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**Essex Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting – Essex High School Room C102
December 21, 2006**

The meeting commenced at 7:14pm

Member Attendees: Maurice Roesales

Board Member Attendees: Jeff Cabanaw, Al Foice, Bruce Garrapy, Scott Godin, Pat Lancour, Estelle LeClair, Kevin Norris, Tomi Tanghe, Jill Vespa

November Meeting Minutes - Approved the November minutes.

Visitor Discussion - None

Committee Reports

- a) Registrar – No report
- b) Treasurer – Al Foice reported for Kay Maloney: they are working with new late registering novice parents to determine payments within policy.
- c) Travel – No report
- d) House – No report
- e) Head Coach – Scott Godin reported: Planning on adding a goalie clinic. Ice available at UVM. January 8th and working with Vermont Goaltending Academy to provide training. Scott needs to discuss with Rich availability of goalie equipment. Some parents have old equipment who may want to donate equipment...but there is no reach out program to obtain the donation. Criminal referral forms were completed by the coaches and sent into VSAHA with some stragglers. Question regarding policy on letting siblings practice with each other when on other teams. This is not acceptable pursuant to policy and will be enforced. The only exception is a non-EYHA sibling may participate as a coaching assistant with the appropriate notification for insurance purposes.
- f) Women's Director – Pat Lancour reported: U12 development as come a long way since the start of the season. U14's also doing really well. Pat will be coordinating a bring a friend program where players will be encouraged to bring a friend to practice or games as a way of recruiting. Also, Pat spoke about the possibility of having an Olympian visit to promote the game. Spaulding had some very positive comments regarding our HS program and the feeder program of EYHA. Overall the EYHA girls program is running very smoothly.
- g) Ice Coordinator – Chair Tomi Tanghe reported: Low attendance on 6am and complaints on CREW arena. Kick ice not that popular with some teams but very popular with others. Glades have found it to be successful. Swapping ice time discussed. Coach to coach changes will work the best when trading ice time as parents have complained that schedulers are making changes.
- h) Fundraising – Chair Estelle LeClair reported: \$16,000 team level sponsors. A handful will not be back next year due to kids ending the program. Some businesses have not been tapped into yet. Tasteful parties raised \$150. House and novice trinkets discussed. Yearbook update discussed.
- i) Tournament Director – Jeff Cabanaw reported: Thanksgiving tournament 10% over budget in revenue.

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- j) Head Referee – No report
- k) Equipment Manager – No report
- l) State Representative – Handout, USA looking at Mite hockey changing to ½ ice games vs. full ice. Level of development is great. Proven successful in pilots in MN and MA. No opposition.

Old Business

- a) Midget teams – Discussion ensued about how to encourage players participating in high school tryouts to register with EYHA to assist in having better projections. Proposal to communicate to all bantam and midget families that they must register if they want to come back into the EYHA if not making HS team. The challenge for the association is determining the appropriate number teams, roster sizes, fairness of play, financial costs and fees. Requiring registration will assist in planning and diminish the challenges for the Association. However, the board will review the refund policy for those registered who make HS teams to ensure equity. Discussion only nothing finalized
- a) Coach Release forms for Criminal Background checks – Complete.
- b) Outdoor rinks – No need to discuss – Unfortunately, not cold enough to consider and two a week practices with supported with well planned ice rentals by Tomi renders the plan unnecessary.

New Business

- a) New England Festival – Al Foice reported. This is held March 23rd – 25th. There are 5 rinks associated with the festival. Given the Essex rink will be under construction, we are hosting the 16 and 17 year olds at Gutterson. We are looking into managing the/a concession stand but nothing is set at this time. We are obligated by the USA Hockey By-Laws as a member organization to provide volunteers to support the Festival. Al will report more at the next meeting.
- b) End of session registration discussed. Goals: 1) way to look at numbers for next year and 2) pre-commitments from players. Discussion only.
- c) All Star's discussed. This is held at Cairn's. We will implement a process that ensures appropriate controls and encourages participation. More information will be sent from VSAHA regarding the tryout schedule, recommendations and self-nomination process and forms and pricing for participating players. Al will provide an update at the next meeting. Discussion ensued. It is uncertain if goalies are nominated separately or part of the allotment. Since Essex is an A association, we are allotted 5 player recommendations per level. For any team that reaches the State finals, the allotment is increased to 7.

Update on Action Items:

- a) Solicit through email, interest and volunteers to help maintain the Foster Road outdoor rink – Kib Horsford to provide the email, Jill Vespa to send out to team parents. – Rink not available due to weather
- b) Distribute board member team assignments for the grievance process. Jill to send to team parents. - Done
- c) Find a Santa for Novice division on Dec. 16th. Paul and Wolfie to solicit. - Done

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- d) Coaches meeting needed to handle background checks. Scott to organize with Al's assistance. - Done
- e) Put together master list of team coordinators. Jill to do. - Done
- f) Find a printer for this session's yearbook – try for donation or at cost. Jill to do. – Obtained 1 quote, waiting for 2 others.

Next meeting date – January 18, 2006 7pm in room C102 of the Essex High School.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.