a liability issue if we had the players sign a specific waiver. Contracting Covid-19 from playing ball would be very hard to prove.

**Charlie Salerno:** I agree with Bob about holding off; however, I think we need to set a series of tasks: 1. Contact the towns regarding field openings and usage. 2. Poll the members and see if they are willing to play an abbreviated season. 3. Look at financial liability if we play and if we don't.

**Jim DeVoe:** My primary concern are the sponsors. I recommend that we forgo sponsor fees for this year, if we play. They are all hurting, it is the least we can do for them. I say cancel the season.

**Bob Snow:** I agree with Bob and Charlie. If we play the Classic it would help support our local businesses.

**Brian Hastings:** We have 3 choices, hold off, cancel or set a tentative start date. But we need to have the towns give us the OK, state their regulations and share our plan with them. I don't think you can just ask people if they want to play. We need to list the conditions under which they would play. There is so much to consider, it is much more complicated than just wearing a mask. If it's too complicated, just cancel the season.

**Ben Caswell:** Waiting is not an option. I don't want to mortgage our future on this season. Waiting is not a decision, it lacks conviction and lacks leadership. We are all in high risk categories. If you want to poll anyone, take a poll of the spouses. Forgo the season. Forgo the Classic.

**Peter Cutler:** As far as the Classic goes, there are too many variables and unknowns, we should cancel it. Concerning the season, I don't think we should make a decision for our membership of almost 300 people, we should represent their thoughts and desires. We should have a carefully thought out survey, so we know who will be available or not. June 8<sup>th</sup> is the state timeline for opening athletic fields; not sure what our towns will do. If the fields do open up we will then have the information, from the survey, and that would help us to form teams.

**Don Saulnier:** I feel that the Classic should be cancelled because there are so many different factors involved, too many variables and unknowns. Cancel the season and start in 2021.

**Terry Moran:** As the Board of directors we need to do what is best for the league. Safety is always our concern. We need to shut the season and the Classic down and put our efforts into 2021

**Van Khachadooran:** Phase 2: June 8 to June 29<sup>th</sup>. There is no direction at this point as to whether the fields will be open by the towns no decisions are being made yet. Phase 3, June 29 to July 17<sup>th</sup>, we don't know where we will be at. The governor said each phase will be analyzed. I just don't see how we can justify playing when other leagues have cancelled. To me it would just send the wrong message to our communities. How would we monitor the safety factor for all the guys? We were elected by the rank and file to make decisions, hard decisions, we have a moral obligation to keep our players safe. Shut down the league. Shut down the Classic, and let's plan for 2021

**Ben Caswell:** Do you think other entities "asked" their players, members, participants if they should go ahead with an activity or event? We are elected to make these hard decisions. I don't believe that we can effectively manage the games with all the safety protocol that will be needed. Let's do the right thing, be responsible, and keep people safe. We might even get some positive publicity by doing this.

**Brian Hasting:** Given all that has been said, I think it is pretty simple. Give back the fees or roll them over. Cancel the season and the Classic

**Peter Cutler:** I still think we need to get input from our players, we have the technology to do this.

**Bob Callahan:** I support Peter in surveying the players. Things may change in 3 weeks. If the fields don't open the decision is made for us. We are adults, we should be able to decide what risk we are willing to take. Why do we have to make the decision today? To me it is a fairly modest risk. I feel we could play, contingent of course, on the government guidelines.

**Bob Snow:** If you survey, it should be done by divisions

**Van K:** Arizona seniors are hoping to play sometime in late summer. They have come up with a bevy of safety rules for social distancing, sanitization and other safety points. If players don't adhere to all the proposed rules they will be suspended for the season. Who monitors all that?

**Bob Callahan:** Peer pressure is how you monitor. Follow guidelines or you don't play.

**Motion by Cutler** to survey the members as to whether they want to play or not, under the guidelines we specify. Seconded by Callahan.

Discussion ensued. Ultimately, it boiled down to: "As an elected Board what is our responsibility to our members?" Do we allow member input? Or do we make the decision based on the facts and guidelines we now have from the government?

Vote taken: 2 Ayes and 7 Nays. **Motion does not pass.**

**Motion by Snow** to cancel the 2020 season, inclusive of the CCSL 2020 games, the Classic and banquet. Seconded by Caswell and **passed with 2 dissenting votes.**

**Motion by DeVoe** to suspend the sponsorship fees for 2020 season. Seconded by Hastings.

**Motion passes without dissent.** Jim will send a letter to all sponsors.

**Motion by Hastings** to explain the options players will have regarding their paid membership fee. Seconded by Salerno. **Motion passes without dissent.**

An email/letter will go out to the membership detailing the Boards decision and will also address the options regarding fees that players have paid.

A thank you letter was received by Cape Cod Healthcare for \$1000 donation that we sent them.

John Hession sent Van a copy of the note that he sent to the Attorney of Doc Segal requesting that the children get in touch with Van so that it can be determined what the \$5000 donation is to be used for. Each member of the Board give thought as to what the \$5000 could be used for in honor of Doc Segal.

Hopefully, we can get some ball games in during the fall.

**Van made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Hastings.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM**

Minutes submitted by Judy Kennedy, Recording Secretary

