

## **E-Mass Board Meeting**

**August 25, 2025**

**In attendance:** Steve Bober, Larry Fegan, George Fishman, Andy Wrobel, Steve Elkinson, Tim Black, Rich Goldberg, Josh Murray, Larry Salk, Michael Mauceri, Rich Laudon, and David Ossam.

**Unavailable:** Phil Edelen, Joe Groden

**Guests:** Rich Bloom, Walker Royce, Arthur Priver, Bill Powell, Alan Handel, Bruce Raine, Mike Sherman, Jim Conboy, Howard Levy, Ralph Valente, Tom Regan

### **1. Minutes**

On motion from Ossam, and seconded by Laudon, and passed unanimously, the minutes from the July 28, 2025, meeting were adopted.

### **2. Budget**

Wrobel reported that the organization's finances are "still favorable" and that "we are doing fine." He noted that we have approximately \$48,000 in our Bank of America account, and over \$50,000 in our "Betterment" account (which is currently earning 4% interest).

### **3. Fall Ball**

Bober stated Fall Ball Registration will open on September 2 and run for three (3) weeks. We intend to have two (2) Saturday divisions.

- The Galvani-Framingham Division will be predominantly Colonial, Pacific, and Atlantic players. Kevin Stone will coordinate, and teams will change each week.
- The Wayland Division will be primarily National, Atlantic, Minuteman, and Pioneers players. Wally Mei and Neil Feinberg will coordinate and develop rosters after registration.

We will have two (2) weekday divisions in Wayland:

- A Monday/Wednesday Division which will feature National, Atlantic, Minuteman, and Pioneers players. Players may sign up for Monday or Wednesday or both.
- Thursday Division will feature a mix of Pacific, Atlantic, Minuteman, Colonial, and National players.

We also intend to begin play immediately after Playoffs end in each division. If this goes according to plan:

- The Saturday divisions will play six (6) games, October 11, 18, 25 and November 1, 8, 15.
- Monday/Wednesday will play ten (10) games, October 13/15, 20/22, 27/29 and November 3/5 and 10/12.
- Thursdays will play five (5) games, October 16, 23, 30 and November 6 and 13.

The Board discussed whether E-MASS should charge a fee for Fall Ball participation.

Those who supported the fee asserted that:

- A \$25 fee was incorporated into the 2025 E-MASS budget and there was little, if any, reason to change what the Board had previously approved.
- Absent a fee, individuals might sign-up but not actually participate in many games. A fee would give participants some “skin in the game.”
- E-MASS does incur some “out of pocket” expenses, most notably for the use of Galvani and the cost of softballs.

Those who did not support a fee contended that:

- The organization’s “out of pocket” cost was relatively slight, especially when compared to its overall budget, and could be readily absorbed.
- A fee may not incentivize participation and could potentially diminish it.

A motion that E-MASS should charge a fee for Fall Ball participation was presented by Wrobel, seconded by Elkinson, and approved by a vote of 11-1.<sup>1</sup>

Having voted in favor of a fee, the Board next considered whether it should be \$10 or \$25.

Those who favored \$10 noted:

- This was the amount that was charged for 2024.
- The length of the Fall Ball season is uncertain due to the weather and when the E-MASS playoffs may end.

Those who favored \$25 noted:

- The higher amount might give people greater “skin in the game”, which may incentivize individuals who sign-up to participate.
- It is consistent with what E-MASS had budgeted earlier this year.

The Board voted to approve a \$25 fee.<sup>2</sup>

#### **4. The End of Season Banquet**

The 2025 Banquet is scheduled for Sunday, November 16. Ralph Valente stated that the reviews from last year’s event were very favorable and that, as a result, he had arranged for the use of the same caterer and venue. Currently, he believes that the final cost for the event will be within budget, including the cost for the venue (\$700), catering, and the speaker’s honorarium.

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<sup>1</sup> The following Board members voted in favor of the motion: Fegan, Fishman, Wrobel, Elkinson, Black, Goldberg, Salk, Mauceri, Laudon, Groden (by proxy given to Bober) and Ossam, Murray voted against the motion.

<sup>2</sup> The following six (6) Board members supported a \$25 fee: Elkinson, Fegan, Salk, Fishman, Laudon and Tim Black. The following five (5) Board members supported a \$10 fee: Wrobel, Ossam, Goldberg, Mauceri and Murray.

## **5. End of Season Recognition**

### **A. Team Award**

Traditionally, E-MASS has given both Division winners and the Playoff Champion a memento to commemorate their achievement. In 2024, this was a shirt.

The Board discussed:

- The necessity of such recognition.
- Limiting it to the Playoff champion.
- Whether a shirt is the most appropriate memento, or whether we should have something akin to the Stanley Cup that is passed along from year to year.
- And, if we are to award shirts again, whether it should be a different color or style from the ones we use as uniforms.

Murray presented a motion, seconded by Ossam, “authorizing the purchase and distribution of T-shirts of some sort to the playoff and division winners.” It was approved by a vote of 9-1 (with 2 abstentions).<sup>3</sup>

### **B. Individual Awards**

E-MASS has also traditionally recognized a Division MVP and HHA award winner. The Board discussed whether to continue this practice.

Several Coordinators told of the practices within their Divisions. And while Bober noted that uniformity was not required as to all individual awards, it would be helpful to have a united practice as to whether award winners should be announced or recognized at the Banquet. For discussion at the next Board meeting, he requested that all Coordinators consider what awards should be issued, what memento should be conferred, and how the winners should be announced.

## **6. Fields and Equipment**

Elkinson noted that it can be difficult to find fields for our Saturday games. Further, some of the fields that we use often will be unavailable during periods in September, requiring scheduling changes. Goldberg agreed to make all communicated changes on the website and Bober reminded the Coordinators to communicate these changes to all Division participants.

Fegan noted that softball consumption has been higher than normal, necessitating the purchase of additional ones at \$67 per dozen, plus tax and shipping. This, plus the approximately twelve (12) cases we still have in inventory, will be sufficient for the remainder of the season plus Fall Ball. This purchase, he added, was still within budget.

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<sup>3</sup> Voting in favor were: Salk, Fishman, Groden, Laudon, Murray, Ossam, Goldberg, Elkinson, and Fegan. Wrobel voted against, and Black and Mauceri abstained.

## **7. Division Reports**

Pioneers: Expect playoffs to start on September 24 and to finish on October 8. Two teams, (the Reruns and the Bombers) have “overperformed”, and two (Eagles and Aviators) have underperformed. Laudon noted that due to weather and heat, teams have only played 18 to 20 games.

Atlantic: Playoffs are scheduled to begin on September 18 and conclude on October 9. No games will be played on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Colonial: The Finals are scheduled for September 27. Mauceri noted that a couple of teams are short players and that he is working with Managers on how this can be best addressed.

National: Playoffs are scheduled to begin on September 20 and conclude on October 4. Some teams may be short players, which may necessitate some roster adjustments.

Minuteman: Playoffs are scheduled to begin on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and to conclude on October 6.

Pacific: The standings “are very tight.” Playoffs are scheduled to begin on September 30 and conclude on October 7.

## **8. Umpires and Rules**

Murray reported that there were few postponements in August. He also noted that two umpires will be assigned to each Division’s finals.

On behalf of Edelen, Bober noted that the restrictions on the use of a senior bat apply equally to both pregame batting practice and the game itself.

## **9. Nominations and Elections**

Bruce Raine has agreed to join the Board, In addition, Alan Handel will be the 2026 Minuteman Coordinator. The slate of 2026 Directors will be presented to the Board at its September 29, 2025, meeting.

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At 8:58pm a motion to adjourn, presented by Elkinson and seconded by Murray, passed unanimously.

The Board’s next scheduled meeting is Monday, September 29, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

David Ossam  
Secretary