

**STOWE YOUTH HOCKEY, INC.**  
**MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA**  
**September 5th 6:00 PM**  
**@ Stowe Arena**

**Board members present: Nifer Hoehn, Graham Mink, Brian Forrest, Lori Tilgner, Scott Keyes, George Wheelwright**

**Nifer made a motion to begin the meeting, Scott seconded it.**

**Minutes from the August and May meetings had been sent around and Nifer made a motion to approve both month's meeting minutes. George seconded and all were in favor. We are still missing minutes between January – May and are working on procuring those and getting them posted on the SYH website.**

**Nifer updated the board on the status of transfer requests for players from other organizations. There was discussion about the status of a transfer request for a player from Harwood and an additional player interested in transferring from Harwood. Harwood had intents to merge with Northfield at the Y14U level since neither organization can field a team at that level and two players had reached out to SYH about playing for Stowe. One player's transfer request had been submitted in August and VSAHA hadn't reached a decision on that request as of the meeting. The board discussed not wanting to take too many players from Harwood since the combined team was important for Vermont hockey and for those individual organizations.**

**Graham brought up SafeSport certification and there was a discussion about VSAHA requirements. All coaches and board members for an association must be SafeSport certified by the start of the season. Coaches will not be allowed on the ice without the certification. All adults that enter a locker room over the course of the season should also be SafeSport certified.**

**George suggested sending out a letter to all parents in the organization with a list of important information, including SafeSport certification, volunteer requirements, raffle basket information among other things. All were in favor.**

**Nifer and Graham brought up the ice time on Halloween. Currently, SYH has ice reserved for all teams on the afternoon/evening of Halloween. After the discussion and input from all, Nifer made a motion to utilize an hour of ice on Monday, October 30 for the Y8U and Y10U teams and cancel the practice ice on October 31. Scott seconded and all were in favor.**

**Lori reported that SYH had 43 skaters this summer for the Monday and Wednesday skate sessions. That number is down from last summer's attendance, which the board**

attributed partially to Harwood running a 3 vs. 3 summer program. There was discussion about any outstanding payments for the summer sessions.

Ian Smith, who will be running the skill sessions for SYH, was present to discuss the program SYH is considering offering this fall for Midgets. He would like to offer a skate Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 5:30am – 7:00am. The skates would be on November 7, 8, 9 and 14, 15, 16. The Stowe High School team starts on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Ian is also offering a skate for high school students on Monday evenings that will be more of an individually focused skate. He plans to target skills for each individual whereas the Midgets skate would be more flowing drills, puck touches and getting the athletes on the ice before the season. If Ian were to take the Midgets program, he would handle the purchasing of ice time. There was a discussion about insurance and whether or not Ian would utilize the insurance that USA Hockey offers. He decided he would look into insurance options and get back to the board.

Scott reported that registration was down this year. SYH is offering one team at each level: Y14U, Y12U, G12U, Y10U, and Y8U. Y8U numbers are up, but registration for the other teams is down. The board discussed a few individual cases, but is not worried about the downturn in numbers as it is universal across the state for youth hockey organizations. Registration for G12U, Y8U and the Learn to Skate program is still open.

Kelly Hickey was not able to attend the meeting, but Graham discussed the annual VSAHA meeting. Several members of SYH attended and those present discussed the seminars they attended.

Clea James and Kelvey Wilson, the G12U coach, were present to discuss some of the items for the girl's team. Clea brought up a fundraiser game she is organizing between NAHA and the SHS boy's hockey team. She had been working on the 5<sup>th</sup>, but since it is before the SHS season, the board was worried about insurance coverage for those skaters. Clea is going to discuss other possible dates with NAHA and SHS and also look into the insurance issue.

Kelvey said the goal of the girls 12U team was to get girls on the ice. They have scheduled a majority of games against G10U teams and made a request for more full-ice practice time to develop their play and work on ideas like off sides. The association has already bought ice time and home games have been scheduled, so the discussion moved on to fundraising. The board reiterated that any fundraising should be done under the umbrella of Stowe Youth Hockey and not for individual teams.

Brian brought up advertising and looking for players outside of Stowe. Registration is still open for the Youth 8U, Girls 12U, Learn to Play and Learn to Skate programs. There are opportunities to find players at fall tournaments and parent nights at area schools. Brian, Graham and Nifer are going to look into distributing flyers and Nifer agreed to make one for the Learn to Skate and Learn to Play programs. Clea said she would make sure one was made for the Girls 12U team.

Try Hockey for free day is Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The other date is March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

George made a presentation about Winter Carnival. We are still looking for teams to fill out all of the brackets. Nifer said that Essex was looking to send three teams, one at each level. George and Pat voiced their support for filing the tournament with teams outside of Vermont. Nifer said she was worried about not filling the brackets. Graham made a motion to accept the Essex Y10U and Y12U teams into the tournament and wait on accepting the Y14U team until we had a better idea of teams in that bracket at our October meeting. George seconded and all were in favor.

Brett Loomis, SYH's fundraising chair, was not able to attend, but passed on through Nifer and Graham that he is still looking for volunteers for his fundraising committee. Pat volunteered to put a charity golf tournament together for SYH. Discussion ensued and Graham felt that there were other options for fundraising that would be less costly for the organization and bring in more money. He brought up a dodgeball tournament and suggested that the committee pick and focus on three opportunities to raise money for SYH throughout the year – the main one being the raffle during Winter Carnival.

Nifer made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Graham seconded it.

- **Next Meeting: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 6:00pm**

Minutes Approved by BOD: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date President / Secretary