



**Mission:** The “Upper Valley Hockey Association” mission is to introduce the youth of our area to and promote the game of hockey, so that every child in the program can enjoy a positive experience through encouragement, skill development and character building while creating a passion for the game

**UVHA MEETING - Minutes  
March 16th, 2022 – 7:00 PM  
via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Brock Barton, Josh Obar, Jason Gramling, Will Meyer, Tom Daniels, Joshua Flanders, Jen Callahan, John Morelock.

1. **Meeting called to order:** 7:02pm
2. **Approval of February Minutes-** Motion to approve minutes from Jason Gramling. Seconded by Josh Obar. February minutes approved.
3. **Monthly Reports**
  - a. **Coaching Coordinator** (Will Meyer)- Will felt the season ended well with all of the coaches. He would be interested in reviewing the end-of-season survey questions for the coaches to tweek for feedback.
  - b. **Safesport Coordinator** (Vacant)- This will be an action item at the next meeting.
  - c. **NH State Representative** (Joshua Flanders)- Brock reported multiple events/issues with the Avalanche and how to best address them. The first was a Bantam game where our team went down and there was no official. A brother of a player on the ice, who was an actual official, was pulled from the stands to officiate. Our Bantam coaches did not like this and the team ended up leaving without playing the game. Our organization reached out weekly to NAHA to find out how this game would be counted but never heard anything. Ultimately in the last week of the season, it was counted as a forfeit. The second issue was the Bantam state tournament. The Avalanche assistant coach got a misconduct for abuse of an official and was thrown out. But then the coach was back coaching the next day. The third issue was the 10U Tier 4 State Tournament scheduling which “was a disaster”. Brock will work on a letter to NAHA to put the issues that we encountered throughout the season in writing.
  - d. **Girls Development** (Jason Gramling) - Jason did not have much to report since he wasn’t able to go to many skates. Josh Obar felt that Jay Z may still be interested in being involved next year. Who will run this important ice time is still up in the air.
  - e. **Fundraising** (Josh Flanders & Jen Callahan)
    - i. Almost all donations and pledges have been counted. The money and checks are organized and have been given to Brock to deposit. The current total is \$17,985.68 with \$200 in pledge IOU's. After expenses, we should net between \$14-15k. The top fundraiser was Jaielyn Matteson with \$2,435.00 raised. The next 4 top fundraisers were all close to \$1,000. Squirt 2 and Travel Mites raised the most money. A letter has been sent to the Byrne Foundation and we are waiting for a reply.
    - ii. Attendance: We had 73 players attend. The headcount for families that we planned the event off of was 175 which seemed pretty accurate, however we had a ton of leftover food. We were able to donate all of the leftover hot dogs, hamburgers, buns and chips to the Upper Valley Haven. We also delivered cookies to the Lebanon Police Station and two full trays of desserts to the Lebanon Fire Station on Friday night.
    - iii. Materials Wrap-up: Jen went through and organized the skate-a-thon bin and it is ready for storage. We have tablecloths, plates, napkins and some other prize items left over that we will be able to use next year to save on expenses. She will link up with Jason to get it to storage.
    - iv. Signage: Thank you to Tom Daniels for his work on the signs. They looked AMAZING.
    - v. Prizes: Jen is working to connect with a few families that didn't pick up prizes as well and get prizes to a few kids we missed at the event. We will do some major tweaking on the prize process for next year.

- vi. Donation Receipts: Several businesses requested donation receipts so those still need to be sent out.
- f. **Registrar** (Kylie Young)- Kylie was not in attendance. Gearing up for an early 2022-2023 registration was discussed as an action item for the next meeting and that we need to begin working on the website for next year. USA Hockey registrations roll over April 30th so May 1st is the goal for next season's registration. We may pick up a few kids from the Northfield PeeWee team that is folding.
- g. **Scheduler** (Josh Obar)
  - i. The success of the 8U GSL league was discussed between Will and Josh. Will felt it was good competition for the players, better than some of the Vermont teams they played. Josh felt it was difficult from a scheduling perspective and ended up being more games than they realized going into it. Next year, he noted they should black out tournament weekend dates earlier in the season to avoid all the rescheduling. Will felt that next year it might be a good idea to have just one NAHA team instead of two because it was too hard to fill rosters if some families didn't travel to a game or there were kids sick. He was also the only head coach which made it extremely difficult. If there are two NAHA teams next year, Will recommends there be a head coach for each team. They also felt it will be important for Will, Josh and next year's coaches to meet prior to the season in Oct/Nov to get organized.
  - ii. Josh will be meeting with the town to figure out the 15 minute time slots for games next year and how we will be able to fit that into the schedule. Tom and John felt Friday night games for the Bantam's would work. This prompted a discussion about where to move the goalkeeper training slot to in the week. Monday's are being considered to work with a goalkeeping coach. Several options for coaches to hire were discussed (Erin Stevens, Colby Boyce?).
- h. **Equipment Manager** (Jason Gramling)
  - i. Jersey Return- Jason has collected most of the jersey's back. He needs to go through them all and see which ones are missing. An additional date for jersey return will be needed. Jason will finalize and set a pick-up date and time.
  - ii. Ordering personalized sublimated jerseys was discussed. Last year 80% of families said they would be willing to pay for their own jersey's if they could keep them. Jason is looking into having sponsor names on the jersey's or a sign in the rink. We will need a 6 week lead time on ordering.
- i. **Treasurer** (John Morelock/Brock Barton)
  - i. The FY23 Budget will be complete by the annual meeting. Jason will get Brock a list of annual equipment expenses.
- j. **Marketing/Social Media Manager** (Tom Daniels)- Nothing to report. Tom will do a registration post once it is open May 1st.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Brock is looking to send out the end of season communication email to all families within the next week or two. This will include: skate-a-thon results, end of season survey, information about the annual meeting, and a preview of the 2022-2023 season.
- b. Preparing for the 2022-23 season was discussed at length. The board felt that incentives for goal keepers would be appropriate and discussed options like a credit up to 50% of the fee and equipment stipends. This would be for goalkeepers who commit to playing 50% of the season in net (or a significant amount of playing time). Hanover does have a discount of 25%-50% off registration fees for goalkeepers. Hiring someone to run goalkeepers clinics was also discussed to attract talent and collaborating with the Dartmouth program. John Morelock suggested going over to Thompson for some of these clinics. This has happened in the past and we could look to bring this back again. Having Body Contact Clinics was also discussed and several names were thrown out; John felt Kelly Park did a great job in the past. Also could ask Brian Harrison to lean more into body contact for skills. Brock brought up the refund policy and asked if we needed to change it, particularly because of the situations we ran into this year with the PeeWee and Bantam teams and kids switching associations. Nobody seemed to feel strongly about changing it in any way. Most everyone felt that early registration with the first payment starting July 1st would help this and we agreed to push purchasing insurance to those groups if they felt they might need a refund.
- c. Rewriting or removing the playing up policy was discussed. Josh Obar had done extensive research this year about how other states and associations do it. Everyone agreed that the playing up policy should be rewritten and not removed. Wording will be added to clarify how the "playing up" process would be initiated if the rare situation ever arises where playing up is needed.
- d. Brock will be reaching out about board vacancies and successions.
- e. Brock provided an update on collaboration between local associations. The discussion has been tabled for

this year after HHA met and decided they were not open to partnership for the 2022-2023 season. Both associations will be putting together sub committees by May. These committees will meet monthly. They will continue to work on the possibility of a merger to be presented to membership by January of 2023 for the 2023-2024 season. Hanover is trying to recruit some of our 14U players. Our 14U numbers are strong and we have a solid team for Tier 3. We need about 4 more skaters and could pick up some from Northfield.

- f. Brock once again brought forward the idea of a perpetual calendar to keep us on track for important deadlines throughout the year.

**5. Meeting adjourned: 8:25pm**