

Essex Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting – Essex Fire Station – Sandhill Rd.
September 21, 2006

7:10pm

Attendees: Lau Almeida, Charles Cole, Peter Croce, Pavel Dvorak, Gail Lamos, Lesley Larson, David O’Grady, Dan Overton, Maurice Roesales, Monica Sheffert, Kelly Somyear.

Board Member Attendees: Craig Benson, Al Foice, Bruce Garrapy, Scott Godin, Will Gonyeau, Kib Horsford, John Laliberte, Pat Lancour, Estelle LeClair, Paul Murray, Kevin Norris, Tomi Tanghe, Jill Vespa

Agenda Items:

1. August Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve August minutes.
Approved by all.
2. Review and approval of EYHA By-Laws – Dan Overton special guest to assist:
 - The meeting minutes can be reviewed and approved via email, however, should be posted on the web site as a “draft” until the next board meeting where it is officially voted on to approve. At this point, it can be changed to “approved minutes”.
 - Dan advised the board that a group of 9 or more of us in a room constitutes a quorum and we need to be careful of conversations taking place in such an atmosphere.
 - Motion made to keep the audit as stated in the By-Laws and not make changes. All approved.
 - Motion made to change the EYHA board to 16 members. All approved.
 - Dan cautioned us to recognize conversations appropriate for the open board meeting vs. the executive session. Members need to be heard.
3. Visitors Discussion:
 - Leslie Larson will coordinate team and individual photos with Parent Photo. She will ask Parent Photo for an extra 5x7 of each team for the sponsor plaques.

4. Committee Reports -

- Treasurer - Maurice reported for Kay - Bank account report: EYHA
Rink Fund = \$21,306.83
Primary Checking = \$11,682.99
Secondary Checking = \$14,922.24
Total = \$47,912.06

Impact of reduced players is approximately \$30,000 short from anticipated.

Kib reported that he would need a check for USA Hockey in an amount not to exceed \$12,000 for September 22.

- Registrar - Chair Kib Horsford reported - Kib presented registration numbers, which are currently down. Bantams will have an extra goalie. Due to the numbers of participants, the Pee wee level can only support 2 teams. These will be full teams of 15 skaters meaning there will be skaters and a goalie cut. Squirt numbers are low but can support 3 short teams.
- House - Chair John Laliberte present - Wolfie will call anyone that hasn't registered yet.
- Travel - Chair Paul Murray reported - State schedulers' meeting was last Friday. Were successful scheduling games for later in the season. Earlier games are harder to get. We need to obtain ice time earlier than we did this year. Highgate ice seems to be the rink with the most issues. Gail Lamos is willing to help confirm and cancel ice time. Thanks Gail! There are still updates being made to the new web site. When completed, it will look better, documents will go where we want them and the "level of donations" will be better placed. The warm up / tryout schedule is on line.
- Ice Coordinator - Chair Tomi Tanghe reported - Nothing new.
- Tournament Director - Chair Jeff Cabanaw not present.
- Fundraising / sponsorships - Estelle LeClair reported - Golf Tournament looking good. Clothing sales brought in \$400 plus at registration and will continue through family skate night. Estelle is looking at other fundraisers such as candy bar sales, renewing magazines and working at the Teddy Bear Factory. Conversation took place regarding the pizza sale kits. There was concern that

- the participants that received the packets at registration may have had an edge on the kids who registered on line and still needed to pick up their pizza packets. It was suggested that next year the packets be given out during warm ups so everyone has an equal opportunity to sell. Point well taken and noted for next year.
- Head Coach – Chair Scott Godin reported – Coaches meeting went well. After introductions, EYHA mission and philosophy, coaches now have to wear helmets and standard play regulations were discussed. Evaluation teams were selected and the tryout policy was discussed. Outside evaluators will be utilized at each level to help with the process.
 - Head Referee – Chair Bruce Garrapy reported – Behavior expectations have been set high for our coaches. There will be a learning curve to overcome, as specific USA Hockey rules which have been looked over in the past, will now be followed. We should expect to see many more penalties called and coaches will need to be understanding of the fact that some referees will be more in touch with these guidelines than others will.
 - Equipment Manager – Chair Rich Connolly not present.
 - State Representative – Chair Kevin Norris reported – The next state meeting will be held on October 10th. At this last meeting, new board members were introduced and a rather large document was discussed.
 - Women’s Director – Chair Pat Lancour reported – There were many great recruiting ideas brought forward at the state meeting and more at this meeting. 1. Bring a friend to skate 2. Wear jerseys to local college games and get in free 3. Wear jerseys to school on Friday’s before game days 4. Great posters – Generation Hockey we could put around the rink and local fun places 5. Run a girl’s clinic 6. Have the U12 and U14 girls get involved with the novice and mite house programs 7. Invite the novice and house girls to come and watch the U12 and U14 play 8. The U12 and U14 girls should come up with a campaign to promote their program. In addition – the Milton program is also small. Let’s work with them and welcome them into our program.

5. Old Business –

- Tryout Process – Discussion regarding the schedule and how it affects Soccer and Football. Decided that someone would be effected no matter what the schedule looked like. At this point, a draft version has been on the web site for people to plan around. Motion was made to keep the schedule as is. All approved.
- Board members volunteered to administer scoring for team levels they were not associated with in any way.
- As stated above, tryout sessions remained the same even with revised registration numbers.
- Grievance Process discussed. Original thoughts were to have the team coordinator responsible for communicating any grievances from that particular team. It was decided that this may not be the best route to go and could discourage people from wanting this role on their team. Discussed was to assign a board member to each team as the “grievance representative”. Board members would be assigned to a team after the tryout process was complete and teams were selected.
- Midget Program – Continued discussion on the player’s commitment, better organization and ice time ending by 10:15pm. Registration is low. Al commented again that Rich continues to be very committed to the Midget Program and will work hard to improve last years issues.

6. New Business –

- Update on Essex Skating Facility actions – EYHA representatives attended the U46 board meeting to ask if all skating facility users can be ranked as defined by the priority use protocol in the Facility Use Policy, that EYHA be advised of our ranking in relation to all other users and to determine if the rink was complying with the Policy. EYHA provided the board with statistics on the program including the fact that we are the feeder program for both MMU and Essex High School Boys and Girls Hockey programs. 95% of all EYHA participants attend the EHA and MMUHS with 79% and 16% of our members feeding each school respectively. EYHA advised that the Essex Skating Facility provides 68% and 55% of our weekend

and weekday skating needs during the non-HS hockey season period with a drop to 54% and 24% during the HS hockey season. We advised that our ice needs are fulfilled by using other rinks outside of our area and would like to determine if there is more capacity to handle our needs. Our representatives assured the board that we were not trying to displace other programs but trying to ensure that our challenges are being dealt with.

- Football, Soccer and other conflicts with tryouts on the 30th – discussed above.
- Insurance coverage – We may need to obtain additional insurance when playing on UVM ice. Each ice contract will be reviewed to assess potential additional insurance costs.
- Tournament Selection – Paul reports each team is allotted \$800 for tournament participation. It is expected that A/B and B teams will participate in two tournaments and A teams will participate in three tournaments. This will require parents to provide input on attending additional tournaments and may require additional money out of pocket for tournament participation. Due to registration time frames, tournaments need to be scheduled ASAP in order for the tournament to still have availability. Tomi will begin this process. The tournament process is covered in the Parent Handbook and Al will discuss this with the travel parents during tryouts but will make special mention of the demands on A teams in particular. Parents need to be up front with their concerns and they should be addressed by each team immediately.

7. Next Meeting Dates –

- October 19th, Location: Essex Fire Department – Sandhill Station near Foster Road. Park in the rear and on Foster Road – please leave side parking open for emergency responder parking.

8. Adjourn Open Session – 10:14pm

9. Executive Session – closed session

10. Motion to Adjourn – Motion approved at 11:24pm

Jill Vespa

Secretary