

WINCHESTER HOCKEY PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

March 23, 2009

Attendees Directors – , Jim Kiley, Steve Tucci, Brud Houllahan, John Addonizio, Chris Parker, Denis O’Donnell, Steve Keating, Carl Pasciuto.
Members - none.

President opened the meeting at 7:00 PM in the Winchester Room at the Town Hall. By a poll of WYH Board of Directors members present, it was determined that a quorum was present to allow for the transaction of Winchester Youth Hockey business.

Minutes from February Meeting

The Minutes of the February BOD meeting were reviewed. Denis O’Donnell made a motion to accept the Minutes of the February meeting and Brud Houllahan provided the second for the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Board and entered into the record.

Treasurer’s Report

Jim Kiley presented the Treasurer’s Report, noting that the spreadsheet setup by Hugh Mullin really makes it easy to follow the cash flows of the WYH organization.

The Winchester Savings Bank on-line statement that was provided showed a checking account balance of \$31,110.28. The balance in the 12 month Certificate of Deposit is \$159,075.39 and the rolling 6 month CD has a balance of \$50,808.36. The total cash on hand for the corporation is \$240,994.03.

Jim continued commenting that the next season (2009-2010) fees were steadily coming in but that WYH was currently down approximately \$1,800 from Hockey Operations. Jim informed the Board that WYH is owed only \$850.00 (out of a \$400,000 budget) in tuition.

Carl Pasciuto noted that the net financial benefit from the Comedy Night fundraising event was approximately \$11,200 for WYH.

Chris Parker presented David Hennessey with a ceremonial \$4,000.00 check he received on behalf of WYH on March 12th at a Bruins game. The grant from the Bruins Foundation and Mass Hockey was approved due to the comprehensive, well-written and detailed grant application that WYH sent forward for the 2009-2010 WYH Cheever Program.

Jim Kiley concluded the discussion by saying even with the costs for the web-site redesign and approximately \$9,000 for the Marketing Committee’s sweatshirts, the \$1,800 shortfall from Hockey Operations is more than made up for by the fundraising and other corporate donations.

Denis O'Donnell suggested that the WYH board should consider utilizing the computer programming skills for WYH parents Peter Ross and Michelle Murray-Ross to help defray website development/maintenance costs in the future.

remarked that April is a big month for financials and other related Treasurer agenda items. Most significantly approval of the tuition model for the 2009-2010 season will occur at the April meeting. He continued that the DCR costs will be increasing next year. Specifically, the little rink "free ice" that we've historically enjoyed will cost \$80.00 per 50 minute "hour" next season.

John Addonizio made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Carl Pasciuto seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

New Business

Discussion on Introduction of In-House Program for the 2009-2010 season.

At the current time, the In-House Program will consist of one game per week for Squirt-age players and one game per week for Pee Wee-age players, to be held from 10am - Noon on Saturdays at the Holland Rink in Woburn. We may also explore the possibility of adding in one practice per week, depending on ice availability and interest from families involved in the In-House Program.

Denis O'Donnell suggested that WYH Ice Committee should consider purchasing ice at the Holland Rink for Tri-City practices. stated that the Ice Committee would figure out the practice ice needs as we get further along with defining our entire 2009-2010 program.

Denis O'Donnell made a motion to move forward with the "In-House" program for the 2009-2010 Season. The motion was seconded by Steve Keating and accepted by the Board.

Steve subsequently remarked that perhaps the WYH Board may want to summarize in an e-mail/newsletter to our constituents some of the steps that were taken to adjust the program to the changing needs of our families/players resulting from the Marketing Committee focus groups. For example:

1. In-House Program
2. Marketing – Sweatshirts, Kids rollerblading in parade and handing out WYH pucks and running a slap shot contest at Town Day.
3. Earlier Communication of Placement results

Discussion on Travel Leagues

David Hennessey reminded the Board that while it was voted at the February Board Meeting to move all Boys Travel teams (Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee and Bantam levels) with the exception of the Midgets to the Valley League, formal communication of that decision to the leagues has not happened yet. David also commented that multiple 9:30PM Midget games in Haverhill caused several WYH parents to formally and informally complain to the coach and the WYH President. continued by saying that the Valley League has stated that with the addition of a new second Zamboni to the Haverhill facility the problem of late games (or games delayed due to Zamboni use on the adjacent rink) will be less. The new Zamboni will saving approximately 30 minutes of

time per day. The VL claims that midget games will be scheduled so that late games may vary between and 8:50PM and 9:00PM start times.

Regarding the Dual-State League and the disparity of competition, shared with the Board that Brian Ferraro of the Dual State League had called to inform WYH that the Manchester Flames #1 team and the River Hawks “select” teams would be bringing their teams back to the DSL for the 2009-2010 season. The purpose of the call was for the DSL to ascertain whether or not WYH would be returning to the DSL for the 2009-2010 season.

In the interest in time and pending additional information and Board member input, Jim Kiley suggested that the Board delay voting until the April meeting on which league the Midgets should play in next season.

WYH/WHS Awards

started discussion on the WYH “Super” Galvin Awards.

- Herb Wood Award - The WYH President received written nominations for the WYH Bantam players most deserving of the award. These nominations were discussed and the Board unanimously voted to give the award to Scott Carson.
- Shirley Griffin Award - After some discussion of the question of precisely the exact namesake of this award, and with no disrespect meant to her or her family, made a motion to rename this Award to the Ed O’Donnell Award, to be named after the recently departed WHS Girls Assistant Coach and former WYH Girl’s coach. Carl Pasciuto seconded the motion and the Board unanimously accepted the motion. offered to write a letter to invite the O’Donnell family to the April 16th WYH banquet to participate in the ceremony. The WYH President received a written nomination for WYH U14 player most deserving of the award. McKenzie Tucci’s nomination was reviewed and unanimously concurred with by the Board.

Discussion continued for the following WHS Awards.

- Anthony Martignetti Award - A Scholarship awarded by Winchester Youth Hockey via an endowed gift of the Ron Martignetti family to the unsung hero of the Winchester High School hockey teams. The Board voted unanimously for the 2008-2009 winners: Kevin Carson for the boys and Julia Symonds for the girls.
- Bill Cruwys MVP Award – A Scholarship awarded by WYH to the MVP’s of the Winchester High School hockey teams. Because the selection was difficult and the initial vote very close, for both the boys and girls MVPs, it was decided to award co-winners. The boys co-recipients for 2008-2009 are Paul Troiano and Tim Mitropoulos. The girls winners for 2008-2009 are Hillary Savoy and Michaela Chiuccariello.

Girls-Only Travel Hockey – Teams to be placed in the Valley League?

Jim Kiley remarked that while the WYH web-site shows 17 girls on the Valley league team, all age groups between 10 and 14 year olds were listed there for the time being due to the registration process. There is no intention that they all would be placed on a single Valley league girls team. The team will be sorted out in the coming months.

Steve Tucci made note of the success that WYH U14 team had in the Valley League in 2008-2009.

Presentation by Brian Daccord – Goaltender Clinic

Due to a scheduling concern David Hennessey stated that this agenda item was postponed until, our April meeting. The clinics would be held at the PHD facility in Woburn (real ice vs. artificial ice used by Puck Stoppers). Brian Daccord is offering 5-6 goalies on real ice @ \$240.00 per hour, with a commitment required for 8 or 16 week sessions. This compares to the \$100.00 per hours that we pay Puck Stoppers for 3-4 goalies for synthetic ice on a rotating Wednesday schedule.

Denis O'Donnell remarked that Brian Daccord is focused on training the “elite” college players.

Chris Parker suggested that whichever decision is made, that WYH should be sensitive to the successive Tues.- Wed. - Thur. practice schedule that might unfold for goalies, if we choose to send goalies every week to goaltender clinics.

Coaches Committee

The Coaches Committee had no issues to report.

ACE Coordinator

The ACE Coordinator had no issues to report.

Dual State League

David Hennessey, Jim Kiley and Chris Parker agreed that they had been told by the DSL that WYH would receive a refund for games not played for the 42-45 game regular season schedule that was contracted for the 2008-2009 season. Secondly, Jim Kiley noted that he would write checks to the DSL for the PeeWee A and Pee Wee B teams for the games that they expect to play in the 2008-2009 DSL playoffs.

Valley League

stated that USA Hockey rosters won't be accepted by the Valley League for playoffs, so the coaches would have to validate their rosters online at the Valley League web-site.

Learn to Play Hockey / Learn to Skate Programs

David Hennessey reported a minor scheduling error for Tri-City that resulted in lost ice on 3/15/09, which caused the season to end abruptly. The Tri-City players would receive their trophies at the banquet.

also mentioned that trophies were given out at the last session of Learn to Skate and by all accounts Linda Eberth had a great year. stated that discussion would occur in June regarding the program for the 2009-2010 LTS session(s).

Carl Pasciuto questioned how many hours of ice WYH lost during the past season, and wanted to compare this year to a typical year. Board members concluded that this year was typical and given possible changes at the DCR with ice cost and scheduling, the Ice Committee would have to address this issue in the coming months.

Mass Hockey/District 9

No issues to report.

Boys/Open Travel

Unfortunately it was reported that our teams did not move to the next round of Mini One-on-One competition.

reported that while placements were recently completed, there still remain questions on the number of teams and head coaching assignments. Currently WYH is planning to field 2 Bantam travel teams, 2 or 3 Pee Wee travel teams, 4 Squirt travel teams and 3 Mite travel teams. Due to the accelerated placement schedule this year, the WYH President would be communicating shortly with the WYH constituents via email the need for patience while WYH completes the notification process.

Steve Keating suggested inviting the Learn to Play Hockey coaches to a subsequent Board meeting to help bring them along and familiarize them with the workings of WYH as they are the next wave of Head Coaches.

Denis O'Donnell suggested that the WYH president formally invite the WHS players and families who won awards to the April 16th banquet. Brud Houllahan also suggested notifying the Winchester Star of the newly named Ed O'Donnell Award.

Brud Houllahan suggested that the head coaches consider calling their players to welcome them to their team, although since all Head Coaches had yet to be selected/notified it was thought to leave it up to the individual coach if and how (by telephone, handwritten letter, or email) they would contact their team for next season. Many Board Members supported the idea of a call, but it wasn't unanimous.

Ice Committee – DCR Plan to charge for Little Rink

The little rink "free ice" that we've historically enjoyed will cost \$80.00 per 50 minute block next season.

Fundraising Committee

The Board made a point to thank Carl Pasciuto and his Fundraising Committee for the \$11,200 that was raised in the joint fund raising event.

Carl reiterated upcoming Marketing opportunities, specifically the WYH booth at 6/6/09 Town Day, as well as the slap shot velocity contest, and parade participation by WYH players on rollerblades.

Chris Parker offered to secure a quote (from the same puck company previously used by WYH in May 2008) for 500 WYH branded pucks that would be used for the 2009-2010 season and/or for various Marketing events going forward, perhaps for Town Day.

Banquet

stated that the banquet is moving along fine, but Ed Ducharme was looking for volunteers to help with the setup and cleanup.

John Addonizio requested coaches and parents to send digital pictures of their teams to him for compilation in a slide show for the banquet.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Winchester Youth Hockey Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday April 27, 2009, 7:00PM in the Winchester Room of the Town Hall.

Adjournment

Denis O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Brud Houllahan and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.