

# WINCHESTER YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**Monday, November 17th, 2003**

**Attendees**      Directors-      Hugh Mullin, Denis O'Donnell, Terry Brennan, Glenn Mills, Tom Troiano, David Hennessey, Chris Goodyear, Scott Fusco, Mark Robinson Jim Leo, Ed Ducharme, Ron Martignetti

                         WYH Members-      Jamie Hintlian, George Turner, Cheryle Malia, Gary Sullivan, Ed O'Donnell, John Symerds, Steve Tucci, Keith Smith, Paul Fitzpatrick, Paul Marino, Ron Tuccelli, Monte Marrocco, Don McCarthy, Michael Cutler, Rick Graham, David Bertochi, Margaret Bertochi

President Denis O'Donnell opened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

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

### **Election of Directors**

President O'Donnell opened the meeting with the election of two new directors to fill the vacant board seats. Denis consulted the WYH bylaws which state that a vacant board seat shall be filled by a vote of the Board of Directors present at the meeting. The first directorship to be filled is for a term expiring in the spring of 2004. Nominations for this directorship were verbally submitted and the directors present voted for one candidate. Jim Leo was elected by a clear majority.

President O'Donnell then announced that he had received a written letter of resignation from Jim Aiken and that this resignation required board approval. Glenn Mills moved to accept the resignation, Tom Troiano seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

President O'Donnell then opened the floor for nominations to fill the directorship expiring in the spring of 2005. Nominations were received and the directors present voted for one candidate. Mark Robinson was elected by a clear majority.

### **Resignation of President Denis O'Donnell**

President O'Donnell then detailed his desire to resign the presidency of WYH. Denis believes that WYH has experienced a difficult period recently and that the organization will be better served under a new president which will allow the program to move forward in a more positive manner. Denis will remain on the Board until his term expires in the spring of 2004 to allow for a smooth transition.

Vice President David Hennessey declined to take over the role of President. David thanked Denis for his many years of service to WYH and praised his work, time commitment and all the effort he has put into the program. Denis has made a huge contribution to WYH and David and the entire Board of Directors thank him immensely.

### **Election of a New President**

Vice President Hennessey then opened the floor to nominations for a new president. Ron Martignetti was nominated by Tom Troiano. There were no other nominations. Chris Goodyear seconded the motion and Ron Martignetti was elected President by a unanimous vote.

Newly elected President Ron Martignetti thanked Denis O'Donnell for all of his service to WYH over the last five years. Ron cited many areas of success including starting and growing a very successful girls program, overseeing a doubling of the number of children in the program from 200 to over 400 as well as the continued growth and success of the boys program. Ron praised Denis for his tireless work ethic and also thanked him for allowing the Board to move forward in a positive direction.

Ron also expressed his desire and intent to ensure that the Board maintains its focus on keeping the children's interest first and foremost in all of its decision-making and policy setting. Ron detailed the challenges the board currently faces including the proposed privatization of the Flynn rink, rebuilding the organizations endowment, and influencing any legislation with regards to the MDC rinks to ensure WYH's continued access to ice. Ron also requested all of the directors to sit together at future meetings to better discuss topics and answer questions.

### **Minutes of November 17, 2003 BOD Meeting**

On reading of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of November 17, 2003, no corrections or changes were noted. A motion to accept the Minutes of the November 17, 2003 BOD Meeting was made by Tom Troiano, seconded by Hugh Mullin. The motion was unanimously approved and the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of November 17, 2003 were entered into the record.

### **Treasurer's Report**

WYH Treasurer Tom Troiano confirmed WYH cash balance of \$135,862.45 as of November 17, 2003. Tom Troiano confirmed revenues of \$60,753.64 in October and expenses of \$113,120.92. November month to date revenues and expenses were approximately \$22,281 and \$4,586 respectively.

Hugh Mullin then gave a review of WYH's 2002 tax return, annual report, and Massachusetts Form PC all of which the organization is required to file annually due to its size and 501(c)(3) status. All of these items were prepared by Hartnett & Company, certified public accountants, and filed by the November 17, 2003 deadline. WYH prepared these statements using a cash basis of accounting. The 2002 financial statements are attached to and included in these minutes.

Hugh then detailed the need for a full audit of our 2003 financial statements due to the estimated revenue and expenses of the program which are above threshold amounts and

require a full audit per state and federal regulations. This audit is anticipated in the May/June 2004 timeframe which is designed to keep the costs as low as possible.

Dave Hennessey and Ron Martignetti asked several questions regarding the organizations CD account. Tom Troiano and Hugh described the history of the account, the link to the checking account and Tom indicated that the next window period for adding monies to the CD account would occur in December 2003. Tom hopes to be able to add funds to the account at that time but no decision has yet been made with regards to this. Tom also responded to a question with regards to the end of the hockey season projected cash balance (August 2004) of \$70,000. This estimate is based upon the organizations projected revenues and expenses for the 2003-04 season, prior cash balances, anticipated 2004-05 registration fee/tuition payments and historical trends. Tom acknowledged that this estimate is rather imprecise at this point. Glenn Mills inquired about the credit card processing fees which are projected at roughly \$6000 for this year and were included in the budget.

A motion to accept the treasures report was made by Ron Martignetti, seconded by Dave Hennessey and approved by a unanimous vote of the board.

#### **REGISTRATION:**

No report was given.

#### **Equipment**

Hugh Mullin commented that there were no issues with equipment and the Tri City/Little Rink coaches were issued jerseys and goalie equipment. Hugh also noted that the DaVolio family had donated a set of goalie pads to WYH. The donation is greatly appreciated and the equipment will be put to use where needed on some of the Tri City and Mite level teams.

#### **Dual State League**

WYH Dual State League Co-Representative David Hennessey commented that the schedules for round one of the regular season were being picked up by Fred Cammon and would be available later that night. WYH requested nine team realignments based upon parity round results. The Dual State League has final determination on team placement and will not make any changes until round one is largely complete. Fred Cammon arrived later in the meeting and distributed the new Dual State schedules to all coaches.

#### **Valley League**

Valley League Co-representative Scott Fusco reported no issues with the Valley League. David Hennessey reminded coaches to fill out the on line referee feedback forms which the Valley League uses to evaluate its referees.

#### **Tri City League**

Tri City League Co-representative Terry Brennan gave an update on the 2003-04 season which is just beginning. WYH has three teams entered into the ten team League with each team slated to play an 18 game schedule. The plan calls for the teams to play cross ice hockey through December 31, 2003. Full ice hockey is planned to begin in January 2004 but the Tri City representatives may alter that after evaluating the success of cross ice hockey. Scott Fusco commented that he had been in touch with USA Hockey regarding bumpers for cross ice play and was expecting delivery of the bumpers sometime late in 2003.

Terry also announced that the Tri City games would be using young referees and any Winchester child who is interested in refereeing the games should contact him. The referees are paid \$10 per game. Terry ran through the scheduled game times through January which leaves the Sunday 7:00 am hour open. Tom Troiano promised to look into acquiring two more nets to accommodate two games of cross ice hockey and a little rink game simultaneously.

### **Girls Hockey**

Glenn Mills said that the season is going well to date with parity rounds complete and the regular season alignments in good shape. Glenn raised a question regarding WYH tournament policy which was discussed. Tom Troiano explained that certain teams had one tournament cost built into their tuition but the girls teams did not have this and therefore each team would have to pay for the cost of whatever tournaments they entered. WYH will write an initial check for the cost and then the coach of that team must reimburse WYH within a reasonable timeframe.

Denis O'Donnell discussed the historic tournament schedule for the program which calls for various teams to play in the Arlington Christmas Tournament and the Mite A's and Mite B's to play in the Belmont Holiday Classic. Chris Goodyear also mentioned to check the status of each tournament to ensure that they are USA Hockey sanctioned and to obtain a travel permit if any team is planning on traveling to a tournament that requires an overnight stay.

### **USA Hockey**

Chris Goodyear announced that all USA rosters were stamped and available at tonight's meeting. Chris also announced that January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 would be the date for the District 9 seeding meeting. Head coaches should plan to attend the meeting armed with game sheets and results vs. other District 9 teams. Play downs run from January 12 – February 18, 2004 with the State Tournament scheduled for March 2004.

### **Coaches Committee**

Ron Martignetti discussed a coaches committee hearing held on November 7, 2003 regarding an incident which occurred on September 17, 2003 regarding a WYH coach/board member and a child in the program. This hearing was undertaken after Massachusetts Hockey District 9 representative, Steve Palmucci, refused to formally review the incident. The hearing was chaired by non voting member David Hennessey with coach's committee members Ron Martignetti, Fred Cammon and Nick Mitropolous comprising the other three voting members of the hearing. The committee reviewed written and verbal testimony from 12 witnesses.

Ron summarized the conclusions of the coaches committee which are as follows:

- 1) No action with regards to one Pee Wee player involved in the incident
- 2) A two week suspension for another Pee Wee player involved in the incident
- 3) The adult involved in the incident received a permanent suspension from WYH. This suspension includes all aspects of WYH including serving as a WYH director, coach or representative and attending any WYH event.

All parties involved in the incident received written notification of the coach's committee's findings.

A question regarding the Pee Wee player's suspension was asked by Margaret Bertochi which referenced a conversation between Mrs. Bertochi and Christine Meyer of Mass Hockey wherein Ms. Meyer stated that, since no written notification of possible disciplinary action was given to the Pee Wee player prior to the action; the disciplinary action should be voided. Ron Martignetti questioned Mr. and Mrs. Bertochi with regards to conversations and discussions held shortly after the incident and Mr. Bertochi confirmed that he was verbally notified that his son could be subject to disciplinary action as a result of the incident. Ron also informed the Bertochis of the right to appeal the ruling to Mass Hockey and assured them that WYH would abide by the appellate ruling. Ron also assured Mr. and Mrs. Bertochi that the incident and ruling would not adversely impact their child's future status in WYH.

A question was raised with regards to the timing of the ruling and the delay in the suspension of the Pee Wee player. Once again Ron described the investigatory process, the involvement of Mass Hockey and the hearing process reminding everyone that there were two children involved in the incident and that the incident has impacted both of those children. Ron stated that the program does not tolerate inappropriate behavior on the part of the parents, coaches or players and the board and the coaches committee must at all times be focusing on what is best for the children in the program. Ron reiterated his belief that the coaches committee looked at all of the facts surrounding the incident and issued a ruling that was fair to all parties.

Ron Martignetti then resigned from the coaches committee due his new role as President of WYH. Ron opened the floor for nominations to fill a seat on the coaches committee. Glenn Mills nominated Jim Leo. The motion was seconded by David Hennessey and Jim Leo was elected to the coaches committee by a unanimous vote of the directors.

### **Ice Committee**

Tom Troiano moved that Scott Fusco fill the vacant seat on the three person ice committee which was seconded by Chris Goodyear and approved by a unanimous vote of the board. Chris Goodyear reminded all coaches to check their team's game schedule for conflicts with practice ice and work to ensure that conflicts are resolved and the practice ice utilized. Tom Troiano also requested that coaches arrive early and be extremely courteous when using the Fessenden ice rink.

A discussion regarding the exchange of ice between WYH and the Winchester High School hockey then ensued. The prior billing process and the unpaid balance due to WYH from the High School program was discussed as was the status of the Monday night practice ice at The Belmont Hill School. Denis O'Donnell described the history of ice rental for WYH and the High School over the last several years noting that WYH has

assisted the High School on many occasions to help resolve game and practice conflicts. Denis also detailed WYH's repeated attempts to collect ice rental monies from the High School coach over the last 6-9 months. Glenn Mills, Mark Robinson and Rick Graham also expressed a desire to resolve the collection issue.

Ron Martignetti also described the historical ice sharing relationship and suggested WYH appoint a liaison to work with the high school Athletic Director Ron Wargo to resolve any outstanding issues. Ron Martignetti moved that Tom Troiano and David Hennessey be appointed liaisons with the high school hockey program. The motion was seconded by Hugh Mullin and unanimously approved by the board.

### **Learn To Skate**

Terry Brennan commented that we have 70 children enrolled in the program and things are going well so far. Patty Perrigo has brought in two additional staff members to teach the program bringing the total to six on ice instructors.

### **Fund Raising**

Ron Martignetti noted the need to rebuild the endowment and referred to USA hockey guidelines, which suggest a healthy youth hockey program have an endowment equal to 50% of annual expenses.

### **New Business**

Ed Ducharme suggested WYH make its bylaws available to all member of WYH. The issue was discussed but not resolved. Tom Troiano commented that this Board has always taken great care to respect the spirit of the by-laws and that it is unfair to suggest that the by-laws are not being followed. Ron Martignetti agreed but said that all directors are entitled to a set of WYH by-laws. Tom Troiano also discussed the issue of tuition discounts for injured players noting that he would like board approval to grant any discounts. The issue was discussed briefly but not voted upon.

### **Adjournment**

Hugh Mullin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chris Goodyear, and the meeting was formally adjourned at 9:15 PM.

**The next scheduled meeting of the WYH Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003 in the cafeteria at the WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL, Winchester, Massachusetts at 7:00 PM.**