

Essex Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2007

Board Member Attendees: Craig Benson, Rich Connelly, Al Foice, Scott Godin, Kib Horsford, Kay Maloney, Paul Murray, Jill Vespa

Member Attendees: Maurice Rosales

Review March 1 Minutes (make up meeting date): Reviewed minutes but not enough board members for a vote to approve. Vote postponed until April meeting.

Visitor Discussion: None

Update on old business:

- New England Festival March 23-25 (16 & 17 year olds) at UVM – Al Foice Reported: Cash needed for change box. Craig Benson to coordinate jersey distribution. Email to team parents to distribute to teams regarding needs for the concession stand. Green Mountain Coffee donated coffee. Contributions from Champlain Farms in the way of wholesale soda. EYHA will receive all proceeds from “chuck a puck” and concession sales.
- Yearbook – Jill Vespa Reported: Proof reviewed. Most of the team pictures did not come out very well. Another method of scanning will be done to see if this clears up the pictures. Set up of the book was more time consuming than anticipated, however, in future years will be ready to go and will be easier to pull together.
- Awards Night – Al Foice Reported: High School Auditorium booked. Award recipients have been selected, trophies and awards ready to go. Jill to print out program sheets. Reminder email to be sent out to team parents for distribution.
- Coach Evaluations – Scott Godin Reported: Not all are in yet. Still a new program but will be valuable during next years tryout and coach selection process.
- Player Evaluations – Scott Godin Reported: Discussion continued regarding whether to give to players as a given or by request only. Board still feels that until this program matures and coaches fully “trained” on how to create a positive based evaluation, this should be distributed by request only. These evaluations will be used, if needed, during the tryout process for the 2007/2008 season.
- State Topics of Conversation – Al Foice Reported: 1. Select teams: still a question as to how select teams should work. CSB has proposed a north and a south select team. These teams would compete as tier 1 in regional play with A teams playing as tier 2 and B teams as tier 3. This is a perfect time and opportunity to review other states and how they work

with select teams. 2. Allstars: continued conversation as to whether select teams should be allowed to participate – general consensus is the best players should represent the State. It is important to note that EYHA can help form the state opinion and we need to continue to be a voice when looking at these issues.

New Business:

- Board Seats: Open positions include – Ice Coordinator, Secretary, Woman's Director, Treasurer, State Representative. There was discussion with Rich Connolly regarding whether he will be continuing his role. Final decision TBD. An idea was brought to the table to combine the Ice Coordinator and Scheduler roles. One works off of the other and if the right person had this role, it could be more efficient and create better communication. Discussion took place concerning the Head Coach role. Should the Head Coach of EYHA be a head coach of an individual team? Head Coach of EYHA needs to be checking in on practices, developing training clinics, create goalie development opportunities, etc. Is it fair to expect the Head Coach to do this and coach an individual team. No decision made at this time.
- Next Season Follow Up: Coaches need to be encouraged to stay in the locker rooms with the kids. Locker Room Boxing and other unsafe activity tends to take place in the coaches absence. For the kids safety – coaches need to be visible.
- Jerseys for next year: We need to think about replacing the blue Jerseys. Two ideas mentioned again this meeting: 1. Kids can purchase the old jerseys to raise money for new ones. 2. Other organizations provide home Jerseys and the players purchase to keep the away Jerseys.

Next Meeting Date – April 19, 2007 at the Essex Fire Station on Sandhill Road.