

Minutes of Winchester Youth Hockey Board Meeting August 21, 2006

Attendees:

Tom Troiano, Denis O'Donnell, Jay Tedesco, Scott Fusco, Ed Ducharme, Dave Hennessey, Jim Kiley, Brud Houllahan, Chris Goodyear and Bill Redler

Tom Troiano called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. This meeting was held in the main conference room at the Winchester Public Library.

The minutes of the June 21, 2006 meeting were reviewed. Denis O'Donnell made a motion to accept the June 21, 2006 Minutes into the record, the motion was seconded by Tom Troiano and unanimously approved by the Board.

Treasurer's report:

Tom Troiano presented the Treasurer's Report in Hugh Mullin's absence.

Tom reported that the checking account balance as of Friday August 18th was \$110,684.90 and the CD account balance was \$127,293.87. This results in cash on hand of \$237,978.77.

Tom reported that since the meeting in June we've had about \$42K in revenue and about \$44K in expenses. Most of the \$42K in revenue was tuition (late payment of the June tuition payment) and most of the \$44K in expenses was pre payment of league fees.

Tom also reported that he and Hugh Mullin would develop a revised budget for the September meeting and make a recommendation as to whether the 2006-2007 tuitions need to be changed.

David Hennessey motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, Ed Ducharme seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

USA Hockey/Mass Hockey

Tom Troiano reported that we will be ready to accept USA Hockey online confirmation numbers into our website by the end of the week. Players and Coaches will to enter the USA hockey registration number on the WYH website. The number is 9 digits and 5 letters. Coaches need to register on the WYH web site before they can enter their USA hockey confirmation number.

Tom Troiano, Hugh Mullin and Chris Goodyear attended a Mass Hockey Administrators meeting in June. The notes from the meeting are as follows:

1. The first session was on By Laws. The presenter was Felix Costanza. Felix is a District 9 Director and the Chairperson of Mass Hockey's Association Registration Committee. Winchester Youth Hockey is in full compliance with all of Mass Hockey's By Law requirements as of 3 weeks ago. This is no surprise since Felix reviewed our revised By Laws prior to our 2005 Annual Meeting. Three weeks ago Mass Hockey added two new requirements which we must add to our By Laws in May 2007. They are:
 - i. That we must forward to Mass Hockey two weeks after our Annual Meeting the following:
 1. Date, time, location of Annual Meeting
 2. Agenda of Annual Meeting
 3. Minutes of Annual Meeting
 4. Method of communicating date, time location of Annual Meeting
 - ii. That we can not refuse to register a player who resides in our program's geographic boundaries for any reason other than:
 1. Arrears of financial obligations to this program or another Association/Program
 2. Player has been subject to disciplinary action by Association, League or Mass Hockey
 3. No space available

Someone asked Felix to define "no space available". He said, that if you finish your tryouts and pick three teams of 15 skaters and 2 goalies you may say there is no space available. You are not required to go to 20 players (18 skaters and 2 goalies). 20 is a maximum allowable roster size but individual programs get to define a "full" roster.

2. The second session was on Accounting and financial reporting. The presenter was Greg Sophis, Mass Hockey's Treasurer and Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Again, we are generally in full compliance in this area. Winchester Youth Hockey is incorporated, we are a 501(C)(3), we file all our tax returns, state forms, etc. We present financial reports to the Board monthly (the requirement is quarterly), we have budgets for each hockey season, we have an outside review and we have a Controller who once a year reviews all the checks, bank statements, etc. The only thing that we need to look into is whether we need to do IRS 1099s for our contractors like Wright Hockey and John Roderick. We're also supposed to get a permit from the town if we want to do a 50/50 raffle or a casino night. Greg handed out a Wall Street Journal article from June 26, 2006 which described a soccer program in Connecticut that was hit with a \$334,000 fine by the IRS. This program has a \$392,000 budget (about the same as ours) but they have paid coaches, referees and scorekeepers. The IRS wouldn't speak directly to the WSJ but the key issue is "proper classification of

employees”. They may be inappropriately avoiding taxes by miscategorizing employees. The key point here is that we must make sure we know the rules and we follow the rules.

3. The third presentation was on Insurance and the presenter was Dave Hoffman, Mass Hockey’s Insurance Risk Manager. All members of USA Hockey (players, coaches, etc.) who are registered have the following 5 insurance coverages:
 - i. Excess medical payments – this will pay bills after your primary plan pays what it covers
 - ii. Catastrophic medical payments (e.g., spinal cord injury) – this kicks in when expenses exceed \$25K. This policy pays up to \$2 million
 - iii. Liability Insurance (off ice stuff) - \$1 million limit
 - iv. D&O Insurance
 - v. Crime Insurance

Dave said that it’s nearly impossible to collect on item 5. He said that the current policy states that in order to collect on this we must (1) have two Directors sign all checks, (2) have a Controller (which we do) and (3) have the bank statements sent to two Directors one who is not the Treasurer. He said they are trying to change this but the insurance company (AIG) has a reputation of being very difficult to negotiate with.

4. The fourth presentation was on CORI issues and legal right for Board Members. The presenter was John Tobin, Mass Hockey’s General Counsel and Chairperson of the CORI Screening Committee. We must perform a Criminal Offenders Record Inquiry (CORI) for all coaches, Directors, etc. The current system is Mass. Only so if someone was convicted of rape in Colorado they could still pass the CORI. Mass Hockey is working with USA Hockey, The Federal Govt. and contractors to make this system National. Finally, John passed out the Attorney General’s guide for Board Members of Charitable Organizations. This is the same exact guide that Tom Troiano handed out to all Directors in 2005. The guide provides a list of rights and responsibilities for Directors.
5. The fifth presentation was on discipline and the presenter was Christine Mayer, Chairperson of Mass Hockey’s Discipline Committee. We can only take disciplinary action AFTER a hearing. Mass Hockey has some very specific rules on hearings. The results of the hearing must be submitted to Mass Hockey within 10 days. There are four types of hearings:
 - i. USA Hockey playing rules (e.g., match penalty)
 - ii. All disciplinary matters not involving playing rules (e.g., zero tolerance)
 - iii. Hearing for assault of an official
 - iv. Hearing for suspension of referee

6. Finally, Dan Esdale, who is once again President of Mass Hockey, gave some thoughts on the state of Mass Hockey. Dan's thoughts centered on the incredible competition that we now face from non community based teams (e.g., independent club teams). The general theme was that we must operate at the highest levels of integrity (in the Board room, on the ice, in the locker room) to ensure the health of our programs and we all believe this is critical for the youth of our town.

Equipment

Chris Goodyear reported that goalie equipment was purchased this summer to replace older sets. This equipment is for the lower age groups that do not have designated goalies. Full time goalies are expected to buy their own equipment since Winchester Youth Hockey provides a significant discount to full time goalies.

White sets of game jersey were purchased last Winter for the current boys' teams. Since they arrived close to the end of the season they were not distributed. Tom Troiano, David Hennessey and Chris Goodyear matched up the new white sets with the black sets and they can be picked up at Chris Goodyear's home any evening between 6 and 8 pm. Since we added two new Boys/Open Travel teams this season not all teams will have new white jerseys.

Tom Troiano asked Denis O'Donnell what is the status of the girls' jerseys. Denis stated that they would like to purchase some shirts and that he will investigate what they need and get back to the Board.

Girls-Only Program

Denis reported that the MYGL was having there first league meeting on Thursday night. The girls' league play generally begins around October 1st.

Coaches Committee:

Coaches meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2006 in the Winchester High School Cafeteria. An email was sent to update the coaches regarding this meeting. The preliminary agenda for the meeting is:

- Introduction to WYH
- Team Organization and Communication
- Role of Coaches Committee
- Coaching Education Seminars
- USA Hockey DVD
- Practice Planning
- Making Game Trades
- Injury Prevention
- Head Injury/Concussion

- First Aid
- Registration/Roster Information

There will be a number of new coaches this year. The Coaches Committee is available to help with any question or issues that may come up. For new coaches, a mentor structure can be arranged for a few practices, invite new coaches to observe age appropriate practices, to get a sense of how a practice can be structured. David Hennessey emphasized the importance of being prepared before getting to practice, with regard to practice plan.

Valley League:

All the teams seem to be placed appropriately for the parity rounds. A request was made to move the Mite C team to a more appropriate level.

Dual State League:

- Annual meeting was held late June.
- The cost of a game will be \$225.
- Added the Salem Ice Center to the schedule. They will attempt to be thoughtful about the schedule. That is, they will attempt to have teams more locally when possible. In the parity round the brackets are more geographical.
- They reviewed the rule changes, they will be training refs.
- It is unclear what will happen if the games run over because of the length of the games relative to increase number of penalties.
- Girls' hockey division - there was nothing conclusive about adding a girls division this year to the league.

Learn to Skate /Play Hockey:

Scott Fusco recently received an email from Woburn – Woburn has 4 teams interested in joining the Tri City League. Scott will continue to keep in touch with Woburn regarding the number of teams, if they have ice available. Last year Malden only had one team, Melrose had two, Medford had one and Winchester had three.

Friends of Flynn:

Denis O'Donnell reported that for a variety of reasons the Flynn and LoConte rinks were not placed on the list of rinks to be outsourced. It is important for the members to know that even if Friends of Flynn were to have been awarded the management of the rink, it would not have changed how the rink was utilized by WYH. Our hours and use would have remained the same. It is important to remember that the Flynn rink is on State – owned land not Medford owned land. There is a meeting of Friends of Flynn on Wednesday of this week. It appears that the future of rink will depend on the next administration. The ice cost for an hour will remain at \$160 this season. The rink is projected to open around October 14.

New Business:

Skills

Girls' Midget skills might be in jeopardy of being cancelled because of poor enrollment. We need at least 20 skaters to break even. Ed O'Donnell has sent out an email reminding those age appropriate players to encourage them to sign up. If the enrollment remains low, an effort will be made to contact other programs.

Helmet Rule:

Board members need to enforce the helmet rule. All Coaches must wear a helmet.

Practices:

There is some ice scheduled for this week in Malden. The first games will begin the week of September 6th

Adjournment:

Tom Troiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. Denis O'Donnell seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board,

Next meeting:

Monday, September 18, 2006 at 7 pm Winchester High School Cafeteria.