

WINCHESTER YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday September 19, 2005

Attendees Directors – John Addonizio, Joe Sacco, Dave DiCecca,
Denis O’Donnell, David Hennessey, Scott Fusco,
Tom Troiano, Jim Leo

WYH Members – Fiore Sciucco, Mike D’Avolio, Brad Houllahan,
Carl Pasciuto, William Barrett

President Tom Troiano opened the meeting at 7:10 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 August 15, 2005 BOD Meeting

On reading of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of August 15, 2005, no corrections or changes were noted. A motion to accept the Minutes of the August 15, 2005 Board of Directors was made by Denis O’Donnell and seconded by Scott Fusco. The motion was unanimously approved and the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of August 15, 2005 were entered into the record.

Treasurer’s Report

Hugh Mullin distributed the Monthly On-line Bank Statement and the WYH 2005 Cash Flow Statement. Hugh reported that the current WCB Online Bank Statement as of September 19, 2005 shows that the Checking Account Balance is \$164,572. and the 6 Month CD is at \$99,562 resulting in a combined balance of \$264,134.

Hugh explained that the Cash Flow Statement showing the current cash position \$264,134 is attributed to \$40,627 in registration fees and tuition payments collected in September. He also explained that another large expense reported for the month is a \$5,345 equipment expense that was a payment for pucks and socks.

Denis O’Donnell 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

Jim Leo reported that a rule change was passed by Mass Hockey to allow Select teams to make up their rosters without regard to geographic areas. Tom Troiano noted that this is not a change. The proposal to limit select team to certain geographic areas was defeated. This proposal was an attempt to battle recruitment from other Non-Select Club Teams.

The Winthrop Youth Hockey Program has provided to District 9 a list of names of players/families that have left their program with an outstanding payment balance. If any program has taken on any Winthrop players the list is available for review. Tom Troiano said that he always contacts a program when a player comes in to Winchester to see if the player has an outstanding balance with the other program.

The district is reporting a surplus of about \$10,000. The plan is to burn through this by discounting Playdown fees for each program.

Some programs have reported some significant attrition numbers. Burlington reported that they had 20 players drop out of the PeeWee level after their tryouts and the Middlesex Braves reported that 9 players left their program after their placements last spring. Steve Palmacci said that he will bring this trend up at the next state-wide registrars meeting.

Coaches' certification seminars are posted and credit card reservations can be obtained on-line via the USA Hockey Website (Link on MassHockey Coaches Corner Page) This should be communicated soon as a Level 3 session in Woburn on October 16 is already full.

The deadline to register a Midget and Bantam Tier II National Bound team is October 1st. The registration deadline for all other tournament teams is November 1st.

Ice Committee

Tom Troiano reported that ice committee is working on the October practice schedule. The actual open date of the Flynn is still unknown. Clean Harbors was in there last week working on an environmental issue. Ice will be tight until the Flynn is open. Pictures are scheduled for October 25th and 27th. Scott Fusco asked if we can start the photo sessions earlier than 4:30PM to avoid the past back ups. Tom said he will talk to the photographer about this.

Coaches Committee Report

Tom Troiano said there is nothing to report other than the Coaches Meeting was successfully held last Monday.

Girls-Only Program

Denis O'Donnell reported that the U10 U14A and B Girls Only Teams have been registered in the Middlesex Yankee Conference Girls League (MYCGL) and initial schedules have been released. The U14A and B teams have also been registered in the Route 1 League and the schedules should be released within 24/48 hours. The U16/19B team is registered and has begun playing in the Half –Season U19 MYCGL Program. Tom Troiano asked about the budget and if the league schedules will exceed it as last season. Denis said that this will be monitored during the season.

Mike D'Avolio asked about the status of the website as both the By-Laws and Minutes are not posted. Tom Troiano said that the By-Laws were accidentally deleted and the Minutes need to be updated. This should be corrected shortly.

Dual State League

David Hennessey reported that league play is underway. Coaches should communicate any mis-placements in the parity round. Tom Troiano said that some C teams are getting outscored by large margins as Winchester teams have been placed in upper divisions due to past performance. David DiCecca asked for clarification on how to handle game swaps. David Hennessey said that it is important to keep it clear on the game sheet in regard to what the game played is replacing.

Valley League Report

Nothing to Report.

Equipment/Jerseys

Tom Troiano said that coaches should see Chris Goodyear in regard to any jersey issues. Pucks and socks have been distributed. Tom said that he has some extra goaltending equipment if it is needed by any team. This includes the Girls-Only teams where last season some teams had some inadequate equipment. Scott Fusco mentioned that the Tri-City teams do not have any Chest Protectors and if in fact blue pucks are used they are necessary. Tom said that he may have a set that could maybe be appropriate and if necessary some sets should be purchased for the program.

Winchester Community Center

Tom Troiano said that we have not handed over our check for the Winchester Community Center feasibility study. At the request of Mark Robinson, we are holding off until the other initial donations are made. Tom said as a reminder that this donation is related to the community center feasibility study that is being proposed for Skillings Field. The board voted in June to donate \$5,000 towards a feasibility study.

Fundraising/Casino Night- are we doing a Casino Night?

Tom Troiano asked the Board if we are still interested in holding a fund-raising Casino Night. After a short discussion there was a consensus that it should be held, but not until after the holidays as there is not much going on in January compared to prior to them.

Skills Contract

Tom Troiano summarized the 2005-06 skills proposals by four contractors including Dynamic Skating, Pro Ambitions, John Roderick and Wright Hockey. Tom said that he feels the most desirable option in terms of price and number of instructors is Wright Hockey. John Roderick is the lowest price but his strength is more with the older Midget level players and these proposals are for skills at all levels. Tom said that he spoke with Matt Wright about some dissatisfaction in prior seasons when either he or Christian were not running the sessions. Matt said that he can commit to have Christian run the sessions. In response to questions regarding our ability to replace them mid-season with another contractor, Tom said we normally do not have a contract.

Joe Sacco said that that Wright Hockey does a pretty good job, but it can be run poorly if Matt or Christian are not on the ice. We need a guarantee from them that they will be there. Joe said that he is fine with their proposal if they are present at the skills.

Scott Fusco said that skills are not different than a practice and he would like to see more focus on one skill per session. Denis O'Donnell said that a plan that mixes different skills is designed purposely because the younger levels get bored so easily. Scott said that it is good to work on one skill at a time. Mike D'Avolio asked if a rotating schedule of different skills contractors could be worked out. Scott said that this will probably not work and at the most maybe two would. Denis said that we should pick one and tell them what we want them to do. David Hennessey said that we should have the contractor sign a contract to ensure a director runs the sessions. He also said that John Roderick runs sessions at a high school pace and mentality that is probably not appropriate for the younger levels. Tom said at the lower levels Christian Wright did a great job for the program two years ago and everyone he has talked to speaks very highly of the job John Roderick did at the Midget level. Denis O'Donnell made a motion for the Board to enter into an agreement with Wright Hockey that includes any Board desired modification to the program format and assurances that a one of the Wrights will be present and run the sessions. Joe Sacco seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

New Business

Denis O'Donnell said that he wanted to address an injury prevention issue involving the inconsistency of mouth piece rules among the leagues we are in. As a Board we should eliminate any ambiguity in regard to the enforcement of mouth pieces. Another related problem is ill-fitting equipment which is a serious safety issue. Denis said that WYH

should require that all teams require appropriate mouthpieces and proper fitting equipment. He said that each coach should put out an E-Mail in regard to this safety issue and the required use of mouth pieces and proper fitting equipment. Tom Troiano asked if this would be enforced for the younger players in the little rink. Scott Fusco said that the mouth pieces are pretty big for these kids. Denis said that he is very passionate about this issue for all of our players. Dave DiCecca said that his dentist said he was against mouth pieces for very young children. Denis said that he has had discussions on the subject with medical experts and we are looking at mouthpieces to reduce fractured skulls, concussions and cervical spine injuries. He said that he recommends that the Board agree to a rule that would pass the reasonableness test, which the Board strongly suggests enforcement of mouth piece use at all levels. Denis made a motion for the Board to mandate that all players wear mouth pieces and all coaches encourage proper fitting equipment. Scott Fusco said that he thought that we need the opinion of an attorney especially in regard to coach's liability. Joe Sacco asked whether the kids actually wear them or just have them on the cage. Tom Troiano said that we could make the mandate now and if in agreement could relax the requirement at a later date. Scott said that we should have this written correctly to avoid liability to coaches who cannot guarantee enforcement. Tom Troiano suggested that this issue be discussed with Ron Martignetti. Denis agreed to get together with Ron for appropriate wording of the mandate.

Brad Houllahan said that he has an issue that involves the scheduling of the 10 game parity round. He said that the Squirt C team is losing by a large margin. Tom Troiano said that the problem that this team is facing right now is due to the fact that for the last two seasons this program has been very successful. When a scheduler sees a Winchester team there is a tendency to initially place the it in the highest bracket for the parity round. In addition we have had a lot of success at the B level including PeeWee State Championships 2 years in a row and a Bantam B team that won an unusually high percentage of their games last season. In addition to our A and B teams being highly placed, our C teams have also been pulled up in the process. The good news is when the parity round is complete, subsequent schedules will be more equitable. After the parity round a teams record, Goals For and Goals Against are used to realign the each team into more equitable divisions. Scott Fusco said that we are suffering at the Mite level because of inexperience noting that the B team really got beaten badly by Lynnfield. Dave Hennessey said that this may have something to do with our teams being late getting on the ice for practice as well as the fact that the Lynnfield team was an A team playing our B team.

Tom Troiano noted that the entire Winchester Youth Hockey community expresses their condolences to Terry Brennan and his family on the passing of Terry's father.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the WYH Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2005 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. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.