

WINCHESTER HOCKEY PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

September 22, 2008

Attendees Directors - Tom Troiano, Hugh Mullin, Jim Kiley, Denis O'Donnell, Steve Tucci, Ed Ducharme, David Hennessey, Carl Pasciuto, Chris Parker, John Addonizio, Roland Goff, Erick Knutzen, Brud Houllahan.

President David Hennessey opened the meeting at 6:40 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 Winchester Youth Hockey business.

Minutes from June Meeting

The Minutes of the June meeting were reviewed. Hugh Mullin made a motion to accept the Minutes of the August meeting, and the motion was seconded by Ed Ducharme. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board and entered into the record.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Kiley presented the Treasurer's Report as follows.

The Winchester Savings Bank on-line statement showed a checking account balance of \$91,873.64. The balance in the 12 month Certificate of Deposit is \$155,703.81 and the rolling 6 month CD has a balance of \$84,831.89. The total cash on hand for the corporation is \$332,409.34.

Jim noted that WYH is receiving 4.65% as interest on the money held by the Winchester Savings Bank.

Ed Ducharme made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Erik Knutzen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Coaches Committee

The Coaches Committee had no issues to report.

Dual State League

Dual State Representative Erik Knutzen reported the competition in the Dual State league for the Bantam A team was not appropriate. In five (5) games the Bantam A team had outscored opponents 27 to 8 and since it was in the strong parity bracket it was unlikely that teams from a lower bracket would move up to provide a competitive balance. Erik also noted that most of the strong District 9 teams (e.g., Reading and Woburn) were playing in the Valley League. Erik recommended that the WYH move to the VL after the VL has completed its parity round and that the Bantam A team complete the Dual State parity round.

Hugh Mullin asked if this moved required a Board vote, and David Hennessey replied that it would.

David Hennessey had spoken to the VL and received would allow WYH move to the VL for the first post parity schedule. David also reported there are no other WYH hockey teams facing this competition problem. He also stated there might be a financial penalty for moving out of the DS League at this point in time, however, the contract signed by WYH with the DS League is only for the parity round.

Hugh Mullen made a motion to move the Bantam A team to the VL. Denis O'Donnell provided a second for the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Valley League

The Midget half season schedule has increased to 18 games from 13. During the change in the half season midget schedule, the VL put the full season midget team into a 45 game schedule. WYH has contacted the VL and requested the full season midget schedule be reduced to 30 games.

Learn to Skate and Learn to Play Hockey

David Hennessey reported that WYH had 23 players registered for Learn to Play Hockey and 32 registrants for the Learn to Skate program. The Learn to Play Hockey program (Tri-City) will begin on October 11th and the Learn to Skate Program will begin on October 25th. The numbers are a bit low at this point, but there is usually more registration for these programs in October. David will contact the PTAs at all elementary schools to announce that registration for the two programs continues in October.

Learn to Play Hockey - John Addonizio will contact the youth hockey programs in Melrose, Malden and Medford to determine how many teams they have for the coming season. Arlington will place one team in the league this season. Tom Troiano mentioned that Belmont is interested in joining the league. If there are not 8 teams from the towns listed above, John will contact other youth programs in the area to determine if there is any interest to join the league.

Mass Hockey/District 9

Erik Knutzen stated the deadline for roster submission is October 1st for travel teams and December 1st for Learn to Play Hockey teams.

Denis O'Donnell suggested that each team have 3 to 4 coaches listed on the each roster to assure coaching coverage during the state playdown games.

The seeding meeting for the Midget playdowns is September 24th. The Bantam playdowns will be conducted this fall and end by Thanksgiving. The seeding meeting for Bantam teams is scheduled for October 13th.

Arlington and Lexington/Bedford is considering a no check Pee Wee house league. WYH may wish to explore this option if the league does begin play.

Boys/Open Travel Hockey

During a recent Bantam game at Skate 3 several players had personal items taken from the locker room. Coaches should remind players not bring expensive personal items to the locker room.

Girls-Only Travel Hockey

Steve Tucci reported that practice begins on September 27th, and the Middlesex Yankee Girls Hockey (MYGHL) and Valley League (VL) will begin play in October. Since the VL team is comprised of girls from three MYGHL teams, there is a request to create VL team tab on the web site so that the schedule for that league is separate from the MYGHL schedules. Tom Troiano stated that he would follow-up with the web designer to determine if this is possible.

The U14A teams does not have a permanent goalie, and may seek a waiver for a player whose birth date is only a few days after the cut age groups cut-off of 12/31/94. Also, the board will return to a discussion about the lack of goalies in the girls program at future meeting.

There a girls participating on the boys program Bantam B team which raises issue about locker room use. Denis O'Donnell suggested the board consult with other towns/programs and develop a policy.

Ice Committee

Tom Troiano reported that he was confirming the Harvard ice times that would be available for WYH and that WYH may pick up some additional Saturday ice at 1PM at the Flynn. The Flynn is scheduled to open on October 11, 2008.

Marketing Committee

Carl Pasciuto informed the Board that the Marketing Committee will begin meeting at the end of October to develop proposals for the Board to consider at future meetings.

Carl went on to make a proposal for WYH to purchase sweatshirts for all hockey players in the WYH. The sweatshirts would be black with read letters with a Winchester/WYH logo on the front and player's name and number on the sleeve. The approximate cost would be \$23.00 per sweatshirt, with an estimated total cost of \$6,000.00.

The Board went on to discuss two issues related to the proposal – what is the purpose and is this expenditure a proper use of the endowment. Members commented that the sweatshirts would be popular with players because they like to wear team shirts, and it would be a team building (program building) exercise so that when Winchester teams went to games the sweatshirts would public sign for their team. Tom Troiano asked if there were any other expected expenditures of endowment money for 2008-2009, other than payment for the recent web sire upgrade and providing buses to the Holy Cross versus Boston University hockey game in November. President David Hennessey stated there is no other planned use of endowment funds for this season. Also, it was noted that a small fund raiser that could be held in early February could provide increased funding for the endowment.

Hugh Mullin made a motion that WYH purchase sweatshirts for all hockey players (Tri-City through Midgets) as soon as possible. The motion received a second from Brud Houllahan, and the motion passed unanimously.

Denis O'Donnell, referring to a comment by Ron Martignetti at a previous meeting, suggested that WYH develop a written outline of the pluses and minuses of town hockey as compared to select hockey.

New Business

Website - David Hennessey thanked Tom Troiano for his work in upgrading the web site. Tom indicated that one last upgrade would add about \$700 to the cost of the upgrade. The total cost would now be about \$7,000.00.

Cheever Grant - After the Learn to Play Hockey/Tri-City program is up and running, the Board will begin implementation of Cheever Grant proposal.

Equipment - WYH has purchased three (3) new sets of game shirts.

Holiday Tournaments - The Mite A and B teams will be playing in the Arlington and Belmont holiday tournaments and the Mite C team will play in a tournament in Reading.

Dually Registered Girls – A question was put to the Board of whether to alter its policy that girls select to play in either the girls or the boys open travel program since some teams in the girls program have small rosters. There was no need to revisit the policy but the Board reserved its right to address this issue on an ad hoc basis in the future.

Adjournment

Ed Ducharme made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Kiley and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Winchester Youth Hockey Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday October 20, 2008, at 7:00PM. Location to be announced.