

# HYHA Board Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2021 @ 6:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by Josh Staples.

## Attendance:

- **Board Members in Attendance:**
  - **In Person:** Josh Staples, Chris Noyes, Matt Migonis, Dan Farr, Chris Martin, Tristan Weide, Keith LaCroix, Stephanie Drew, Katie Martin
  - **Online:** Tim Smith, Amanda Isham
- **Board Members Absent:**
- **Visitor Attendance:** Tim Griffith, Jonathan Seagel

## Approval of September Meeting Minutes

- Due to an email error everyone did not receive the September board meeting minutes. We will approve the minutes at the next board meeting.

## Treasurer Update

- Tim Smith reported that our bank account had been hacked. Someone attempted to pass several fraudulent checks. These were flagged and the account was frozen. Tim is working with the bank to open a new account and is in the process of getting everything switched over to the new account. A more detailed report will be available at the next meeting.

## U-12

- Stowe has voted to approve the merger between the Stowe U-12 and Harwood U-12. They sent back the following operating plan that they would approve of.

### *Operating Plan*

#### *Combined 12U Teams Harwood and Stowe 2021-22*

*Both Harwood Youth Hockey and Stowe Youth Hockey recognize that they have difficult numbers to manage at the 12U level for the upcoming season. SYH has 17 registered players, too many for one team and not quite enough for two and HYH has 8 registered, making a full season difficult. By combining at 12U for the upcoming season only, both organizations will be able to offer their players the chance to play on a team that best fits with their ability, with 11-14 players on each. This operating plan outlines the structure for the coming season and is agreed to and approved by both Associations at their October 4 th Board Meetings.*

- ❖ *Players will register for their organization from last season. The registration fees will stay with the corresponding association, and both associations will pay for all ice time, referee costs, etc for games and practices at their respective rink.*

- ❖ *Shared ice practices will be on Tuesdays from 5:45-6:45pm at the Waterbury Ice Center and on Thursdays from 7:00-8:00pm at Stowe Arena. HYH 12U players are welcome to attend the Skill development session held on Wednesdays from 5:45pm-6:45pm at Stowe Arena and taught by Ian Smith.*
- ❖
- ❖ *Player Evaluations will take place during the second and third practices of the season, on Thursday 10/21 at Stowe Arena from 7:00-8:00pm and Sunday 10/24 from 10:45-11:45am. Independent evaluators will be Mike Hickey and Chris Eaton, who will recommend to both Boards who should be on which team. The Board Presidents will confer with each other and then bring to their Boards for final approval prior to the next practice on Tuesday 10/26. There will be one tier 3 team and one tier 4.*
- ❖
- ❖ *For home games players will wear Stowe Uniforms, regardless of which rink is being played in, and for away games Harwood uniforms. Stowe Home jerseys with names will be ordered as soon as each Board approves of this Plan. Schedulers for the Stowe and Harwood Tier 4 teams will work together to merge the existing schedules, with emphasis being on balance between the two arenas and the most convenient away game times. The tier 3 team will stay with the current Stowe schedule.*
- ❖
- ❖ *SYH currently has 3 coaches and HYH has 2, with a potential 3 rd on the fence. One head coach will be from Harwood and one from Stowe. Other coaches will be assigned once evaluations are completed and teams approved by both Boards.*
- There was a lot of discussion surrounding jerseys. Many members of the board believe that the Tier 4 team should be wearing Harwood jerseys while playing at home but would be ok with them wearing Stowe jerseys away.
- There was also a lot of discussion about having to give up potentially half of the home games that are already scheduled for the U-12 team in Waterbury.
- It was decided that before we voted to approve the operational plan that Josh would ask the Stowe board if we could amend a few points. Once we hear back from Stowe we will take a vote over email.
  - Could the Tier 4 team wear Harwood at home and Stowe while away? Tier 3 would wear Stowe at home and Harwood away.
  - Could we negotiate more home games to be done in Waterbury to help fill our commitment to the Ice Center?

### **Regular Season/ Coaches Status**

- Coaches are working on updating their safesport, taking the appropriate modules and signing up for the clinics needed for their coaching level.

### **Recruiting Opportunities**

- Chris Noyes made a paper flyer to distribute at local schools to be sent home with students.
- We would like to get the electronic version of the flyer to add to the school's newsletters.

- The Ice Center is holding a Halloween party on October 30, 2021. Harwood Hockey should be present to hand out flyers and answer any questions regarding playing youth hockey.

### **Next Meeting**

- Monday November 1, 2021 @ TBD

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm by Josh Staples. The motion was seconded by Dan and all were in favor.**

### **Email Communications**

- Josh touched base with Graham Mink on the evening of Tuesday Oct. 5, 2021 via a phone call. Josh asked about amending the operating agreement to the terms that were discussed at the board meeting. Graham said that it was difficult to get the current agreement approved and if he brought back the new requests to the board it could cause talks to start all over and we may lose the agreement and possibly the merger deal.
- On Wednesday Oct. 5, 2021 Josh made a motion to accept the operating agreement as presented by the Stowe Youth Hockey board with one amendment. The following bullet was added to the agreement.
  - • Should the need for disciplinary action arise during the course of the season both Boards will appoint two Board members each, not directly associated with the 12U team, to review the incident and decide what actions to take, if any.
- Chris Noyes seconded the motion.
- Those that voted in favor were: Chris Noyes, Tim Smith, Amanda Isham, Matt Migonis, Keith LaCroix, Stephanie Drew, Tristan Weide and Dan Farr
  - It is noted that many members were not especially happy with the finalized agreement but acknowledged that the opportunity for our U12 players to still be able to play while still being part of the Harwood Youth Hockey Association was more important than what jerseys were worn and where games were played.
- Those that voted nay were: Katie Martin
- Chris Martin expressed his disapproval of the process but did not actually cast a vote either in favor or against the actual motion.
- Josh announced based on the votes the Harwood board has **approved** the merger of our U-12 Harwood team with the U-12 Stowe team.