



UVHA Board Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2019 ~ 7:00 PM

Kinney Pike Insurance, White River Junction, Vermont

1. **Attendance:** Kylie Young, Sarah Morlock, Brock Barton, Jason Spaulding, Justin Barwood, Roger Gillies, Bill Mann, Alex DeFelice, Josh Obar, Jay Zanleoni

2. **Meeting called to order:** 7:00 PM
 - a. The December 18th meeting minutes were unanimously approved (motioned by Justin, seconded by Kylie).

3. **Monthly Reports:**
 - a. **Coaching Coordinator**-No report.
 - b. **Equipment Manager**-No report.
 - c. **SafeSport Coordinator**-No report.
 - d. **Girls' Development**-Jay reported that it continues to be a struggle to get girls to the Saturday morning skates. Some membership feedback heard by the group included that both the Wednesday and Saturday times are too early: the Wednesday afternoon ice conflicts with parents' work schedules, and the 7:30 AM time slot on Saturday mornings is difficult to make, but also inconvenient for players on travel teams already scheduled for game play that day. Jay communicated that there was marked enthusiasm for and healthy attendance at the Friday evening skates/scrimmages. To better utilize the ice and provide an opportunity to further bridge the gap for players whose skills are not yet commensurate with USA Hockey's age-appropriate guidelines, the Board agreed to open these sessions to all players, both male and female. Sarah will communicate this to the Association once Jason has confirmed that there are enough coaches sufficient to support additional skaters.

- e. **Treasurer**-Brock reported that we're currently trending a budget imbalance of approximately \$1,000 each month. The revenue from registration fees alone is not enough to cover operating expenses. This further underscored the need for fundraising.
- f. **Fundraising**-Revenue from fundraising events and grant awards currently totals \$23,057.43. Funding and/or events pending include the City of Lebanon funding, Young's Photography sales kick-back, Shaw's charitable donation, and the Skate-a-thon. Red River, courtesy of Dan McGee, has once again generously donated four (4) Bruins' tickets and a TD Garden parking pass to be utilized as a grand prize. Vermont and New Hampshire Photo Booths has confirmed that they are available to provide DJ services and a photo booth at the event for a reduced rate. Fundraising Committee members will meet next week to continue with Skate-a-thon planning, including soliciting local businesses for prizes. Knowing the Town has a contract with the concession vendor, Sarah will reach out to Dylan and Scott to discuss our options for serving food at the event.
- g. **Registrar**-Preparing for February's State tournaments, Kylie sent out credential sheets to Team Parents, requesting birth certificates from players who have not yet been verified. As expected, a majority of the players needing birth certificates are first-year Squirts. As NAHA Registrar, Roger will handle the document intake and personally see to the birth-year verification of Storm players. Once verified, players needn't be asked to submit a copy of their birth certificates again.
- h. **Scheduler**-Bill continues to work toward filling out the end-of-season schedule. He noted that he's trying to add more home games to Peewee 1 and Squirt 1's schedules, for the sake of parity. There was brief deliberation regarding the recent non-weather related cancellation of a Bantam game. Justin pointed out that it put the hosting association in an unfair financial position to cancel for any reason other than inclement weather. Jason will clarify with NAHA the rules surrounding this.

4. **New Business:**

- a. **Learn-to-Skate**-Jason has fielded complaints about the early Saturday morning time slot for L2S. On the ice with this group since Jason Gramling's absence due to surgery, Jason can attest to the poor attendance. Strong registration numbers at the Mite level ensure the health of the Association as a whole. Josh made a case for hosting a Try Hockey for Free event earlier in the fall, citing the success of Woodstock's Little Bruins' program and Hanover's own try hockey event. Sarah voiced that immediate improvements could be made to the website, namely a permanent L2S banner on the homepage, including a program description and link to registration. The Board concluded that there was a void in operations that could be filled with the creation of a new Board-appointed, nonvoting position:

Marketing Manager. The individual suited for this role would ideally have experience in graphic design and be familiar with social media platforms. The Marketing Manager would be responsible for creating and posting marketing materials, as well as updating the website's marketing content, as needed. Sarah will put out a call for a Marketing Manager and present candidates to the Board for vote.

- b. Mite Goalie Equipment**-Josh reported that the Mite goalie gear has gone unaccounted for on far too many occasions, making it difficult to outfit players taking their turn in goalie rotation. In addition to this issue, the once complete sets of equipment have been rifled through and left mismatched or missing gear. It's in need of a second inventory and a sign-out system should be established. Sarah will inform John and ask him to attend to both as soon as possible. If he determines that any gear is needed to the complete sets, including sticks, John will notify Jason.
- c. Goalie Recruitment and Retention**-Jay Seals has been well-received as goalie coach. With the ongoing concern for a sufficient number of goalies to field the UVHA's travel teams, Jason suggested forming a break-out committee to plan for goalie recruitment. Given their current involvement in goalie clinics and experience with the position, Jason suggested that he, Jay, Josh, Alex, Bill, and Jay Seals form this sub-committee. The group will meet and brainstorm strategies for recruitment and retention. In advance of this meeting, the Board agreed to have a set of loaner equipment available for Squirt goalies going forward.
- d. End-of-Season Planning**-While the Skate-a-thon has been scheduled for March 8th, Justin needs to confirm with the Town that we have that ice available as he noticed it isn't currently showing up on the rental agreement. The Board was considering allotting ice for Squirt 2 to host a jamboree, if they didn't make States. It seems likely now that they will make the tournament, therefore the ice will instead be utilized for games. Bantam 2 will be playing in the Hooksett tournament at the end of March. Jay plans to organize an of season girls' jamboree. And Jason will reach out to Jacki Smith and/or Greg Carter about holding a skating clinic the weekend of March 9th and 10th. He'll reach out to Vermont about the possibility of holding a checking clinic. Also noteworthy, regionals are the same weekend as the Pot-of-Gold tournament (March 15th-17th).
- e. Development Committee**-Jason would like a group to come together to discuss the girls' development ice and the idea of expanding to allow for the development of all players (boys and girls). Since they'll already be holding a meeting, the goalie sub-group will have an initial dialogue on the subject and report back to the Board.

5. NH State Meeting Report:

- a. Jason shared sad news via email earlier this week: NHAHA President, Paul Comeau, passed away unexpectedly. Jason asked that the Board keep his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers. Kylie provided a card for the Board to sign to convey their condolences. Sarah will mail the card and have flowers sent to Paul's service, on behalf of the UVHA.
- b. The next NHAHA meeting will be February 16th.

6. **Meeting Adjourned:** 8:15 PM