

**WINCHESTER HOCKEY PARENTS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**December 15, 2008**

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

Vice-President Tom Troiano opened the meeting at 7:12 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 November Meeting**

The Minutes of the November meeting were reviewed. Erik Knutzen made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 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.

WYH continued to receive tuition payments of during the month of December. Approximately \$75,000.00 of dues income had not yet been received. WYH was making all the regularly scheduled payments for ice and league fees. The Winchester Savings Bank on-line statement showed a checking account balance of \$44,298.18. The balance in the 12 month Certificate of Deposit is \$157,515.18 and the rolling 6 month CD has a balance of \$50,414.22. The total cash on hand for the corporation is \$277,930.10.

Tom Troiano asked about a notice received from the Attorney General's office about filing an annual report with the Commonwealth. Hugh Mullin reported that the notice was to a defunct organization, however, Hugh did review the WYH filings and determined that WYH did not file its annual report with the Attorney General for the years 1999-2002. There reports will be filed this year when WYH files other required reports with the State and Federal Governments.

John Andonizio made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Denis O' Donnell seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Coaches Committee**

The Coaches Committee had no issues to report.

**Dual State League**

No issues to report.

### **Valley League**

Roland Goff reported that the VL had posted a game for the Girls U14 team only one day before the game. It has been requested that the VL assume the responsibility for rescheduling this game.

Bill Redler also reported that a Squirt A game was cancelled at the Burlington Ice Palace because the rink manager did not show. Roland Goff informed the Board that the VL had been contacted and it was meeting with the operators of the BIP to avoid any problems in the future.

### **Learn to Skate and Learn to Play Hockey**

John Addonizio reported that both programs are operating smoothly. John suggested that in the future WYH should have some experienced coaches team with new coaches to run a practice or two and share their experience with being a coach (e.g., how to deal with rosters, game cancellations).

Erik Knutzen reported that the USA Hockey Rosters for the Learn to Play hockey teams are due now.

### **Mass Hockey/District 9**

Erik Knutzen reported that the meeting to set playdown seedings for Pee Wee, Squirt, and Girls will be held on January 7, 2009, at the Joyce M. S. in Woburn. Erik stated that WYH had to file 4-5 supplemental rosters (each supplemental submission costs \$100.00) and asked if there was a large number compared to prior years. Hugh Mullin responded that it was a bit high.

Now that the High School season is under way the Girls U14A team may lose both its goalies. The Board reviewed the rules for playdowns and let coach Steve Tucci know that he can only use a rostered player in goal and cannot call up the U12 goalie.

### **Boys/Open Travel Hockey**

No issues to report.

### **Girls-Only Travel Hockey**

No issues to report.

### **Ice Committee**

Tom Troiano told Board members that the January ice schedule would be out soon. Some practice time will be lost due to state playdown games, and there will be some additional weeknight and Saturday evening ice sheets for make-up games. Tom will seek to schedule some cross ice game slots (in lieu of practice time) for the squirt and mite teams since these sessions were well received last year.

### **Marketing/Fundraising Committee**

Carl Pasciuto reported that if any sweatshirts had errors, he should be informed so he can re-order the necessary sweatshirts. He also said that WYH could start an online store to sell sweatshirts and other WYH items.

Ticket sales for joint WYH/SYBS fundraiser are a bit slow, but that is probably due to the holidays. The Committee is soliciting live and silent auction items. Carl told the Board that he is close of obtaining enough sponsors to cover the cost of the event.

There was a great deal of discussion about how to retain players in WYH, and how to compete with other programs for players.

Steve Keating reported that Committee had completed much of its survey of participants in WYH programs as well as talking to families who have left the program. The Committee has also formed focus groups to discuss WYH programs. The Committee will present its findings to the Board at the January meeting.

Tom Troiano mentioned the idea of announcing placements sooner and lowering the registration fee. Steve Keating said that the announcement of placement information was an issue that some people mentioned in the focus groups. The marketing committee recommends announcing placements sooner. Jim Kiley disagreed saying that those that will leave the program will still leave. Hugh Mullin stated that we do not need the amount of money from the registration fee and 1st payment by June 1st. However, lowering the registration fee may not get more to placements and it has a side effect of raising tuition. Jim Kiley thought it was a bad idea saying that we'll just get more players at placements but that would not necessarily increase enrollment. Denis O'Donnell stated that we really don't know if earlier announcements and a reduced fee will get more to placements or if raising the fee would deter players from attending placements.

### **New Business**

WYH thanked Carl Pasciuto for organizing and ordering the sweatshirts for all WYH players and coaches.

The sale of advertising on the boards at the Flynn will be delayed until next season.

The Cheever program is going well and soon the players will participate in cross ice games. Denis O'Donnell moved that WYH apply for a Cheever Grant for the 09-10 hockey season. Jim Kiley seconded the motion and it was approved by the Board.

### **Adjournment**

Hugh Mullin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ed Ducharme and unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Winchester Youth Hockey Board of Directors is scheduled for Monday January 12, 2009, 7:00PM in the Winchester Room of Town Hall.