

**Lopatcong Athletic Association
Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2020**

Call to Order 8:16 pm

Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Sport	Director	Assistant Director
Baseball	J Napolitano	K O'Brien
Basketball	J Hezel	K O'Brien
Cheerleading	P Segeda	
Football	E O'Neil	
Softball	C Torres	
Soccer	A Barresi	K Tichy
Strength & Conditioning	D Schiable	
President	S Leahy	
LAA Liaison	J Palitto	
Secretary	H Hezel	
Treasurer	M Brennan	

Guests-

Don Auriemma
Corrine Steinmetz
Mark Reitemeyer

Presidents Report

Mr. Leahy opened the meeting with a discussion on the current status of the Lopatcong Athletic Association. Mr. Leahy felt that the Lopatcong Athletic Association is somehow divided into two groups and, despite any past differences, he would like the group to begin to move forward in the right direction. All directors and support staff that are in place, have passed the background check and any director or support staff individual who has reason to question any members

qualifications, should contact that person. The LAA is an independent non-profit organization and all work done by the LAA is for the children in our community and politics should not play a role in the LAA.

Mr. Leahy then brought up a discussion on fees and fundraising that are associated with the basketball program and the budget that was presented in June. Mr. Leahy pointed out that he wants all sports to solidify more fundraising opportunities to reduce cost for Lopatcong families and that he wanted to make sure that the LAA is fiscally solvent before entering into any future contracts with Coordinated Health/Lehigh Valley Health Network.

Mr. Hezel responded that the fee for the program last year was \$100 for both the instructional program and the competitive program (the \$125 that was on the website was from 2019 and included the late registration fees after the teams/practices had already been set). The majority of the funds collected cover uniforms, referee fees, school usage fees and the fees associated with the hall monitors/clock keepers. Mr. Hezel pointed out that the hall monitor/clock keeper component of the budget has been in effect for his tenure as well as the past two directors tenures. The Lopatcong Board of Education has requested that there be someone on hand at any game in either school at all times to monitor those entering and exiting the building. This started as a volunteer effort, but when individuals continuously did not show up for their scheduled times, the school threatened to stop all future games. The clockkeeper component was started at the same time as the backup to the hall monitor and when parent volunteers were not able to keep up with the scoring during stressful games.

Mr. Hezel also addressed the questions on fundraising. The basketball program does have several fundraising efforts in place, including a yearly application to Dicks Sporting Goods, spiritwear and pictures as fundraising opportunities. The basketball program also has been a large volunteer component in LAA general activities, such as pool dance chaperones, Community Day support and helping with painting park buildings. Through 2018, the basketball program also held a yearly "community night" as a fundraiser. Because of scheduling issues with the school and lack of participation of parents, the event was cancelled in 2019. Mr. Hezel also reported that over the last few years, he has offered up five scholarships to any family that would be willing to support that LAA basketball program through assistance with the volunteer activities and help with hall monitor/clock keeping duties and uniform disbursement. The first year there were several families that offered to help, but in 2019, only one family wanted to participate in this program.

With these questions answered and with the understanding that for the upcoming year with the current health crisis, the fundraising program would remain the same until next year, the basketball budget was motioned and approved unanimously with a motion from D Schiabile, a second from E O'Neil.

Treasurers Report

Bills/Deposits

Baseball - Deposit \$780

Basketball - \$95 Deposit

Bills to be paid:

-Cheer: \$208.05 payable to Patty Segeda (\$166.56-Amazon for non-contact forehead thermometers; \$13.98-Shoprite for first aid supplies; and \$27.96-Shoprite for hand sanitizer). Receipts submitted.

-BASEBALL

\$240 check payable to "Gary Wojciechowski" (Umpire fees for 4 Home games)

\$168 check to "Lehigh Valley Fundraising" (14 shirts for Fall team)

\$50 check to "Barry Perazzetti" (umpire Assignor fee for fall league)

-Football

Schutt \$1,318.78

Kenny Lutz \$269.02 - reimburse

-Miscellaneous

Storr Tractor \$143 - split between football and soccer \$71.50 each

Motioned and seconded - K Tichy/D Schaible, motion approved

Business

Contracts - no news yet

Background checks - Mr. Leahy reported on JDP (company currently doing the background checks. The cost of using company is \$6.95 per check. Directors are entering info on coaches and then the coaches have to do the rest of the work. Notifications are sent to president (Mr. Leahy) and trustee (L Ciesla). Any issues will be forwarded to attorney for review. Currently, there is a disclaimer from JDP to collect additional information. It is not required to complete the background check and Mr. Leahy is trying to work with JDP to remove.

Mr. Leahy stated he would send the listing of all approved background checks done to date to H Hezel by Friday, 8/28 in order for her to update the listing for the LAA.

Director Update:

Mr. Leahy introduced Mr. Don Auriemma. Mr. Leahy is looking to fill the positions of director and assistant director for wrestling program. Once these positions are filling and there are people in place to run the program, it would be easier to then find head coach and wrestlers. Mr. Leahy also wants to start up fund raising for wrestling so the program will have start up funds.

Ms. Corinne Steinmetz was also introduced. She is interested in replacing Kristine Pacewicz as the new cheering director. Ms. Steinmetz has a background in school administration, has lived in Lopatcong Township for over 20 year and was a past director. Ms. Segeda had resigned effective February 2020, but has been running the program until new director could be located. She will continue to help out the new director but does not wish to be assistant.

Motion made and seconded to approve Ms. Steinmetz as Cheerleading Director by J Napolitano and A Barresi, motion approved.

Directors Reports

Baseball

Fall Budget sent via email last month for approval. Fall League games start this weekend with a 10 game schedule (double headers every Saturday) for the next 5 weeks and mini tournament the following two weeks. Only had one team at the 3rd/4th grade level. Not enough signed up for other levels.

Basketball

Budget approved. Nothing else to report.

Cheerleading

Budget presented.

Registration closed July 9, 2020. Lopat Cheer filled rosters within two one-hour in person sign-ups. We currently have a total of 78 girls and a waiting list of about 12. Unfortunately we stopped accepting registrations as we are unsure as to uniform availability and would need more coaches for high numbers. Because of COVID-19 we were unable to fit for uniforms earlier. New uniforms can take up to 10 weeks and with games starting in October, ordering new is not an option.

Football

Football program is currently following WCMFL guidelines for Covid and has almost completed Phase 1. Mr. O'Neil also distributed budget for review and vote at September meeting. There will be 5 games total (3 home games) for the season and concessions will be reduced for less contact. He has orders gear and uniforms from BSN and Lehigh Valley Fundraising and will reach out to LAA directors to approve payment if orders are completed before next meeting.

Soccer

Registration is open without collecting money. League has not made any decisions regarding what the season schedule would be. Target is to start in September rather than August. League meeting will be held within 10-14 days.

Update: League Meeting held 8/6. Voted to start practices 9/8.

Subsequent to the meeting Holland advised that they would not participate in the league this fall. Next League meeting is 8/27.

2nd submittal of budget for approval - with actuals as of today

	FORECAST	ACTUAL
Opening Balance		\$ 3,000.00
	FALL 2020	
Registration 60 players @ \$60	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,060.00
EXPENSES		
Insurance (125)	\$ 625.00	\$ 380.00
Nets	\$ 1,000.00	
Coach Shirts	\$ 500.00	
Equipment	\$ 400.00	
Ref fees (8 teams)	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,000.00
League Fees	\$ 575.00	\$ 575.00
Field Lining	\$ 1,500.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 1,955.00
Net Income	\$ (2,600.00)	\$ 4,105.00
Refunds		
Carryover Funds	\$ 2,720.00	
Balance	\$ 120.00	

Softball- nothing to report. All return registration fees have been mailed out.

Strength and Conditioning

Out of season. School use form submitted to Lopatcong for 2020-21.

Other Reports

Concessions no report

ByLaws - Mr Leahy has asked that the three support (non-voting members) of the LAA make up the bylaws committee for the upcoming review - Mr. Leahy as President, Mr. Brennan as Treasurer and Ms. Hezel as Secretary agreed to work on the bylaws. Ms. Hezel will send out latest copy of bylaws for review by committee.

Recreation no report

Liaison - Mr. Palitto stated that the offer of the LAA painting the lines for contract will be presented at the September Town Council meeting.

Public Comment none

Meeting Adjourned 10:05 pm

Next Meeting: September 22, 2020 8 pm Veterans Rally Point, Lopatcong Park