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#MASSPROUD

MASS HOCKEY ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 29, 2020 - Zoom Conference Call

The Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Hockey Board of Directors was held on Monday, June 29th, 2020 via zoom conference call and hosted live on YouTube for public meeting access.

Meeting called to order by Bob Joyce at 7:10pm.

Bob asked for a moment of silence on behalf of the members of the hockey community who have passed especially Barbara Wright and Gloria Herman.

A motion was made to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from May, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Bob provided his President's Report. In his first year, Bob highlighted many accomplishments by the board including the creation and 98% adoption of Affiliate Agreements with registered organizations, the launch of new background screening platform, comprehensive review and approval of Mass Hockey Rules and Regulations in May, and extensive review and expected adoption of the Bylaws. Participation in Willie O'Ree Skills Weekend encompassing 'Hockey Is for Everyone' program committed to offering disadvantaged youth an opportunity to play hockey. Team USA Sled Hockey held a development camp at Falmouth Ice Arena in October. The creation of the Referee Coach Interaction Committee to reduce abuse of officials. Fulfilling the new role of Player Safety Coordinator, selecting Nicole Siglin after screening 25 wonderful applicants. Mass Hockey has been at the forefront of COVID and return to the rinks. We're at 89% of registrations to date compared to prior season where USAH is only 64% across the country. While there is still a lot of uncertainty in the future, he is confident that we can meet the challenge with the leadership within our board.

Mass Hockey Service Awards announced. Thank you for all your efforts these many years.

Kevin Kavanagh provided his Executive Director's report. COVID-19 is not something anyone expected this season, but Mass Hockey has played an important role in returning to the hockey rink. Phase 3 is tracking to mid-July where we expect games to return with some restrictions to be announced. We have conducted 12 webinars with hundreds of participants over these quarantined months. Our programs with the Boston Bruins continue to be a great benchmark. We have a new partnership with the Boston Pride, only professional women's team in state, with Executive Board and Finance Committee approval to promote girls' hockey in our state. Sponsorships continue with current partners. Mike DiOrio attended 30 of 35 coaches' clinics to talk about Mass Hockey, resources, and initiatives. Staff supporting online coaching clinics with



attendance across the country. Unfortunately, State Tournaments were cut short due to COVID-19 closures. There have been 16 newsletters published this season with Touchpoint. Mike DiOrio has established a program database with membership data going back 15 years.

Keith Barrett, newly elected Vice President of USA Hockey, gave a few updates regarding recent activities from the Annual Congress with praise from Mass Hockey's leadership at USA Hockey.

Bob Joyce directed the membership to the Committee Reports that have been filed and posted online.

Chris Mayer reminded us that all board members are required to take safesport training annually.

Tom Smith provided an update on safety committee activity including new concussion cards, new poster campaign for heads up don't duck, and guidelines to prevent abuse of officials on and off the ice. Welcome Nicole as Player Safety Coordinator.

Kevin Donovan made update on referees. They'll be working with leagues and assigners to push the shadow program further this season to support development of new officials. Additionally, he mentioned the work to prevent abuse of officials. This season the Officials seminars will all be virtual.

Steve Rizzo provided update from USA Hockey Annual Congress (virtual meeting) highlighting the importance to connect with our membership and share benefits of getting back to the rink safely.

Tom McGrath gave update on youth council which is focused on return to the rink, national tournament, and tryouts and recruitment of players.

Paul Moore mentioned that there have been 7 virtual clinics so far with great success. There is a big push on temp cards with USA Hockey. At the Annual Meeting they passed a change within the coaching requirements specifically at level 4 to move from 2 days to 1 day with reduced cost.

Steve Palmacci mentioned that Mass Hockey registrations are the highest in the country compared to last season's numbers.

Greg Sophis provided the treasurer's report highlighting a loss in our investment due to the market. We have not received the USA Hockey block grant, delayed to November due to cash flow issues at USA Hockey.



The Board was presented the 2020-2021 annual budget, after some discussion and debate, a motion was made to approve the budget with an additional review by the Finance Committee and report prior to September Board Meeting, seconded, and the budget approved by 90% voting membership.

Dave Moses, Chair of Audit Committee, shared we have ended our 3-year term with the current auditor and will be switching to a new firm this season adding additional eyes to our finances.

The board then considered the pending legislative proposals chaired by Christopher Gong and Jeff Brown. A summary of the votes on the many legislative proposals are summarized below:

Rule Proposal #1 - Hometown program player movement & rosters: Not approved by 2/3 majority.

Rule Policy Proposal #2 - Use of Pre-printed labels on gamesheets: Approved by 86%

Rule Proposal #3 - CEP Certification as of 12/31: Tim McMahon withdrew proposal

Bylaw Proposal #1a - Adoption of Amended and Restated bylaws without discipline: Approved by verbal vote.

Bylaw Proposal #1b - Adoption of Amended and Restated discipline: Approved by verbal vote.

Bylaw Proposal #2 - Discipline Hearing Facilitator May Vote: Tim McMahon withdrew proposal

Bylaw Proposal #3 - Assault of Game Official: John Murray withdrew proposal

Amended Bylaw Proposal #4 authored by Jeff Brown - Deliberately Inflicting Physical Harm: Approved by 92%

Amended Bylaw Proposal #4 authored by Dan Esdale - Deliberately Inflicting Physical Harm: Dan Esdale withdrew.

Policy Proposal #1 - Training for Checking From Behind Game Misconduct: Approved by verbal vote.

The merger of the Springfield Capitals and the Wilbraham Twin Meadows Organizations in District 6 was approved by verbal vote.

Mark Lissner sitting in for Steve Fitzgerald conducted election of officers.

- Uncontested election for 1st VP - Jeff Brown, 2nd VP - Christine Mayer, 4th VP - Phil Zona, and Director at Large EB - Chip Bradbury and David Hymovitz. As Secretary, Tim McMahon cast one vote in favor and all elected for 2 year term.
- Uncontested election for Secretary - Tim McMahon. As President, Bob Joyce cast one vote in favor and Tim McMahon was elected for 2 year term.
- Chip Bradbury withdrew from USAH Director election. Tom McGrath was re-elected over Dave Young for a 3 year term.



No old business.

In new business, John Murray presented the new compensation rates for officials which were voted on and approved by verbal vote.

Liz Cohen shared the 2020 Sportsmanship Award winners to be published shortly.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm. The next meeting is September 14th, 2020.