

# UVHA Annual Board Meeting Minutes



April 15, 2015 ~ 6:00 PM

Kinney Pike Insurance, White River Junction, Vermont

1. **Attendance:** Kathy Roberts, Shane Murray, Amy Aher, Becky Dexter, Kylie Ammel, Linda Trombley, Jennifer Lindquist, Sarah Morlock, Nate Dube, Bill Mason, Bill Mann, Mark Cromwell, Alex DeFelice, Justin Barwood, Ryan Ray, Matt Maher
2. **Meeting called to order:** 6:03 PM
  - a. March meeting minutes were unanimously approved with an addendum to include Mark Cromwell in attendance (motioned by Matt, seconded by Justin).
3. **Monthly Reports:**
  - a. **Opening Remarks-**Matt welcomed attendees, reminding the group that Board meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. He then summarized the season, highlighting challenges and accomplishments. This recap included remarks regarding the appointment of an interim President, the rink remodel and its subsequent delayed opening, the website migration, a record setting fundraising year, the purchase of new jerseys, steady enrollment, the acquisition of Mite goalie gear, and the relocation of equipment and gear stored at RSD Trucking and Twin State Typewriter. The UVHA also hosted its first tournament, with thanks attributed to Bill Mann for taking on the daunting task. Both Squirt teams made playoffs in their division, with Squirt 1 taking second place. Squirt 1 also became “Pot of Gold” tournament champions. The Bantams also finished the season with a championship title in Hooksett.
  - b. **Financial Review-**Ryan distributed and reviewed the 2014-2015 budget report. The UVHA’s total operating expenses amounted to \$99,246.32. Expenditures included the purchase of ice (\$67,695.75) and jerseys (\$10,772), as well as scholarship awards (\$4,610), camps and clinics (\$1,650), tournaments (\$5,800) and other equipment and miscellaneous expenses. As Matt mentioned, fundraising raised a record \$35,829.96 thanks to the diligent efforts of a growing Fundraising Committee. Revenue totaled \$106,389.96, giving the UVHA a profit of \$7,143.64. Ryan reiterated the importance of fundraising, stating that “it is essential in preserving our programs’ value.” Fundraising allows the UVHA to keep registration fees as low as possible, thus remaining an affordable option for play in the Upper Valley.

- c. **Next Season Preview**-Based on findings from the Registration Intent Survey, Justin shared some preliminary registration numbers and the implications for team formation and ice buying. There are currently 14 Bantam players, 29 Peewees, 21 Squirts, 20 Travel Mites, 16 House Mites, and 20 Termites. With new registrants especially likely at the Termite level, he predicts that numbers could swell to 140. It is also likely that there will be enough players to field two Squirt and two Pee wee teams. With only so much ideal ice time available at WABA, this will present ice purchase and scheduling challenges. Justin pointed out that there may be enough Travel Mites for three small teams, and he is hopeful that the BEFit League can develop further. The Board is considering adding a skills night. There has been a lot of interest in this extra skate. Justin's early estimation is that the UVHA will need to purchase 4-5 more hours of ice each week next season. The Storm is the largest purchaser of ice, the Town is next, and Hanover is a distant third. This relationship between the Town and the Storm is advantageous and the Board will do its best to ensure that the UVHA's ice needs are met. Families should be forewarned, however, that later practice times for older groups may be a necessary compromise.
  - d. **Open Discussion**-The floor was opened to all attendees, giving everyone the opportunity to ask questions, share comments, concerns, etc.
    - i. Midget Team: Becky Dexter voiced issues to consider regarding the formation of a Midget program. Justin suggested that if a Storm Midget program is found to not be viable, the formation of a men's league "B" level team may be an accommodating alternative for players not getting ice time with their respective high school varsity teams. Matt stated that, in his opinion, our first responsibility as a Board is to serve our association's needs. In the case of the development of a Midget program, Storm families would benefit, as well as other area youth. It's advantageous to continue to look into its development.
    - ii. Goalie Clinics: Jennifer Lindquist thanked the Board for holding goalie clinics. She shared that it was enjoyable and beneficial for her daughter. Alex and Ryan were recognized for their efforts in maintaining those Friday night clinics when the program faced some unforeseen coaching changes. Going forward, the Board wants to see those clinics better developed, and is considering the hiring of a directing coach. Alex recommended Jered Condon. Kylie recommended Emilie Donka, and Erin Stevens was again brought up as a possible resource. Contact information was shared, and the Board will reach out to these individuals to inquire about their interest.
4. **New Business**:
- a. **Midget Update**-Todd Bebeau was present to inform the Board of his findings following the last meeting. Todd reached out to a number of local associations. Hartford, Hanover, and Twin Valley contacts were all very interested in the development of a Midget program. He hasn't yet heard from Kearsarge or PVA.

He also contacted Gary Smith, the Lebanon High School coach. Todd learned that there are quite a few Lebanon players who will be left without a place to play if they don't make the Lebanon High School team and would, therefore, likely be interested in Midgets as well. Todd found out that, within the state of Vermont, there are three full-time Midget programs. Each starting in October, playing through March. They are PVA, Saint Albans and Essex. Todd spoke with the Essex Midget coach. He shared that their Midget program starts in October, but has two separate registrations, charging \$195 for play prior to the high school start in November. Following this, players have the option of paying an additional \$495 if they don't make their Varsity team and continue to roster with the Midgets. Essex Midgets practice twice a week and play 20-25 games. In New Hampshire, the Manchester Flames have a Midget level team. They charge \$600 for the season but do not practice at all, instead just playing games. Todd also learned that a Midget team could not play a high school junior varsity team. However, with the number of programs in the area, there would be no shortage of games. It is still not clear as to whether or not a Midget team could play a private school JV team. Todd feels strongly that there is enough interest to move forward with the development of a Midget program. He recommended that the UVHA tentatively advertise the program with the hope of getting at least ten kids to commit to the program before any further planning takes place. Matt said that the logistics of the development of this team will be a significant challenge. The UVHA would need to secure a coach and plan for the additional ice time that this program would require. Bill Mann suggested that perhaps other teams would offer ice in support of the team. Alex stated that having an additional ten kids at Bantam practices would be manageable and potentially beneficial. Todd again shared that he is open to dual-rostering. Those players would be expected to practice with the Varsity team but play games with the Storm.

- i. Action Items: Todd will put feelers out to gauge interest in coaches. In two weeks' time, the Board will draft a program description to be emailed to other association and school contacts, as well as to be distributed through Parks and Recreation departments and the Upper Valley News. Todd advised the Board to have at least ten players committed to consider moving forward with any further planning.
- b. **NH/VT State Affiliation**-Matt brought up for discussion again the pitfalls of the UVHA's dual-state affiliation. The UVHA is currently a consortium of the Greater Lebanon Youth Hockey and Hartford Youth Hockey Associations. The UVHA has had to maintain two tax identifications, bank accounts and Boards. This dual-state affiliation has proven to be beneficial in some regards, allowing, for example, UVHA teams the flexibility to play in Vermont or New Hampshire leagues. However, Matt made clear that NHAH Bylaws state that any participating association's membership must consist of a majority of NH residents. Current UVHA membership does not meet this criteria, putting the UVHA at risk for being ineligible for NH state play. The options are to continue on as two separate associations or to dissolve one of the two associations,

maintaining the tax identification of the other, but legally renaming it as the Upper Valley Hockey Association. This change would incur some costs and limit the association to play within one state. But, not opting to choose a single-state affiliation puts the UVHA in a potentially precarious position. This will be discussed further at both the HYHA and GLYHA Board meetings this evening.

- c. **SafeSport**-Matt thanked Bylaw Committees for their recent work. The Board will be adding the SafeSport position and policies to the existing Policies and Procedures document.
- d. **Bi-Annual Elections**-Nominations for the four Executive Board positions were made first. Justin Barwood nominated Matt Maher for President. His nomination was seconded by Ryan Ray. Matt asked three times whether there were any other nominations for this position. As there were none, the Secretary, Sarah, cast one vote in favor of Matt, and he was elected President. Matt Maher nominated Justin Barwood for Vice President. His nomination was seconded by Kylie Ammel. Matt asked three times whether there were any other nominations for this position. As there were none, the Secretary, Sarah, cast one vote in favor of Justin, and he was elected Vice President. Shane Murray nominated Ryan Ray for Treasurer. His nomination was seconded by Bill Mason. Matt asked three times whether there were any other nominations for this position. As there were none, the Secretary, Sarah, cast one vote in favor of Ryan, and he was elected Treasurer. Ryan Ray nominated Sarah Morlock for Secretary. Her nomination was seconded by Bill Mann. Matt asked three times whether or not there were any other nominations for this position. As there were none, the Vice President, Justin, cast one vote in favor of Sarah, and she was elected Secretary. Next, nominations were made for Associate Board Members, or, Members-at-large. A maximum of seven seats were open for this position. Ryan Ray nominated Kylie Ammel. Her nomination was seconded by Sarah Morlock. Matt Maher nominated Bill Mann. His nomination was seconded by Bill Mason. Justin Barwood nominated Bill Mason. His nomination was seconded by Ryan Ray. Kathy Roberts nominated Shane Murray. Her nomination was seconded by Alex DeFelice. Shane Murray nominated Kathy Roberts. Her nomination was seconded by Amy Aher. Bill Mann nominated Alex DeFelice. His nomination was seconded by Matt Maher. Alex DeFelice nominated Jason Spaulding. His nomination was seconded by Bill Mason. Becky Dexter nominated herself, but soon after removed her nomination. Matt made a motion to vote for the nominees as a slate of candidates. Sarah seconded his motion. There was a unanimous vote in favor of the seven nominees.
  - i. Executive Board: Following this Annual Meeting's elections, the UVHA's 2015-2016 Executive Board consists of Matt Maher-President, Justin Barwood-Vice President, Ryan Ray-Treasurer, and Sarah Morlock-Secretary.
  - ii. Associate Board Members: Following this Annual Meeting's elections, the UVHA's 2015-2016 Board Members-at-large are Kylie Ammel, Bill Mann, Bill Mason, Alex DeFelice, Jason Spaulding, Kathy Roberts, and Shane Murray.

- e. **Jerseys**-A new deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup> was set for notification of jersey condition decisions. Following this, the Board will know how many jerseys will need to be replaced. Bill pointed out that larger jerseys will need to be ordered as well to accommodate a shortage in that size-range.
- 5. **Vermont State Meeting**: The Annual VT State Meeting was April 14<sup>th</sup>. Bill reported information learned from that recent meeting. The state tournament process of selection was discussed. The Board will need to consider sooner than later whether or not it would like to be considered for hosting. Level 4 Coaching Clinics will be held June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in Concord, NH and August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Hartford, CT. VSAHA still owes UVHA the remainder of its Grow the Game Grant award. Finally, USA Hockey will be asking referees to check helmet expiration stickers. Parents, players and coaches need to be aware of this. There will be no May meeting.
- 6. **NH State Meeting**: The Annual NH State Meeting will be May 16<sup>th</sup>. Matt reported that the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting focused on SportNgin. As he previously informed the Board, NHAH has opted to remain with SportNgin.
- 7. **Announcements**: The next meeting will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Kinney Pike.
- 8. **Meeting Adjourned**: 8:36 PM