

EYHA Board Meeting
Essex Rink Classroom
June 20, 2024 7pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present: Helen MacAndrews Sean O'Connell Tracy O'Connell
Rick Villamil Renee Soutiere Jen Villamil
Mike Shaw Kim Lassy Tonra Riehl
Brianna Yarnell

Board Members Absent: Frank Parisi Dominic Cloud Dave Alofsin
Corey Labor Chris McGinty Mike Lorenz
Joe Baird

EYHA Community Members: Jennifer O'Neil

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Sean O'Connell, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve [MAY](#) Tracy O'Connell motions, Jen Villamil seconds. May minutes approved.
3. **EYHA Member Communication:** *(The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the general public an opportunity to address the board on matters that are either not on the agenda or are slated for action. Any discussion, if any, will be limited to determining next steps.)*
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4. **New Business / Presentations:** *(The purpose of this agenda item is to provide Board members with an opportunity to discuss various issues. Any action to be taken, if any, would occur at a future meeting.)*
 - **Director of Community Relations:** Jennifer O'Neil expresses interest.
 - Sean makes a motion to appoint Jennifer O'Neal as Director of Community Relations, Jen Villamil second, motion approved. Welcome Jennifer!
 - **VSAHA 6/2 meeting recap**
 - **Jen**
 - received updates on Registrar role
 - **Kim:**
 - VSAHA looking for input from associations related to tiering and state tournament
 - All tiers should participate in some kind of championship at the end of the season
 - Some VSAHA subcommittees need support that don't necessarily need VSAHA board appointment
 - **Committee updates (if any)**
 - Sub-committees:
 - Registration (Jen)
 - Opened on June 1st;
 - Clarified Parent volunteer roles
 - Jersey fittings days: July 21st July 30

- Send player pictures by signs to Mike L
- Closes July 20th
- Player / Coach Development (Joe)
- Promoting parent involvement (Kim)
- Policies / Procedures (Dominic)
- Community Events / Fundraisers (Dave)

5. Executive Updates: *(The purpose of this agenda item is to provide board and administration representatives an opportunity to report out on the current activities of various programs, board committees, etc. There may not always be a report from each group if there have not been any changes since the last time this was on the agenda.)*

- **Registrar: Jennifer Villamil**
 - See update above
- **Head Coach: Corey Labor (not present)**
 - Placing registration signs in Jericho and Underhill
- **Player Development Coordinator: Joe Baird (not present)**
 - Email update:
 - Looking at increasing enrollment for 24-25
 - 10U Potential 3 CoEd plus 2 girls teams!
 - 12U Potential 3 CoEd plus 1 girls team
 - Will continue to develop players through advanced skills - the message is getting out that Essex players are standing out in a variety of situations - State championships, NED's and other out of season skating opportunities. Go Sting!
- **Ice Coordinator: Kim Lassy**
 - Scheduling ice for next season:
 - Looking to get regular ice at Gutterson for skills (bigger ice to accommodate more players)
 - Possible suggestion to use Norwich ice for home game for teams that travel from NH / ME / Boston area
- **Tournament Director: Dave Alofsin (not present)**
 - Email update:
 - Canceled cornhole tournament - lack of interest
 - Suggestion: place efforts towards calcutta, yamboree and regional tournament instead & coordinate with Director of Community Relations (Jennifer O'Neal) to increase sponsorship
- **Director of Community Relations: Jennifer O'Neal**
 - Nothing to report
- **Director of Communication: Mike Lorenz (not present)**
- **Safety Officer: Tonra Rhiel**
 - Working with Renee to update med kits
 - Would like to make sure she is at the coaches meeting (connect with Corey)
 - Reminding all coaches to follow concussion / injury reporting procedures for ANY INJURY
 - NOTE to association: neck guard requirement
- **8U Director: Mike Shaw**
 - Nothing to report
- **Women's Director: Brianna Yarnell**
 - G10U: potentially 2 teams - evaluations for G10U
 - G14U: Working on a collaboration with CSB & BAHA: "Whitecaps"
- **Equipment Coordinator: Renee Soutiere**

- Summer Street Hockey: Highgate Rec Center - street hockey Thursday night summer series - for 8U / 10U / 12U [LINK](#)
- Each coaches bag will have extra neck guard (all teams) and mouth guard (for 12U and up)
- Looking into new banners for Essex and Waterbury rinks
- NOTE: ALL PLAYERS MUST WEAR NECK GUARDS
- Subscription to Ice Hockey Systems for coaches
- **VSAHA Rep: Rick Villamil**
 - Next VSAHA meeting is Face-Off meeting;
 - Digital scoring for next year - each association will be given a device for scoring (will we have one per home rink?)
- **Treasurer: Tracy O'Connell**
 - Nothing further to report
- **House VP: Rick Villamil**
 - Nothing to report
- **Travel VP: Dominic Cloud (not present)**
- **Past President: Frank Pairisi (not present)**
- **President: Sean O'Connell**
 - Nothing to report
- **Secretary / SafeSport Update: Helen MacAndrews**
 - Board members should register for 2024 USA Hockey, complete background check & SafeSport then submit USA hockey # through [Volunteer Code of Conduct Form](#) so we can create a volunteer roster. Deadline Sept 1st.
 - Megan Sweezey, G4H founder, has been named SMC Women's head coach! Congrats Coach Sweezey. We hope to continue our collaboration in some capacity

6. Next meeting date:

- **July 18, 2024 @ 7:00 pm. Location: REMOTE Teams Link**

7. Executive Session (if needed): none

8. Adjournment: 8:33 PM