

WINCHESTER YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday June 13, 2005

Attendees Directors –Tom Troiano, Jim Leo, David Hennessey, Hugh Mullin,
Chris Goodyear, Scott Fusco, Joe Sacco, Tim Smith, John Addonizio,
Eric Knutzen, Mark Robinson

WYH Members – Mike D’Avolio, Bill Redler

President Tom Troiano opened the meeting at 7:15 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.

Tom Troiano opened the meeting by thanking the Board for their continued support in his role and he said that he is always open to new ideas or any concern if we as a Board may be off-track on an issue. Please don’t hesitate to give him a call, although E-Mail works well, especially during the day.

Minutes of May 16, 2005 BOD Meeting

On reading of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of May 16, 2005, no corrections or changes were noted. A motion to accept the Minutes of the May 16, 2005 Board Meeting was made by David Hennessey, and seconded by Chris Goodyear. The motion was unanimously approved and the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of May 16, 2005, were entered into the record.

Treasurer’s Report

Hugh Mullin explained that the Treasurers Report that he has distributed includes the Monthly Online Bank Statement and the WYH 2005 Cash Flow Statement.

As shown in the WCB Online Bank Statement Hugh reported that the current Checking Account Balance is \$128,344 and the 6 Month CD is \$79,033 for a combined balance of \$207,377.

For the Monthly Cash Flow Statement Hugh explained there was not much activity for the month of May and June to date. Approximately \$10,000 in expenses were recorded in June against the 2004-05 season that included payments for Valley League Playoffs,

Girls League games, and a banquet check that was cashed in June. Revenue collected against next season totals \$118,000 and there are not much outstanding expense from last season other than a potential bill from the Dual State League for games not played. Hugh said that he should be able to wrap up the 2004-05 season by the end of June and start reporting on the 2005-06 season thereafter. Tom Troiano asked if the \$720 shown in May revenue is related to donations related to Denis O'Donnell's mothers' gesture. Hugh said that it is and he expects the total number to be closer to \$1,120, after he cashes all the checks that have been received. Tom Troiano noted that Denis had indicated to him that he will match all donations made to WYH in memory of his mother.

Eric Knutzen asked why the Cash Flow Statement shows two different columns for each month. Hugh explained that for tax purposes we report for the calendar year and for accounting purposes we report for the hockey season.

Hugh said that he sent out messages to families that have not made their down payments for the 2005-06 season, as we have to finalize team rosters soon. Tom said that this is pretty important as there will be some re-shuffling at the PeeWee and the Bantam levels. Tom also said that if anyone knows of a family with a possible financial issue, please direct them to Hugh or himself. Hugh said it is pretty typical to have this number of outstanding down payments at this time but we need to notify our leagues soon.

Tim Smith asked what the difference was in the endowment number that was reported at \$99,000 in May and is now reported in June at \$89,000. Hugh explained that about \$5,000 was due to the payment in June of unanticipated league bills from last season and another \$5,000 was related to the clearing of a banquet check from the end of this past season in June.

David Hennessey asked if this is a good time to move a portion of the checking account into the CD. Hugh said that the 6 Month Certificate which is bearing 1.25%, is due on 6/18. He will be able to get a rate closer to 2.5% and plans on increasing the certificate to \$100,000. Although the number is higher than the static endowment of \$90,000 there is enough of a cushion in our numbers.

Mike D'Avolio asked what made up the Instructional Fee's expense line and does that include ice time. Hugh explained that the \$24,510 reported under Instructional Fee's does not include ice rental and is just for instructional fee's to providers including Wright Hockey for Skills, Patty Perrigo for Learn to Skate, John Roderick for Midget Skills and Puckstoppers. Mike asked how the bidding process was managed? Tom Troiano said that we received three bids on regular skills, only one for Midget Skills and only one for Learn to Skate but have received two for next season. Tom also said that we approached PuckStoppers to run our goalie clinics and we did not approach any other instructors for goalie clinics. Mike asked if Sunday Night skills could be made optional. Tom said that we have received feedback that Sunday Night skills were not at the same quality as the past few seasons. He has discussed this with Matt Wright. In terms of skills as an option, the survey results indicate that families put a high importance on Skills. Some families indicated that Sunday night does not work very well, particularly for the PeeWee

and Bantam level players. If we moved skills to Tuesday or Thursday and practices to Sunday we could end up in a worse position. A nice thing about Sunday night is that there is usually no game conflicts. A concern is that on one hand our members feel skills is a high value element of our program, while others do not want to skate on Sunday nights. David Hennessey said that the results of the member survey showed that a small number wanted skills to be optional, but a larger number wanted costs to go down. We could only lower tuition by about \$100 if it was optional. Survey comments were more telling that Sunday nights were tough to attend especially for Pee Wee and Bantam levels. Historically, Mites and Squirt levels have had better attendance at Skills.

Tim Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. David Hennessey seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Winchester Community Center

Mark Robinson who is a member of Winchester Community Center Committee distributed a quotation for a Community Center Feasibility Study. He explained that an ice rink is the major component of a proposed facility Winchester, which will also include a field house and swimming pool. He said that donated land is a desirable element of the project as it takes off up front as much as \$3,000,000 off the cost. The committee is trying to raise donations to fund a feasibility study, preliminary design, cost estimate and pro forma financial analysis for the proposed community center. It is targeting both Winchester Youth Hockey and Winchester Youth Soccer to match a donation by that has been committed by Winchester Rotary.

Mark said that after looking at many sites in town, the most desirable site in terms of access, visibility and feasibility is Skillings Field. It has the necessary acreage and although it has a viaduct running beneath it, structurally this site will work. This site could handle all the proposed facilities of the project including the parking lot. There are three acres in the back of Leonard field that could be developed to offset the loss of the field resulting in the proposed development of Skillings Field. Other sites the committee has looked at included the Marrotta Property off of Cross Street as a possible donated site which looks like will end up as housing and Winning Farm which has the minimum of 3 acres we are looking for, but it really is not a politically viable site.

One possible barrier or delay that could impact the timing of this Skillings Field site development is the possible building or rebuilding of Winchester High School on the same property. This effort has gained momentum with the town selectmen and the school committee, but still needs to go to the Town Meeting for approval.

Mark said that the proposed Community Center has some nice support in the town as a privately funded endeavor requiring some large private donations. The committee is looking to get credibility and has and is looking at other groups who have done this before. They have to confirm that the need is there and is the project realistic. To go forward we have put a Pro Forma together of a feasible Community Center. The committee is looking for Youth Hockey and Soccer as well as the Rotary to get this off

the ground. Request is \$5,000 each from Youth Hockey and Soccer and \$10,000 from Rotary.

Mark said that the committee has filed with the state as a 501C3 organization. Hugh said that this is a big expense up front. Mark said if viable we need to confirm needs, generate the Pro-Forma then expand the fund raising. Hugh asked if we will be spending money before the land is sewn up. Tim Smith added that the amount is \$18,000 to \$20,000. Mark confirmed that \$20,000 is needed up front before the land is acquired. Tom Troiano asked Mark who would own or run the center after it is built. Mark said that the intent is to have an arrangement similar to the Burbank model in Reading. It would be run by a Board of Directors that would be formed by stakeholders and not by the town or school system. A corporation would run it as a “profitable” 501C3 organization.

Tom asked if the school department would pay for rental ice. Mark said that he assumes they would, but they have not gone that far into the details yet. The facility would supplement the High School athletic programs not fund them. Tom asked if the High School currently pays for ice at the Flynn Rink at \$10,000. per year, in this proposal, would they in turn pay the Community Center? Mark said that is right, the building will be on free land and not be a free service, but one at a reasonable cost. Mark said that this has to work financially to go forward. If this proposal does not have Winchester Youth Hockey behind it, then we have to tell the committee up front.

Chris Goodyear asked if there have similar projects. Mark said that there is a similar facility that was built in Hyannis and another one outside of Stanford, CT in a similar size community to Winchester. Mark said that they have sat down with Mr. Burbank, the major benefactor of the Burbank Arena and he feels that the key to making the work is great management and minimizing your long term debt.

David Hennessey said that if we look at the worst case scenario, hockey demand can go up and down. Who owns the financial burden if we cannot subsidize this and they are forced to go to Men’s Leagues etc. Mark said that this is why it is privatized. Burbank has a seat on his board. He advises that you must limit your debt. He is in favor of our idea.

Mark said that Winchester Youth Hockey and Winchester Youth Soccer are the biggest benefactors and are being approached at this time along with the Winchester Rotary. Tom said that he thinks that the high school athletic programs would by far be the largest benefactor of the center. Mark said that both youth hockey and soccer have the largest communities. He could not get a donation from the athletic director. It is a risky time of the project but it is the time you have to prove the project is viable. Tom Troiano proposed that maybe we could donate less than \$5,000 and solicit individual donations. Scott Fusco said that you can only ask people so many times. Scott said that we should take a leadership stand as an organization and donate the full amount. Mark said in the past another group did a nice presentation on a similar project but it failed because of the land availability. Here we have the best chance because we have somewhere to build on.

We want to take advantage of this opportunity. If we lose this chance for Skillings Field, there are some potential secondary sites, but with visibility and neighborhood issues. Tim Smith said that we are going down other avenues regarding Flynn Rink. Tom said that there is another meeting tomorrow night. Medford is hesitant on saying they are out. We still think it is important because it is a real rink and we need ice in September. We may need an exit strategy. Tom asked those in attendance if there was disagreement with our participation on two separate paths. There were no objections.

Mike Davolio asked if Winchester Youth Soccer has committed to a donation. Mark said that this got tabled at a recent Board Meeting over a technicality where the site study labeled the field house as “basketball courts”. Mark said this was a mistake as the plan does not accommodate basketball since there are bigger needs in this town. John Addonizio asked how long will this project be to completion? Mark said the estimate is that it will take two years to raise funds for 60-70% of the project and finally be built in three to five years. Rotary has given us positive feedback although rebuilding of the High School would slow it down. Chris Goodyear asked, when will you meet with the School Committee on this. Mark said that this already has the endorsement from the selectmen as Karl Fryzel is chairman of the committee. Jim Leo asked if any other organization other than the Rotary has been approached. Mark said no just the Rotary who is willing up front. John Addonizio said that Soccer will probably come in for \$5,000. Tom Troiano said that the \$5,000 donation equates to about \$15. per family, which is not that unreasonable. David Hennessey said that personally \$5,000 is not unreasonable, but the fact is that tuitions are rising. We have to make a point to our membership that financial assistance is available. Tom said that tuition aid is in our model. David said that as we raise tuition we need to raise financial assistance. Jim Leo asked that since this is a long term project, can WYH be ensured that we will have a seat on the committee to ensure our representation in the future. Eric Knutzen asked if we could phase our donation in conjunction with WYS and Rotary. Tim Smith said that we need to put in a caveat as part of a motion that any donation has no impact of financial aid. Maybe a \$3,000 donation with assurances we have a seat on the board. Scott Fusco said that we should take a leadership position with the full \$5,000 donation. David Hennessey said that we already have the Flynn Project going. Tom said that the business plan for the Flynn project cost \$5,000 that was split three ways. Mike D’Avolio said that it is financially irresponsible not to ask the membership. It is \$15. per player and he has four players from his family in the program. Tom Troiano said that the membership voted for the Directors of this Board to make these types of decisions per the By Laws of which changes were approved by the membership at our last meeting. Tom said that this Board does not need member permission to spend money. In addition, Tom noted that it is about \$15. per family not per child. John Addonizio said that he knows of a similar project in Duxbury that the town did not support. Mark Robinson said that the selectmen are already behind this.

Tim Smith entered a motion for a donation of \$5,000 to partially finance a feasibility study for a Community Center that will include an ice rink with the stipulation that the Community Center Committee or eventual 501C3 corporation will have representation by Winchester Youth Hockey and such donation will have no impact on the availability of

tuition assistance to its membership. Tom Troiano seconded the motion. The motion passed by the Board with 9 Approvals, 1 Non-approval and 1 Abstaining vote.

Registration/USA Hockey/Mass Hockey

Chris Goodyear reported that MassHockey is soliciting programs to host a state tournament for the 2005-06 season. Chris noted that we could partner with another program if ice was an issue. Tom Troiano said that traditionally you need 4 hours of ice on Friday, 8 on Saturday and 8 on Sunday and it is preferable to do it at one facility. Chris said that Melrose hosts it at the Flynn every year and we lose our ice. WYH would also get a bye in the tournament that we would host. MassHockey would like an answer by Wednesday but if there are no hosts it will be re-addressed. If so we can discuss this at the August meeting.

Coaches Committee Report

Nothing to report.

Girls Only Hockey

Nothing to report.

Dual State League Report

David Hennessey reported that the league's annual meeting will be held on June 27th. At this meeting they will hand out rebates or IOU's for games not played.

Valley League Report

Nothing to report.

Equipment/Jerseys

Chris Goodyear reported that she has lots of promises but still needs to collect jerseys from the Mites, Squirts and one Bantam team.

Placements

Tom Troiano said that there are a number of Bantam and Pee Wee's who will not be participating. For Bantam's there will be eight players not returning including 2 players that were placed on the A team, 3 placed on the B Team and 3 placed on the C team. Of the 8 players, 2 are goaltenders. For the Pee Wee level there will be 7 players not returning including 5 placed on the A team, 1 placed on the B team and 1 placed on the C team. No Goaltenders are dropping from the PeeWee's. We will end up with three even teams as a result of the drop offs.

Tom said for the Squirts we are likely to have 3 players placed on the C team not return. This will bring us to 15 players on the A team, 16 on the B team and 18 on the C team. This still leaves us with a few players who could go to Tri-City who have never played hockey. Tri-City has 52 registered players as of today. Normally we have about 30 players now and get another 30 later in the year. Eric Knutzen asked about the timing of roster changes. Hugh put out a message that the time is now to settle the rosters but we really have to nail this down by mid-July.

Flynn/Loconte Privatization

Tom Troiano said that there are no updates to report since the last Board Meeting. The next meeting of the consortium is scheduled for tomorrow night.

New Business

Tom Troiano said that he had a meeting about 10 days ago with the manager of Boyles Gym. In summary, they are offering two programs to WYH members. One is geared to Pee Wee's and 2nd year Squirts and the other to Bantams and Midgets. Both programs will be 2 hour sessions, two days per week. They will provide a donation of \$25. for every member who joins and provide one scholarship for every 15 who join. We discussed the use of our on-line payment system where we would send them \$25. less for each registration. Mark Robinson asked what besides the discount will this get the members of our program? Tom Troiano said that both he and Joe Sacco will meet again with him to get further details.

Tom also said that he has been approached on another opportunity with Sports Etc. who will provide practice jerseys for our Learn to Skate Program in return for advertising exposure on our website. Tim Smith said that maybe we should go around and solicit cash donations from area businesses in exchange for advertising. This item was tabled for a future meeting.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the WYH Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2005, 6:30PM in the meeting room at Winchester Public Library.

Adjournment

David Hennessey made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tim Smith and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.