

WINCHESTER YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday, November 22, 2004

Attendees Directors –Tom Troiano, Jim Leo, Fred Cammon, David Hennessey, Dave DiCecca, Chris Goodyear, Ron Martignetti, Joe Sacco, Scott Fusco, Denis O'Donnell, Hugh Mullin

WYH Members - Glenn Mills, John Addonizio, W. J. Redler

President Tom Troiano opened the meeting at 7: 15 PM.

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

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of Winchester Youth Hockey and the Winchester hockey community, WYH President Tom Troiano, expressed his deep sympathy to David Hennessey and his family on the recent passing of David's mother. Tom said that while he did not know David's mother that he knows that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree and given what we know about David that his mother must have been a very special person.

Tom Troiano also noted that while making the arrangements for his mother's funeral, David Hennessey attended the four hour ACE Coordinator Training Seminar the day before his mother's wake.

Ron Martignetti commented that while he didn't know David's mother either the funeral service was a wonderful celebration of the life of someone who was loved by all.

David Hennessey offered his sincere thanks to all.

Minutes of October 22, 2004 BOD Meeting

On reading of the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 18, 2004, no corrections or changes were noted. A motion to accept the Minutes of the October 18, 2004 BOD Meeting was made by Denis O'Donnell, and seconded by David Hennessey. The motion was unanimously approved and the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 18, 2004 were entered into the record.

Treasurer's Report

Hugh Mullin distributed the WYH 2004 Cash Flow Statement and a copy of WYH bank balances at Winchester Cooperative Bank. The WYH checking balance was reported at \$76,678.91 and the interest bearing CD was reported at \$78,363.81.

Hugh distributed and summarized the Cash Flow Statement and reported revenue for the current month at \$57,995, the majority being tuition payments. Expenses for this period were reported at \$53,351 which was mostly comprised of league fees, ice rentals, instructional fees (LTS/Skills) and USA Hockey fees.

Hugh reported that revenue generated from Casino Night totaled approximately \$23K which included \$5000 from an anonymous donor. He estimated that expenses will total approximately \$8000 and will be finalized upon receipt of an invoice from a caterer. The evening turned out to be successful in raising funds as well as a great time for those who participated.

Hugh reported the finalization of the audit of the WYH Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2003 and un-audited statements for the year ending December 31, 2002 and tax returns by Hartnett & Company.

Hugh noted that WYH ended with \$89K in assets last year which looks different as previously reported since our accountants adjusted the statements for any outstanding checks. The 2003 statements went through a complete audit since WYH revenue/expenses exceeded \$250K. The 2002 statements were not audited. Hugh confirmed that WYH can continue to report financially on the "Cash Basis" method of accounting. Hugh also reported that WYH has filed all necessary forms with Mass DOR and the IRS as required by a non-profit organization.

Hugh added that the IRS issue from 2001 is still unresolved and we do not have a bill yet, but he estimates the cost of the financial audit to be approximately \$2300-\$3000.

Denis O'Donnell asked if the board should vote on whether we accept the Audit and Treasurer's Report. Tom Troiano stated that both Hugh and he signed a document certifying all the information that was provided to the auditors and a separate vote should not be necessary.

Denis O'Donnell also commended Hugh Mullin and his team for the fabulous job they did for the "kids" by making the Casino Night fundraising effort so successful.

Hugh Mullin then reported on the financial impact resulting from the demise of the Bantam C2 team. In total the program has received approximately \$7000-\$8000 in revenue consisting of an average of \$500 from the 14 rostered players. At the time of the breakup the revenue receipts were comprised mostly of registration and initial payments. He estimates WYH had spent around \$6000 that could be allocated to the Bantam C2's.

Hugh stated that he has received a couple of questions regarding refunds of the June payment.

Ron Martignetti voiced a concern that only people who paid and did not get value were the ones who went to another town. He said that we need to develop a process when this happens since we are experiencing a lot of drop outs. He recommended that the registration fee and first payment be non-refundable. As long as there is no financial obligation they can move anywhere. Chris Goodyear noted that we do not pay USA registration fees for a player coming in that was registered in another town program.

Hugh Mullin asked the Board on how the Treasurer should handle refunds for players who drop out of the program. Ron asked if we should require payment for the full season to clear these kids to play elsewhere and if so should formalize this in our policies.

Ron Martignetti also recommended that it is up to the Treasurer to sift through each issue and determine who would have to pay for a full season if they drop out. Scott Fusco stated that the player should be liable for full tuition once they make a commitment to the program. Hugh suggested that no refunds should be made for any registration or tuition payment. Glenn Mills suggested a model used by other towns where the tuition schedule is front end loaded to drive commitment to the program. Hugh Mullin then stated that we just need a policy. What can really hurt us is where a registration fee is paid but not the June payment and then a player drops out. Tom Troiano then suggested that the refund criteria issue be tabled for a future meeting.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Tom Troiano and seconded by Ron Martignetti and approved by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Registrars Report

Chris Goodyear reported that there are a number of USA Rosters that need to be signed and turned in this week. She also stated that on December 7th the PeeWee C2's will be competing in their opening Play-down game and on the first Monday in January there will be a seeding meeting for the District 9 Play-downs. If a head coach cannot attend she advises that they should generate a list of District 9 teams that their teams have played and won. The large bulk of the games are over the MLK weekend. Chris noted that she had copies of the State Bound Tournament locations that will be distributed to head coaches.

Equipment

Hugh Mullin reported that he recently has purchased a new set of goalie pads and a chest protector for the Girls Squirt 1 team. He also noted that the MWM may be short some jerseys. Scott Fusco responded that he is in possession of 3 white sets. Hugh and Scott agreed to resolve any issues with the MWM outside of this meeting. Dave DiCecca raised the question regarding bantam C2 Jerseys as the Bantam C1's are missing some numbers.

In response, Tom Troiano reported that he has received a bag of Jersey's that could indeed be this set.

Coaches Committee Report

Fred Cammon reported that he was briefed on unacceptable behavior that has been reported in the locker rooms before and after practice and skills with no further actions or report by the committee.

Ron Martignetti reported that he was questioned about thefts that occurred at the Flynn Rink and the possible link to WYH. The locker rooms at the Flynn have been the scene of multiple thefts and it is advised that coaches obtain a key and lock the locker rooms.

Fred Cammon reported that Zach Hoover from the Lowell Lock Monster organization called him regarding their program where youth teams can play before and attend a Lock Monster game at the Tsongas Arena. Fred advised if anyone is interested that they should contact him.

ACE Coordinator Report

David Hennessey reported that he attended an event sponsored by USA Hockey that focused on their ACE Coordinator Program. He noted that they now are sponsoring a program; EFFORT that links the coaches, players and parents. It is suggested that a program wide meeting be held to accomplish its goals. Adam Miller, a sports psychologist from BU presented at this event and has offered to participate in meetings with different town programs.

David stated that medical consent forms should be signed for each player in the program. Denis O'Donnell stated that no one (hospital) will treat an injured player without a signed statement unless the injury is life threatening and then the provider is protected by the Good Samaritan Act. David also stated that this program should be recording injuries to contribute to the USA Hockey database. Joe Sacco asked how serious of an injury should be reported and what is serious. It was agreed that the threshold of a serious injury is one that requires a hospital or doctor's visit.

Also debated at this forum was the proposed mandate requiring coaches to wear helmets. The Haverhill and Franklin programs have adopted this as a rule and it is growing support. David also mentioned a risk where we have LTS instructors who are under age 18. Age 18 or older is acceptable, but under age 18 is a risk. General discussion regarding figure skating and the lack of helmets used in this sport followed.

David wants to drive the Parents Meeting. USA Hockey provides a lot of information but most education is used for the sole purpose of obtaining a patch. Ron recommends that the program utilize its' pool of great communicators for these meetings. Chris Goodyear feels that we missed the window of opportunity this season for such a meeting.

Ice Committee

Tom Troiano reported that the committee will be publishing the December Practice Schedule. WYH will be selling some excess ice to WHS and Middle School Hockey Teams. Denis reported that the 4PM ice time at Malden is not working for the Girls Program. It is a tough time for both coaches and players. He stated that this is true for all other teams as well. Tom responded that the Malden ice after Thanksgiving is at 5PM and the committee will reexamine the 4PM slot in the future.

Girls Hockey League

Jim Leo reported on the issue regarding of the roster size of the Squirt 1 team. Currently there are only 9 skaters on the roster. The team plays in two leagues has struggled through the parity round and other conflicts. It appears there is no players that could be brought up from the Squirt 2's on a game to game or permanent basis. It was agreed that if available any age appropriate player registered in our girls-only program could be called up to ensure a team could compete in league play as long as it was appropriate to the competitiveness of the game.

Glenn Mills reported the Midget Girls have two skates left and the program is on budget. The program last some significant ice previously planned at Stoneham and Somerville and made up for it with synthetic ice sessions. A \$360 credit is still outstanding to WYH from the Stoneham Arena for the 10/11 cancellation due to an overbooking.

Dual State League Report

David Hennessey reported that the new schedule is out and reminded everyone that when the new schedule is released at the end of January, that games start immediately with very little notice. Coaches should be aware and take particular note here. David questioned if there were any concerns regarding placement after parity. He noted 7 out of 10 teams in our program are placed in the top division of their classification.

Valley League Report

Nothing to Report

Tri-City League (MWMHL) Report

Scott Fusco reported that this league has been replaced by the Melrose-Winchester-Malden Hockey Instructional League (MWM IHL). The league now includes 9 teams as Malden has entered another team. One team will have an intra-squad game due to the

league numbers. Scott noted that there will be an excess sheet of ice on Sunday's at 7AM through January. These 50 Minute sheets originally allocated to the MWMHL will go unused. He also noted that a small bumper missing from the bumper set the league owns.

Learn to Skate

Dave DiCecca reported that there was only one issue with Learn to Skate where he had to chase down a parent to signature on a form and payment. The matter is now resolved.

Skills

Nothing to Report

Director of Endowment

Nothing to Report

Fundraising/50th Anniversary/Casino Night

Nothing to Report

Committee on By Laws and Policies and Procedures

Tom Troiano reported that the proposed By Law changes have been reviewed but we are still hung up on the Coaches Committee and the Presidents role. Chris Goodyear stated that we need a Disciplinary Committee. Ron Martignetti agreed but such a committee may have the risk of ramping up to quickly. Tom Troiano stated that this justifies the Coaches Committee serving as the Disciplinary Committee. David Hennessey stated that the Disciplinary Committee is a sub of the Coaches Committee and should be formed prior to a matter it handles. He also questioned, given the Ace Coordinator Role is the Coaches Committee the right name. The Ace Coordinator picks up 80% of the Coaches Committee's work. Chris Goodyear clarified and earlier statement and by reporting that you are not required to have a Disciplinary Committee but be able to run a discipline hearing. Tom Troiano responded that we want a sitting committee for this function. Ron Martignetti suggested this be brought to a vote; Coaches Committee comprised of the Ace Coordinator and two others and also asked does the AC Role end at education and picking a slate of coaches. Tom Troiano then took the action to rework the by laws and sent out to BOD for review. There were no concerns regarding changing the head coach rule for the Coaches Committee.

New Business

Scott Fusco commented that we as a board are deferring many issues and never seem to get to them and we probably need a separate meeting to decide on next years format. Ron

Martignetti suggested that a sub-committee needs to cull these issues out. Hugh Mullin suggested that actions be taken immediately. Tom Troiano stated that we still need to do the survey. This will allow us to identify 2 or 3 major issues and work them out. The fundamental issue is whether we retain our 2 league and 3 practice per week program model. Ron Martignetti noted that our program is more than \$500 more per season than all others in the area. The two league model does not allow for a tuition under \$1000. Most town programs are under \$1000. Hugh offered a motion to set up a committee with Scott Fusco as chair to research this issue and make recommendations to the board. Tom Troiano seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Tom asked for any one interested to sit on this panel to send an E-Mail to Scott Fusco.

Adjournment

Ron Martignetti made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Scott Fusco, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

The next scheduled meeting of the WYH Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, December 20, 2004, in the Winchester High School Cafeteria.