

# New England Bridge Conference of the American Contract Bridge League

Minutes  
Executive Committee Meeting  
September 22, 2021  
Via Zoom  
Limited Agenda Meeting

## Present

Officers: Jack Mahoney, President; Curtis Barton, Vice President; Carolyn Weiser, Secretary; Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer; Lois DeBlois, Past President

Unit Representatives- EMBA: Paul Harris, Brenda Montague; CMBA- none; CBA: Sonja Smith, Michael Wavada; RIBA: Marshall Williams; NHBA: William Kennedy (David Lawrence alt.); VBA: Mark Oettinger; MBA: Daniel Morgenstern; WMBA : Peter Samsel  
Absent - CMBA- Vicki Angus

Invited Guests (non-voting) Carole Weinstein, District Director; Sally Kirtley, Tournament Manager; David Metcalf, DIC; Absent- Peter Marcus- DIC

Call to Order: President Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:00.

## President's Opening remarks:

Tonight we will vote on whether we should run Mansfield or cancel. In order to move the meeting along, either Joe or I will mute everyone at its start. Once the motion to cancel is made and seconded, I will open the floor to individual statements. Each speaker will have up to 3 minutes to either make a case or expand upon the case made in the written document you received on Monday. There will be no crosstalk. When each person has had one chance to speak, we will vote.

Brenda Montague had informed the President that commitments made it impossible for her to be at the meeting at the time set. She had asked the President if absentee ballots were allowed. President Mahoney asked Lois DeBlois to check the bylaws.

## Decision Mansfield

Item to be discussed- Should Mansfield be cancelled  
A motion was made by W. Kennedy that the Mansfield Regional be cancelled for 2021. The motion was seconded by D. Morgenstern.

President Mahoney opened the meeting for maximum of a 3 minute general discussion period, then everyone would be remuted. He asked if there were any objections. There were none.

## Discussion Period

President Mahoney called on J. Brouillard as the most knowledgeable on the financial implications.

J. Brouillard: As the District Treasurer I am responsible for managing the funds. I have a fiduciary responsibility to manage these to the best of my ability. As a bridge player, I would love to have the tournament, but as the Treasurer I am strongly opposed. The tournament that have been held have had ½ to 1/3 the previously projected turnout base on 2019. I see a potential for a \$8,500 loss. This is just a gestimate, but with the fact that the NAP's will not be held there will hurt attendance even more.

Warwick let us out without penalty. Mansfield will do the same. I vote to cancel Mansfield.

President Mahoney called on DD C. Weinstein.

I hope that everyone read the email I sent out. I speak for myself and for Bob Bertoni, as I know how strongly he felt about the District and how upset he was at not being able to get the ACBL to allow Sectionals and Regionals on line. Most Districts do not run tournaments the way we do. I subscribe to the principle I used in my sales and marketing days, "If you think you can, or you think you can't; you're absolutely right." Mansfield is in the same position as Watertown. If we do what we can, we will get people to go. We have not done enough to publicize it. If we have a loss, it will be minimal. The timing of this vote is bad. Why are we rushing? If we wait until the end on the month, we will have the ACBL decision.

Asside: L. De Blois reported that bylaw 5.4.5 states that proxy votes are not allowed.

President Mahoney called on Vice President Curtis Barton.

Carole (Weinstein, DD) said it very well. We normally lose money in Mansfield and we probably will again. We still, eventually, have to have the first tournament. I think that Warwick would have been a success, if we had been allowed to hold it. If we choose to cancel Mansfield, we will have to start planning for February; and probably we will lose money there. I think that everyone should consider what Carole (DD. Weinstein) said very seriously.

President Mahoney called on Mark Oettinger

I support the motion (to cancel Mansfield), not so much for the financial consequences, but for the potential health considerations. Kids are not vaccinated, and booster shots are not yet available. A substantial number of players with whom I have spoken are concerned about spreading the virus to their grandchildren...or being restricted from seeing their grandchildren post-exposure at such a gathering. Even vaccinated people can contract and spread the disease. By February, the kids will be vaccinated, and we will have had our booster shots.

President Mahoney called on Lois DeBlois

I also agree with Carole's comments regarding Bob's love of tournaments, but don't agree that he would support running the tournament at a great financial loss. The ACBL cancelled the Warwick tournament that might have been a success. The only reason they may not cancel Mansfield is that they will be running Austin in the same

month. Not cancelling Mansfield would be self-serving. Joe (Brouillard) has been our treasurer for more years than anyone else as been involved and I think we should follow his advice.

President Mahoney called on Daniel Morgenstern.

If you have read Peter Marcus' communications, he made an excellent case. He wants to go back to face-to-face bridge but this is the wrong time to do it. No one will remember if we cancel, but everyone will remember it if we hold it and it doesn't do well. I have anecdotal evidence that a local club tested positive and there were concerns. I don't know what we will do if someone at the regional tests positive or how we would handle that information. There is no inherent risk in not running it, but there are a lot of potential risks in running it.

President Mahoney called on William Kennedy.

I read everyone's essays. I had made up my mind before, and was not influenced by the cancelation of Warwick. Dan Morgenstern said it best. There is no risk in cancellation but a lot of risk in forging ahead in this time of uncertainty. Kids are not vaccinated. I think we should err on the side of caution. It is certain to be a financial loss. I will vote to cancel.

President Mahoney called on Paul Harris.

I am on the other side. I respect everyone's concerns about health issues. I wish you could have waited until after Watertown (Sectional) before taking a vote. We expect a good turnout. I hate to think that financial liability is the main concern. I think we should give it a try.

President Mahoney called on Mike Wavada.

I am not sure that we actually know how to run tournaments better than anyone else. We have never run a 6-day Mansfield. It was struggling until the NAP was added. We won't have them this year. We have not checked for vaccinations before. This is the first time we are planning on using a minimal schedule. It was nice to have Swiss and Pairs at the same time. We do not know how requiring masks or not requiring masks will affect attendance. I won't play without masks. We have never run a tournament in which people whom we do not wish to attend might use bogus credentials. With the current minimal schedule, I am not sure how I can sell the tournament in an email.

D. Metcalf interjected that the ACBL uses the covid positivity rate to decide whether to approve a tournament or not. Iowa has a rate of 40. New Jersey has a rate of 14. Massachusetts has a rate of 2.1. That is why Watertown was approved and why Mansfield will be approved.

S. Kirtley noted that the tournament has made money every year since she has taken over. Losing the NAP will cost us, but even without it, we should breakeven.

President Mahoney called the vote.

The motion carried. Nine (9) votes to cancel, three (3) votes to hold and one (1) abstention (see addenda for individual votes)

Report of the Nominating Committee

Nomination/Election Committee Report - Brenda Montague

The nominees for officers for 2022 as presented by the Nomination/Election Committee are:

President - Curtis Barton, Vice President- Mark Oettinger; Treasurer, Joe Brouillard; Secretary, Carolyn Weiser

The secretary will notify the Unit Presidents, Secretaries with the *High Statistics* letter as soon as that information is provided by the ACBL. This information is usually sent out on October 1 and is the basis for the allocation of Unit representatives to the Board of Delegates for 2022.

M. Wavada suggested that the Executive Committee consider the formation of a Larry Weiss Committee for 2022.

Motion to Adjourn -

L. DeBlois made a motion to adjourn at 7:25. The motion was seconded and so voted.

Addenda- Vote to Cancel Mansfield

Officers: Jack Mahoney, President	Yes
Curtis Barton, Vice President	No
Joseph Brouillard, Treasurer	Yes
Carolyn Weiser, Secretary	No
Lois DeBlois, Past President	Yes

Unit Representatives-

EMBA: Paul Harris	Yes
Brenda Montague (absent)	----
CMBA- Vicki Angus (absent)	----
CBA: Sonja Smith	Yes
Michael Wavada	Abstain
RIBA: Marshall William	Yes
NHBA: William Kennedy	Yes (David Lawrence alt.)
VBA: Mark Oettinger	Yes
MBA: Daniel Morgenstern	Yes
WMBA : Peter Samsel	Yes

