



# **Exeter Youth Soccer Association**

## **Minutes of a meeting of the board of directors**

### **Held at 6.30pm on August 18, 2020 via Zoom video conference**

#### **1. Chairman welcome**

The Chairman, Marc Chabot, noting that the meeting had been convened properly and that a quorum was present opened the meeting at 7pm. Also in attendance were Randall Skaal, Jeff McLynch, Patrick Garrity, Jason Faria, Jenn Young, Maria Proulx, Matteo Taormina, Amy Farnham, Luke Martel and Stephen Osborne, Secretary.

#### **2. Minutes**

The draft minutes of the meetings held on July 21 and July 27 and August 2, 2020 had previously been circulated. Following discussion about the August 2 draft minutes, it was agreed to add more context to the reconsideration of the NNESL fall season so Stephen will make the changes and re-circulate the draft.

#### **3. Town of Exeter Town Select Board Meeting**

Marc and Jason provided an update following the Town meeting held on August 10, 2020. At this meeting Parks & Rec Dept was seeking approval and permits to hold certain public events including an Arts Festival, a softball jamboree and EYSA practices and scrimmages.

Both the Rec Dept and Select Board acknowledged the thoroughness of the COVID-19 protocols prepared by Jason and Chris, for EYSA. While the softball and arts events were not approved, EYSA was granted approval. Marc and Jason believed that a key factor for approval had been that the EYSA application did not include teams and parents from outside the school district. In addition, the Rec's proposals for its own modified fall sports program was approved.

For EYSA, the next step will be to determine actual field availability and capacity. Marc, Patrick and Maria will set up a Zoom meeting with Greg Bisson (Parks and Rec) to establish this information.

#### **4. Players from outside SAU 16**

Marc advised that with Oyster River, Durham are not competing in NNESL this fall, some players from Newmarket had approached their club to see if they could be included in their program, given there was no available program for the players in Newmarket. Marc said that Oyster River's teams had inadequate capacity and Marc asked the board to consider whether to allow the players to register with Exeter. Marc noted that Newmarket is outside the SAU16, a consideration for the Select Board's approval of soccer activity and that Newmarket's schools are partially reopening. Maria noted that the proposal had been circulating when it was still anticipated that Exeter would be participating in NNESL.

Patrick acknowledged that his preference is to allow players to play and in normal circumstances he would be happy to invite players from outside the club's catchment area if it was an opportunity to provide play to someone without that option in their own town. He recognized these are not normal times and that an approval for play had been provided by Town of Exeter with SAU16-only players. There was agreement with Patrick's position and consensus that the players should not be invited to register so that the SAU16 bubble approach may be maintained through the fall program. Maria will bring the issue to the NNESL board and see if any participating clubs will take the players.



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#### **5. Fall Program**

There was a discussion about how the skills training, practices and scrimmages should be scheduled for teams over each week of the season.

Previously it had been proposed that Saturdays be used for scrimmage games and a midweek night for skills and practice. Matteo cautioned that depending on registration across age groups, it may not be feasible or attractive to hold scrimmages on weekends and instead all play may be better kept on week nights.

Maria confirmed that Seacoast United expects to support skills and practices from Mondays through Thursdays, one-hour training plus one-hour scrimmage.

Jenn advised that approximately 400 would be a normal registration level for a fall season and Luke noted that currently 67 players are signed up. Randall noted that no age group was standing out as being individually large. He also noted that the EYSA SUSC Summer Camp was lined up for approximately 60 players, compared with a typical level of 90. Registration, ends September 1 so that there is an adequate time period for registration with US Club and any refund processing, ahead of a season start of September 14.

Patrick noted that without the known field availability and usage constraints, resources were unknown and fields may be over pressurized. In addition, a key factor for Parks and Rec was the ingress and egress of players and their parents. Maria noted that extending practices from the typical 90 minutes to a longer 120 minutes did reduce the amount of people flow and that Parks and Rec may be setting up signage to support one-way pedestrian movement in controlled lanes.

Randall reported that some parents have asked what days age groups will be playing so that they can plan registration around possible conflicts with other commitments.

Jenn confirmed that on registration families were advised that the program was subject to uncertainty due to the circumstance. Luke shared with the board that we all need to accept that uncertainty is inevitable and that we should expect that any effort we invest in the club and the program will be rewarded by providing the opportunities we want for the kids to be able to play safely, in whatever shape or form that takes.

There was consensus that it was too early to finalize the weekly schedule. It was agreed to schedule a board meeting on September 1 to review numbers and shape a program along with the additional information about field availability.

#### **6. Fields**

Patrick reported that while preliminary approval at Exeter Parks and Rec had been approved, he was still waiting for availability.

He has requested 2 or 3 weeknights and a weekend at Brentwood. Seth, in Stratham has advised that their town is moving all Rec Programs to Stevens Field which means that Stratham Hill Park will be available for



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weeknights. This field has nets but EYSA will need to line it. With respect to CMS, fields are still pending a school board decision. In addition, Stratham Memorial School is considering availability for EYSA.

Randall noted that fields being painted and lined will also need to wait until the age groups are allocated space.

#### **7. Meetings with parents and coaches**

These meetings will be targeted to take place as follows:

- Coaches Zoom Meeting– Wednesday September 9th, 7pm
- Parents Zoom Meeting – Thursday September 10th, 7pm

Marc asked for support at these meetings from Jason, Randall and any other volunteers. The meetings cover safety protocols, expectations and format of play.

#### **8. Safety equipment**

It was noted that masks, sanitizers, wipes and gloves will be needed. Luke will liaise with Jenn, for procurement.

#### **9. Finances**

Jenn reported that the Main St grant application had been approved for up to \$7,125 to be spent on the items detailed in the application. She reported no noteworthy items relating to other financial matters.

There being no further business, the Chairman called the meeting to a close at 8.15pm.