

Essex Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2007

Meeting commenced at 7:11pm

Board Member Attendees: Craig Benson, Rich Connolly, Al Foice, Bruce Garrapy, Scott Godin, John Laliberti, Kay Maloney, Paul Murray, Jill Vespa

Member Attendees: Dean Bartlett, Diana Cram, Ruth Cousino, Jay Kagan, Mark McDowell, Lisa MiGinness, Maurice Rosales

February and March Minutes: Approved by all.

Visitor Discussion: Mark McDowell expressed concern regarding having a parent be part of the tryout process while having a child on the ice. In the Squirt level, 3 or of 5 evaluators were parents of squirt players. Mark wants to be sure the tryout is based on skill and not knowledge of the player. Al Foice stated that following the tryout process, there was a process in which all board members reviewed the registration, tryout and evaluation process. This will be acted on this summer as the board prepares for next year. Mark's comments will be included in the process this summer to improve the evaluation procedures.

Old Business:

- Al Foice gave a brief description of recent VSAHA activities. The two most significant relates to the Mite Cross Ice Proposal and the Select Program.
- Mite Cross-Ice Proposal – VSAHA is looking to follow the USA Hockey cross ice initiative as mandatory for the upcoming season. At the last meeting VSAHA President Langrock reported that the State will mandate all local association members to implement cross ice game play at the Mite Level and that there will not be a State Tourney at this level. He promoted the idea supported by USA Hockey and encouraged a study group be established at the state level to ascertain scheduling and other challenges with implementing this proposal. The member associations met this mandate with mixed feelings with strong opinions expressed on both sides of the argument. The concept was piloted in Minnesota, Michigan and Massachusetts and was determined to be a successful development approach for Mite aged players. The concept arguably provides better development by giving players more opportunity to touch the puck and develop puck handling and skating skills in small areas. VSAHA is asking for associations to assign a representative as part of the state task force. The impact on EYHA was briefly discussed including the financial impact. Paul Murray suggested possible sponsorships to help with defray or completely offset the costs.

- Select Team Process – At the last VSAHA meeting there was no discussion regarding the acceptance of select teams (i.e. similar to the Glades program). There are multiple proposals on the table and a study group made up of local associations at the A level that examined various concepts.

New Business:

- Treasurer's Report – Kay Maloney provided a brief summary of the financial condition including the fact that we will end the season in the black. We had a few outstanding items that she hopes to clear up prior to handing all documentation over to the new Treasurer. Kay was thanked for her contributions to the organization.
- Tournament Director – Al spoke with Jeff and communicated a big concern from Jeff's perspective regarding his desire to spend more time with family and share the burden of responsibility for the Thanksgiving Tournament. The tournament demands tremendous time and effort to coordinate during this holiday weekend. Jeff either needs co-chairs to help alleviate the burden or we need to consider another weekend / or another coordinator. Some discussion ensued regarding eliminating this tournament in favor of a post season tournament to take its place. There was some discussion regarding the actual financial impact if the tournament was eliminated. The Treasurer and Director will evaluate and provide an update at the next meeting.
- Head Coach – Scott Godin reported: Still looking for coach and player evaluations. This is a well intended process but still in the first two years of implementation with various levels of success. There are improvements to be made and until it's a stronger program, players will need to request evaluations direct and not automatically receive them from their coaches.

Elections:

The following individuals were nominated, ran unopposed and were elected:

- Al Foice – President – 1 year term
- Will Gonyeau – First Vice President-House – 1 year term
- Paul Murray – Second Vice President-Travel – 1 year term
- Lisa McGinniss –Secretary – 1 year term
- Maurice Rosales – Treasurer – 1 year term
- Craig Benson – Ice Coordinator – Scheduler- 3 year term

Appointed Board Positions:

The following Board Appointed Board positions are available based on feedback from current board members:

- Head Coach – ACE Coordinator - Scott Godin was uncertain and will confirm with Al his decision of whether to stay on the board.
- Equipment Coordinator - Rich Connolly will be stepping down after several years in this role. Dean Bartlett is considering this position

- State Representative: Kevin Norris officially stepped down.
- Women's Director – Pat Lancour officially stepped down.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next Meeting Date:

May 17, 2007 at the Sandhill Road - Essex Fire Station.