

WINCHESTER YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday, December 19, 2005

Attendees Directors – Tom Troiano, Jim Leo, Hugh Mullin, Ron Martignetti, Chris Goodyear, Scott Fusco, John Addonizio, Erik Knutzen, Tim Smith, Dave DiCecca, Denis O’Donnell, David Hennessey, Nick Mitropoulos, Mark Robinson

WYH Members – None

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 November 21, 2005 BOD Meeting

On reading of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of November 21, 2005 there were no corrections or changes made. A motion to accept the Minutes of the November 21, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting was made by Nick Mitropoulos and seconded by John Addonizio. The motion was unanimously approved and the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of November 21, 2005 were entered into the record.

Treasurer’s Report

Hugh Mullin presented the December Treasurer’s Report as follows;

- The Cash Flow Statement showed total cash position of \$207,718 with \$100,180 balance in a Certificate of Deposit. Hugh said that we have received about \$45K in revenue for the month with the majority being on-line tuition payments. A balance shown in the “Other” line is comprised of income from sweatshirt sales and receipt of payment for Somerville ice of which we have sold. The cost of the sweatshirts is shown as a December expense in excess of \$4,000.

- Hugh responded to Mark Robinson's question on whether tuition payments are on schedule by stating that we have about 100 families who are behind on their payments. In addition to the fact that these tuitions are delinquent, this could become a problem because we have to switch our billing system over to prepare for next season. Tom Troiano further explained that a modification to our software program is required to accept registrations for a new season. Our placement process for next season will be held in March; therefore registration will begin some time in February, necessitating the turnover by then.
- The Winchester Savings Bank on-line statement showed as of 12/19, a \$107,538 checking account balance and \$100,180 balance in a Certificate of Deposit.
- Hugh said that Hartnett and Company has not heard back from the IRS in regard to the \$6,820 penalty lien that was assessed to WYH for not filing a 2001 tax return in a timely manner.

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

Registration/USA Hockey/Mass Hockey/District 9

Chris Goodyear reported the following;

- The Girls District 9 Playdowns are in process and our U14A team will replay their tie game against Woburn tomorrow night.
- The District 9 Playdown seeding meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 4 at the Woburn Rink. Coaches should be aware that most important criteria for determining the playdown seedings are the results of games against your District 9 or common opponents. Tom Troiano said that the Arlington Christmas Tournament puts us up against some District 9 teams.
- Included on the agenda for the State Meeting in June will be a vote on permitting town teams to go National Bound at the Minor level.

Tom Troiano said that he has spoken of a proposal with Steve Palmacci (District 9 Registrar) involving having one state tournament (as opposed to State Bound and National Bound) and sending the champion to the National Tournament and noted Woburn will be representing Massachusetts uncontested in the National Tournament at the Bantam Tier II level. A general discussion involved the structure of youth hockey in Massachusetts in comparison to rest of the country.

Ice Committee

Tom Troiano reported that we did sell 2 hours of our Sunday ice in Somerville to Belmont Youth Hockey for the remainder of the season. This is only for one year. An initial offer was made to a high school program but the JV coach was not interested in giving up his hours at the North End Rink in the case that the Somerville Rink closes in conjunction with the DCR Rink privatizations. Tom said that on a related subject, FMC has put out a letter announcing that the former DCR rinks that they now manage (including Cambridge) will be open 12 months per year. Tom said that the practice ice schedule for January has been completed and released

Coaches Committee Report/ACE Director

David Hennessey reported;

- As of today an issue involving a Squirt C parent and two coaches has been put to rest. The parent has been put on notice for the reported behavior. The coaches made attempts to deal with this from the beginning of the season but by Mid-October the situation required intervention from this committee. After Ron Martignetti asked if he could articulate on the incidents, David said that emotions got the best of the parent and were inconsistent with the principals of the organization. The issues had some legitimacy but the methods used were not correct.
- The seminars for last group of coaches that required certification occurred this past weekend in Rhode Island. After this everyone coaching in the program will comply with USA Hockey requirements.

Tom Troiano asked if our program is consistent with the Disciplinary Packet distributed by Mass Hockey. David said this goes back to our Bylaws, which are based on governing bodies' requirements.

Chris Goodyear reminded everyone that nobody should be on the ice if they are not on a roster, as they are not insured.

Girls-Only Program

Jim Leo reported that the Girls U14A team participated in District 9 Playdowns last week and the U12, U14A and U14B teams will now be scheduled to attend Sunday Skills at the Flynn on designated hours. These are sessions previously inclusive to the Boys Open Travel Teams but will now accommodate the girl's only teams. Tom Troiano noted that given the significant number of Sunday night games (Winchester as well as Select, Metro, EHF, etc.) that there's room to add the girls on Sunday nights.

Tom Troiano noted that the Girls Program may be going through some growing pains evidenced by the U10 team being not allowed to play in a Christmas Tournament because of 12 year olds on the roster. Tom also noted that the U14B team (which is made up largely of U12s) had to withdraw from the District playdowns because the coaches thought the competition was inappropriate for their team (which was the right thing to do) and he also noted that given the large range of ages on the girls-only teams that it can be very inappropriate to call up players from lower teams. Tom said that a 7 year old had been playing in U14 games. Tom said that he feels that prior to placements this year we really need to understand why we are not aligning our teams according to the USA Hockey age classifications. Ron Martignetti noted that this same exact scenario played itself out on the boys' side 20 years ago. At that time rosters had boys of very different ages and they were put together solely based on skills. Ron noted that as the program matured we stopped this practice and required all boys to play in their proper age bracket. Ron noted that perhaps the girls-only program has now matured to the point where we must move in this direction. Hugh Mullin added that the girls' leagues are now getting stricter about rosters and what brackets the teams play in.

Dual State League

Erik Knutzen said that the rumors that involve the closing of the Skate 3 rink complex are not true and may have been spread by competitive organizations. David Hennessey noted that there is a letter regarding this rumor on the Dual State League website. Erik said that he has not heard from anyone in the program about changing or canceling games.

Valley League Report

Nothing to report.

Learn to Skate

John Addonizio said that the Santa Skate went well and was a wonderful experience for the skaters in the LTS program. It was highlighted by handing out 100 hats as gifts to the children and teachers. John said that he spoken with many people inquiring about continuing on to the second session.

Learn to Play Hockey

Scott Fusco said that there are no issues to report at this time. One player has dropped out of the program leaving us with 85 players. There is one week of cross-ice games and the full ice schedule begins after the January 8th session. The parking lot over-capacity situation seems to be resolved with the rescheduling of the cross-ice sessions that were previously back to back. The potential of this happening again this season goes away after January 8th with the change to full ice. Scott also said that he wants to thank Anthony Martignetti on the behalf of the program, for repairing the damaged Flynn Rink hockey net that is essential to the LTPH program.

Out of Town Players in WYH

Tom Troiano said that on the request of Mark Robinson, a discussion on our policy of out of town players has been added to the agenda under New Business. Tom said that we currently allow “Out of Town Players” into the program if 1) they are a current member and move out of town, and until you move to another program, 2) a non-resident who attends school in town, and 3) a non-resident who does not attend school in Winchester but is needed to fill a roster at the lowest level of a age classification. In the third category players are welcome in subsequent years to try out and be placed on any team as appropriate. We recently had a Peewee B goaltender leave the program and subsequently replaced him with a goaltender from Stoneham rather than move up the Peewee C goaltender.

The decision was made based on experience to avoid placing a player inappropriately. Denis O’Donnell asked if we had a precedent to guide us here. Tom said we currently have an out of town goaltender at the Peewee A level who was brought in during a previous season at the lowest level and was placed at the A level the next season after he was allowed to tryout.

Mark Robinson asked “why do we have to oblige ourselves after the first season?”. Is this fair to an in-town goaltender that may make a commitment to this position based on the knowledge there are openings in his age group. Mark said that the Peewee A team lost 6 players after placements. Mark asked why would he not be able to bring in out of towners’ in this situation. Mark made the point that we would never allow out of town skaters to join the Pee Wee A team but we’ve allowed an out of town goalie to join the Pee Wee B team. Mark said, this is Winchester Youth Hockey, if a player makes a commitment why should he lose his spot to an out of town player.

Tom Troiano said that from a survey of surrounding programs, Medford does not allow out of town players and Melrose and Belmont have the same policy as Winchester. Denis O’Donnell said that in the past we brought in players sight unseen but with goaltenders it is a much broader question. David Hennessey said that most out of town players are as committed to the program as our own players. There could be a lot of ripple effects if you put a B Level goaltender at the A level. You could hurt a player’s progress by being misplaced and you could impact the team. Ron Martignetti said that it was a point well taken as when you get to the Bantam level, misplacement could seriously demoralize a player and we as a Board should be sensitive to that. Nick Mitropoulos said that maybe we should consider just filling slots one year at a time to fill a need. It could be a positional player or a goaltender. We would have to work through it on a case-by-case basis. No recruitment, just a year-to-year thing. Denis O’Donnell said that we may need two tracks, one for goaltenders and one for skaters. Out of town parents will need to know what the policy is.

Tom Troiano said that we have not done much out of town recruitment recently and instead expanded the rosters to avoid it. Marks’ points are fair. At this point we have a

few out of town midget players who have been in the program for 5 years and have less than ten out of town players at the lower levels.

Eric Knutznen said that he has told the out of town B goaltender's parents about Winchester's policy and they are clear on expectations for next year. He is the only 1994 birth year goaltender in our program. There has been no conversation to date with the C goaltenders parents. Mark Robinson said that there are a lot of good athletes at this level that can skate and could make the switch to a goaltender. What is our policy if the B team player leaves? Does the C goaltender move up? Is it safety issue versus talent issues? Mark asked to table this and at the next Board meeting make a roll call vote.

Other New Business

Mark Robinson said in an update on the Winchester Community Center that it was determined that Skillings Field location is in a Flood Plan location and it is very unlikely that construction of a new high school would work there. The costs to build the community center on this site would also increase from earlier estimates because of the flood plan. More information should be available on this by our next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the WYH Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2006 at 7:00PM in the cafeteria at Winchester High School.

Adjournment

Erik Knutzen made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Addonizio and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.