

**Watertown Hockey
Association 6/3/2025 - 6 PM
1812 Brew Pub on the River
Meeting Minutes**

Board Of Directors Vega Nutting Michael Ledoux Chris Nethers, <i>Learn to Play Liaison</i> Jordan Reber Shane Caswell Ginger Sherrill Michelle Rist Tom Eiss	Executive Committee Vega Nutting - <i>Board President</i> Michael Ledoux - <i>Board Vice President</i> Brian Nutting - <i>WHA Treasurer</i> Amanda Caswell- <i>Secretary</i> Michelle Rist - <i>WHA Registrar</i> Jonathan Rose - <i>Ace Coordinator</i>
---	---

- Establish Quorum Present- Majority of Directors (4 or more required)
 - Michelle, Shane, Jordan, Mike, Ledoux, Vega, Tom, Chris

- Executive Committee members present
 - Vega, Amanda, Michelle

- Call Meeting to Order and Consent Agenda (***Vega***)
 - 6:11pm
 - All attendees agreed to meeting being recorded on Zoom.

- Approve Meeting Minutes from April 2025 (***Vega***)
 - Vega Motion to approve meeting minutes from April 2025
 - Ginger Second motion to approve meeting minutes from April 2025
 - Ayes-8
 - Nays-0
 - Abstentions-0

- Executive Committee Reports
 - President (***Vega***)
 - No report.

 - Registrar (***Michelle***)
 - At present there are 3 registrations for 14U AA. The registration link was released on Monday.

 - Secretary (***Amanda***)
 - No Report.

 - Treasurer
 - No Report.

- Directors and Coordinator Reports

- Ace Coordinator
 - Vega provided an overview of concerns expressed by the Ace Coordinator. Concerns were raised about players with repeated disciplinary actions from previous seasons registering in WHA. There is no way to block someone from registering but we can track and address if such a situation arises.
- Tournament Coordinator (*Ginger*)
 - Information is needed on the 16/18U coach and manager to start planning for that tournament at that level. At this time, there is no coach or manager named for this level. When named, it will be passed along.
- Fundraising Director (*Ginger*)
 - A discussion about fundraising ensued which included a need for a budget to run activities. The committee will present a budget proposal to the board at the next meeting for the following activities:
 - September 20th Dexter American Legion Meat Raffle
 - Might have a band to volunteer time
 - Keg in corner for donations
 - Power Play will bring items/activities for outside
 - Chicken Bar-b-ques in Brownville
 - 150 chicken dinner to be sold
 - Additional activities being investigated:
 - Gerber Candle sales to be held around April/May for Mother's Day
 - Walmart greeters to ask for change: contact now to get approval for early date
 - Rifle raffle to be started this summer and continue through the beginning of the season in late summer. Vega will contact Bowman gun shop in Gouverneur to request a donation in addition to the current item.
 - The next committee meeting is June 10 or 11 depending on availability.
- Committee Reports
 - Coaching Committee
 - 18 U is recruiting a couple more players for the coming season. Ginger will post on Facebook page and website.
 - Finance/Budget Committee
 - No Report
- Old Business
 - Quick Books and Financial Report Overview
 - Chris motions to appoint Sean Ryan as Treasurer effective immediately
 - Ginger second motion to appoint Sean Ryan as Treasurer effective immediately
 - Ayes-8
 - Nays-0
 - Abstentions-0
- Executive Session Initiated
 - The board entered executive session regarding association finances.

- Executive Session Ended
 - Public meeting resumed.
- Treasurer Position transition to Sean Ryan
 - See information in Quick Books and Financial Report Overview
- Open Registration and Finalize Pricing (*Ginger*)
 - A discussion about opening registration early was entered into by the board. Historically WHA opens registration for 16/18U early and then all other age levels open on August 1st. Concerns were raised about waiting until this date as many local associations have opened their registration and parents are asking about age level programs and opportunities through the WHA for the 2025-26 season. Registrations would take place on Sports Engine, including payment, followed by USA hockey registration required by the end of August. The board agreed to open registration by July 1 at the latest.
 - Vega and Sean will meet to develop a plan for pricing to set registration, jersey costs (Mike will get information), and a payment plan.
 - Volunteer coaches and managers will need to register as well.
 - Concerns were raised about 10U not being represented on the WHA website. The website will be updated by Ginger and Michelle for this level ASAP.
- Meat Raffle (*Vega*)
 - Report in Fundraising Director report.
- Google Workspace (*Shane*)
 - A report on the application to establish a Google Workspace for the WHA was presented. As we wait for approval and establishment, the organization can begin identifying folders and organization of information. In addition, emails will be set up for executive council position and board members to conduct WHA business. A common calendar was recommended to be initiated and implemented for association business as well as a repository of important dates and deadlines to be passed along as board and executive committee's transition.
- 14U Girls Full Season Team (*Amanda*)
 - An overview of a survey of Valkyrie participants that would be eligible for a 14U all girls' team was presented:
 - 14 total responses and 7 no responses
 - 3 100% committed to participating
 - 6 not sure
 - 5 no
 - 6 preferred girls' only ice time in Clayton/A Bay with 1 preferring 1 Watertown and 1 Clayton/A Bay
 - 4 identified their least preferred ice time as sharing with the 14U coed teams
 - Open ended comments were provided from the survey as well. Of concern from the participants in the survey is splitting ice and being grouped with the 14U coed teams.

- It was reported that a proposal was presented to the Thousand Islands Youth Hockey Association TIYHA to house the 14U Girls' full season team. Reasons for this included no dedicated ice time at WHA for girls and the requirement for them to practice with the co-ed teams. Concerns were presented about the number of girls interested, as 5 girls that wanted to play have chosen other organizations in fear that the team might not occur. Additional concerns were raised that the 14UAA coed team registration was approved and implemented in less than a month, but the girl's registration and approval have yet to be conducted. Amanda Caswell is reporting to TIYHA with the number of girls committed to playing and will continue discussions with them. Board members wanted to continue to explore options for housing a 14U team.
- City Contract
 - The City has not released the contract.
- End of Season Survey for WHA Families
 - A proposal to survey WHA families about their experiences in the association was presented. Due to late time of the meeting, discussion was postponed until the next meeting. Board members were favorable about the prospect of collecting information from WHA families to improve and continue the good works of the WHA.
- Late registration fee proration
 - This discussion about the prorate policy was presented to assist families, the registrar and treasurer so all understand the prorated expense when a player joins WHA after the registration deadline. This can be created in Sports Engine with registration.
 - Michelle motioned to implement a proration rate of 17% per month for late registration
 - Ginger motions to implement a proration rate of 17% per month for late registration
 - Ayes-8
 - Nays-0
 - Abstentions-0
- Board Communication (*Amanda*)
 - A reminder was issued that all board communication should be through Sports Engine either chat or email. This provides a repository and record of activity and discussion that can be used for recovering information.
- New Business
 - Disciplinary/Registration (*Vega*)
 - Presented during the Ace Coordinator report; see above.
 - Managers and Position Procedures (*Amanda & Ginger*)
 - Tabled until next meeting.
 - iPad and Procedures for 25/26 season (*Amanda*)
 - A quick discussion about using Game Sheets and iPads for the 2025-26 season. Last season there was 1 iPad for use at 12U. Discussion to be revisited at next board

meeting. Information was provided about areas that need to be considered as the 2025-26 season begins:

- Need for more than 1 iPad for use at rinks outside of Watertown
- There is a need for an assessment of how the iPads will be used and who needs access
- Security and power source needed in the coach's closet
- Who will oversee, manage and be resource for Game Sheets at WHA to establish rosters and assist with setting up.
- Need access to City Wi-Fi not just free WiFi at rink.

- Other Business:

- A discussion point was raised about the WHA approach to overdue balance issues/unpaid registration. It was agreed to revisit this as we get into season.
- A question was asked about scholarship for low-income participants. A description was provided for the process for individuals to apply.

- Action Items

- Ginger will provide budget requests for fundraising activities
- Vega will draft letter about oversight to accountant
- Mike and Sean will talk to Lisa LaJoy at WSB about access accounts
- Sean will clean up finances and meets with Steve Lambert
- Accountant will file tax returns and non-profit status
- Shane and Ginger will contact Matt Cullen to set up a time to review election results
- Vega will send an email to the membership when election results are official
- Vega and Sean will meet to set registration pricing for 2025-26 season
- Michelle will work on registration to be opened by July 1
- Ginger and Michelle will updated the WHA website with 10U information

- Meeting Adjournment
8:54pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Amanda Caswell, WHA Secretary