

WINCHESTER YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday, February 27, 2006

Attendees Directors – Tom Troiano, Hugh Mullin, Chris Goodyear, John Addonizio, Erik Knutzen, Dave Dicecca, Denis O’Donnell, David Hennessey, Joe Sacco

WYH Members – Rick Green, Brud Houllahan, Neal Hanson, Bob Andrews

President Tom Troiano opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

By a poll of WYH Board of Directors members present, it was determined that a quorum was present to allow for the transaction of business.

Minutes of January 23, 2006 BOD Meeting

On reading of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of January 23, 2006 there were no corrections or changes made. A motion to accept the Minutes of January 23, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting was made by Denis O’Donnell and seconded by Dave Dicecca. The motion was unanimously approved and the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of January 23, 2006 were entered into the record.

Treasurer’s Report

Hugh Mullin presented the January Treasurer’s Report as follows;

- The Winchester Savings Bank on-line statement showed as of today, a \$92,858.31 checking account balance and a \$100,653.53 balance in a Certificate of Deposit. For Total Cash of 193,538.84.
- Hugh explained that this is the time of year that we show revenues for both the current hockey season 2005-06 and the next hockey season 2006-07. This is because we have started receiving revenue for 2006-07 registrations.
- The 2006 Cash Flow Statement shows activity in January including 51,146.19 that has been taken in for tuition and registration fees. The registrations for the 2006-07 season have begun with about 120 registrations thus far. The revenue from these registrations is 11,952.04 and is noted in the last column of the cash flow statement under 2006-07 column.
- Tom Troiano stated that we have ordered white jerseys, so that most teams will have two sets of jerseys for next year. The cost of these jerseys will be reflected in this years’ budget. Tom explained that a small amount of money was built into the

tuition over the last few years to cover the cost of replacement jerseys every four years. Whatever teams still do not have new sets will be ordered in the fall. We will also be ordering new goalie equipment for the U12 team and the Mite and B teams. The existing Mite goalie equipment will be moved to the Tri-City level. The cost for the new equipment will be a little over \$1,000.

Neal Hanson a Squirt 3 parent asked if there was any plan to reimburse the players for the large number of children on the team and for the games that were not played as a result of some scheduling/parity issues by the Valley League. Tom stated that usually all the rescheduled games need to be made up and in normal circumstances there would be no refund. However, the Squirt 3 situation was unique in that the league did not schedule games for a few weeks in the fall for this team because of misplacement in the earlier parity round. Hugh and Tom will follow up regarding the number of games actually played and scheduled and get back to the parents/coaches of this team.

Joe Sacco made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Denis O'Donnell seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Registration/USA Hockey/Mass Hockey/District 9

Chris Goodyear reported the following;

- There are several teams entered in their respective Tiers of the State Tournament, the Bantam A's, Bantam B's, Squirt A's and Girl's U14 A's. The State Tournament meeting was held yesterday in Charlestown.
- Winchester is co-hosting the Squirt Tier II- L State Tournament with Stoneham. Tom Troiano explained how this came about in December. District 10 asked for our ice at the Flynn for hosting the State Tournament on March 24-26. Howie Aborn who is the Registrar for District 10 offered Winchester the opportunity to co-host. This was approved by Steve Palmacci who is the State Tournament Director. The Winchester Squirt team opted to play in the District 9 playdowns rather than take an automatic entry. Winchester ended up winning and qualifying as well. Because of the automatic entry, Waltham will enter the State Tournament as the District 9 representative. Because we are co-hosting we will be asking for volunteers to help us out at the tournament that weekend.

Ice Committee

Tom Troiano reported that the last ice schedule has been sent out and that it includes the ice for placements for next season. Some of the ice that we had for this season has been sold to Belmont YH and Winchester High School. Selling of this ice will bring us closer to our budgeted expenditure for ice this season. Game sheets for make-up games are listed on the practice schedule.

Girls-Only Program

Nothing to report

Dual State League

Nothing to report

Valley League Report

Tom Troiano said that the signed Valley League rosters are due March 1. Teams with outstanding rosters will not be allowed in playoffs. The Valley League sent out a questionnaire regarding the quality of the league, # of teams etc. With the building of the two new rinks in Haverhill the league is considering a 50 game schedule. They feel that this might entice some teams to only play in one league and cut down on the number of conflicts. This would not be for next season, but perhaps for the 2007-08 season.

Denis O'Donnell stated that he was not overly enthusiastic with the Middlesex Yankee Conference Girls League (MYCGL) that the Girl's teams play in. Denis said that Route 1 has been not that great either. Denis asked the Valley league reps to find out if there were any Girls only brackets in Valley for next season. They will report back next meeting.

Learn to Skate

John Addonizio reported that there are two sessions left. It was a successful season. 75 skaters are now in LTS and it was estimated that about 50% of LTS may move to Learn to Play Hockey/Tri City next year.

Learn to Play Hockey (Tri-City)

Joe Sacco reported that the Tri-City league is now playing full ice games with referees.

Coaches Committee Report/ACE Director

Nothing to report

Nominations of A Coaches for 2006-2007 season

Tom Troiano said that the 2006-2007 placements will start around March 16 with the Girls. The process that is used by WYH is that an A team coach at each level is put forth to the Board by the President and the ACE Coordinator based on applications for the positions, previous coaching experience and, if applicable, the likelihood of the coaches' child placing on the A team. The A team coach, once approved selects a team of evaluators to assist in the placement process. The following coaches were presented to the Board for approval:

Girls U14 A - Denis O'Donnell
Bantam A - David Hennessey
Pee Wee A - Erik Knutzen
Squirt A - Tom Troiano
Mite A - Bill Redler and David Hennessey

Tom Troiano explained that the co-coach situation for the Mite level is necessary because of David Hennessey's work commitment he is not always able to make the 5 PM practices and that Bill Redler has been a great assistant at the A level for two seasons. Tom also noted that Bill would help with the goalies.

Joe Sacco made a motion to approve the recommended coaches, Chris Goodyear seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

The topic of how many teams we would field next season came up. Tom Troiano said that right now it appears that there will be 3 or 4 girls-only, 3 Bantam, 3 Pee Wee, 4 Squirt and 3 Mite travel teams. Tom said that the Valley league would allow us to make changes in the number of teams right up to August and that we have not yet submitted our team count to the Dual State League.

Tom said that it is projected that there could be about 80 skaters in Tri City and Mite travel and 56 Squirt age skaters. The feeling is that fielding a Mite C team helps the players moving up to an A team be better prepared. This season was difficult because a number of children went from Tri City right to the Mite A level. In addition, Tom noted that several parents had commented that there was a bit too much standing around at Tri City practices this season due to the large number of children in that program. There was unanimous agreement that given the numbers it would make sense to field a Mite C travel team in one league in 2006-07.

Banquet and Trophies

Tom Troiano said that the date of the Annual Awards Banquet will be April 28th. There are some conflicts with the Middle School NY trip and baseball but because of school vacations, lent, and functions already booked at St. Eulalia's it was really the only date that worked without going past April. John Addonizio is in charge of the banquet this year. Tom suggested that John contact Mary Ducharme and Ed Ducharme who have done an outstanding job the last couple of years with obtaining the caterers and volunteers. John will report back in the March meeting.

Allowing 9th Grade, 2nd year Bantam players to participate in the Midget Program

Tom Troiano stated that there has been a request from a couple of parents of these players to allow them to participate in the Midget conditioning program.

Pros noted

- Allows 9th graders to skate with the players they will be trying out with for the varsity hockey team.
- May cause players to forego other teams which could decrease family expenses and travel times.
- Increase revenue.

Cons noted:

- Bantams get conditioning through their weekly practices – actually they get more ice time than the Midget conditioning program.
- Decrease commitment to Bantam team by players who would prefer to attend Midget conditioning and JV hockey rather than play a full year of Bantams.
- 2nd year Bantams in the 8th grade will want to participate.
- Program already fully subscribed would increase numbers to allow 2nd year Bantams.

- Half Season Midgets play games and these games would be inappropriate for some Bantams.
- Grade based rather than USA hockey age based – something we have never allowed.
- Bantam ice time is greater they get 4 hours per week for 3 teams.

Discussion points:

- Bob Andrews pointed out that Bantam teams practice on Sunday night – majority of Midget sessions have been Sunday late morning/afternoon.
- Joe Sacco asked why these players would want to do this?

There was some discussion surrounding that if this were allowed they would have to commit to play in our Bantam program and that any conflicts between Bantam and Midgets, the player would be required to attend the Bantam scheduled practice/and or game.

Hugh Mullin suggested that we table further discussion on this topic until the March Meeting.

Flynn Rink Privatization

Denis O'Donnell gave an overview of the meetings and status of the potential for Flynn Rink to be privatized beginning in September 2006. The current status is that the State Legislature will be meeting to vote on this item this session. WYH and Melrose Youth Hockey will be sponsoring a luncheon meeting for the legislators in our district. We've invited Senator Patricia Jehlen, Representatives Michael Festa and Paul Casey, the Mayor of Melrose and the Town Manager of Winchester. The luncheon will be on March 1. Denis said that we will be asking the legislators to support The Friends of Flynn Rink and their bid to be awarded the contract to maintain and manage the Flynn Rink. Denis O'Donnell asked the Board to appropriate monies to pay for this lunch meeting. A motion was made by Hugh Mullin to approve the funds. The motion was seconded by Chris Goodyear and unanimously approved by the Board.

Other New Business:

Squirt C parent Neal Hanson described that the season had been difficult on a number of fronts. He inquired if there was a special award that could be given for the job that the head coach was able to do this year. Tom Troiano said that there was no specific award for coaches, but if the team wanted to honor him in a special way they could do that on a team level at a private event. Some of the issues Mr. Hanson thought were important to discuss was the lack of an assigned goalie, and the apparent disparity between the more experienced players and the newer players who may have just come into the program or had spent last year in Tri City or LTS. Tom Troiano said that historically many lower level Squirt teams (and all Mite teams) have not had a full time goalie. Tom said that the decision to put two goalies on the Squirt B team was driven by the fact that (1) the two boys were very close in ability, (2) the Squirt C team was rather large and (3) the program needs to find children who are interested in the goalie position and rotating goalies is a good way to find new goalies.

Several Directors and Tom said that the Board had explored the possibilities of an in-house program for less experienced children. The most limiting factor was the fact that Winchester does not have the ice time to allot to an in-house program, also you need large numbers to successfully run an in-house program. The other point that was made is that on every team there is disparity among the players. Often there are the more skilled players at the top of the team who were close to making a higher team and the players who barely made the team. The disparity in some degree occurs at all levels, but may be more pronounced on the team which is lowest in their age bracket. Some Directors disagreed that the disparity is larger at the lower levels.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the WYH Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, March, 27, 2006 at 7:00PM in the cafeteria at Winchester High School.

Adjournment

Denis O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dave Dicecca meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Goodyear
Substituting for Jim Leo.