

Essex Youth Hockey Association

Board Meeting

August 17, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 P.M.

Attendees: Peter Croce, Tom Frank, Gail Lamos, Lesley Larson, Tyler Main, Stephanie Paquette, Maurice Roesales

Board Member Attendees: Craig Benson, Jeff Cabanaw, Rich Connolly, Al Foice, Bruce Garrapy, Will Gonyeau, Kib Horsford, John Laliberte, Pat Lancour, Estelle LeClair, Kay Maloney, Paul Murray, Kevin Norris, Tomi Tanghe, Jill Vespa

Agenda Items:

1. July Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve July minutes. Approved by all.

2. Committee Reports –

□ Treasurer – Chair Kay Maloney reported – Bank account report:

EYHA rink Fund = \$21,266.55

Primary Checking = \$11,460.16

Secondary Checking = \$14,922.24

**Total = \$47,648.95**

Maurice presented a player forecast for 2006/2007 season. A final budget was then presented with this forecast in mind. Motion to increase travel registration fees to \$245 which covers additional administrative costs incurred and the \$25 pizza fundraiser, which again will be deducted from the 3<sup>rd</sup> travel payment if specific number of pizzas is sold. If not, EYHA keeps the \$25 as the “buy out” fee. Motion to approve presented budget. All approved. Jill to call Belinda regarding “gifts given” line item of the budget.

□ Registrar – Chair Kib Horsford reported – Kib presented registration options, Notification Strategy, List of information needed at registration and the EYHA Player Registration form. Coaches can register on line. Action – Jill to contact the Mountain Gazette, mail flyers to superintendant of both school districts, inform UPS store of new board members.

- House – Chair John Laliberte present – Discussion of an informational meeting for new participants will be held on 9/5 at the High School. Jill to coordinate room with the HS.
- Travel – Chair Paul Murray reported – New web site usage: 183 new viewers of the 368 URLs to web site. Tuesday's are the busiest web site day. The scheduling software is up and running. We don't have any schedulers at this time. Paul to contact last years schedulers to solicit volunteers. Discussion on scheduling tournaments early (now) for teams as many fill up early. EYHA pays for one per team. "A" teams are aware that they will participate in more so additional may be scheduled. If needed, we can cancel early in the season. Jill to work on a list of expectations to hand out at registration letting parents know exactly what can be expected in terms of added costs, tournaments, travel to practices, etc.
- Ice Coordinator – Chair Tomi Tanghe reported – Hasn't heard back from Highgate in order to schedule ice time as of yet. Highgate rink issues related to their floor and will not effect our ice time. We need to keep a good/positive relationship going with Highgate as Waterbury Ice will one day not be available due to growing programs. Kick ice has available times we can take and Morrisville can give us up to 1-½ hours to split with 2 teams.
- Tournament Director – Chair Jeff Cabanaw reported – Jeff presented the Golf Tournament flyer for the 9/24 tournament. Looks great! Estelle continues to obtain sponsors. Jill to forward Estelle a list of sponsors for the silent auction.
- Fundraising / sponsorships – Estelle LeClair reported – Discussion of allowing a representative of Party Lite work a table at registration. Profits from any sales to be kicked back to EYHA. Question of selling candy bars as an added fundraiser was asked and received well. Teams are encouraged to NOT fundraise for their own team benefit as it can hurt other fundraising efforts and it separates the team from the organization. All efforts should be on behalf of the entire organization.

- Head Coach – Chair Scott Godin not present – Tom Franks to report – Discussion regarding the coaches and player evaluation forms. This concept was new and introduced midway through last season. Tom was asked to describe the purpose and vision of the evaluations which is primarily for development and management purposes. The same approach will be utilized this year, however, a greater effort will be given to explaining it to coaches and parents to ensure success. Over time, the information gathered will be more useful. Tom was asked for input on the try out process and grievance policy/committee. This will be covered under “old business”.
- Head Referee – Chair Bruce Garrapy reported – Dates and times for the referee seminars. Seminar dates and times are as follows: Sunday, 10/1 at St. Michael’s College, ice at Essex. Saturday, 10/14 at Hartford High School, ice at school also. Sunday, 11/5 at Rutland High School, ice at Rutland Fieldhouse. All seminars start at 8am and run until 4 ish. Level 1, 2 and 3 officials are welcome. Applicants must meet / complete specific requirements: 1. Attend USA Hockey approved and conducted seminar. 2. Proper application and fee to be paid to USA Hockey, Inc. 3. Complete open book test with acceptable score for level requested. 4. Pass the closed book examination for the level applied for. 5. If applying for level 4, you will be required to pass a skating test. 6. Above to be completed by the last day of November. No changes from last month but wanted to list again.
- Equipment Manager – Chair Rich Connolly reported – All but a few uniforms have been turned in. Rich reported that the equipment checklist form worked well however there is an opportunity to improve on this for this coming year. This year the plan will be to have sponsor plates handed out with uniforms. Participants will not be allowed to play without their sponsor plate on their uniform. At the end of the year, all sponsor plates must be handed in. There will be a \$15 fee for any not turned in. This is the cost to have them reprinted for the following year.

- State Representative – Chair Kevin Norris reported – There will be a state representative kick off meeting on 8/30 at the Sheraton. There was no further discussion at the State level regarding the VHL A Level proposal by BAHA.
- Women’s Director – Chair Pat Lancour reported – Continued concern regarding the U12/U14 programs. Many are trying out for the U19 team. This effects other towns as well as Essex resulting in many teams having younger girls on the U12 and U14 teams. A few commented on not liking 8 to 10 year old girls playing with 12 year olds and 11 and 12 year olds playing with 14 year olds. The greatest concern was heard from parents of girls who indicate that the there is a significant age gap that translates into various social matters and topics that take place in the locker rooms. Just not a good age mix. Discussion on reworking the teams after the U19 finished their season. Fact – under USA Hockey rules, no one can play in two state championship tournaments so it would be unproductive to go through the exercise and not have these particular girls be able to play in the state tournament. Motion made stating any girl who rosters herself on the U19 team can not come back to play U14. All approved (this lead to conversation regarding the boys teams and all agreed that this motion applied to the boys as well). Again the reasoning was due to USA Hockey rules of not being able to play two state championship tournaments. It should be further noted that U19 does not practice. They play on Sunday’s only. If a participant wants to develop their skills and see more ice time, they should stay with the U12/U14 program. Many agreed that making personal calls to the girls could make a difference as to which team they will ultimately choose to play for. Based on the number of younger girls in the EYHA program, it was determined that the future holds a strong girls program. Action – Pat to develop a recruitment plan. Ideas included talking to Harwood regarding a possible merge of programs until their program is more off the ground. It is important to note that EYHA would never displace an EYHA participant for a participant from another town. The discussion

regarding U19 and boys split season teams generated discussion that in the past, these teams have operated under the EYHA umbrella. Motion made stating to continue this however with the stipulation that EYHA would ask from an additional \$5 fee to cover administrative costs associated of managing U19 activities. All approved.

### 3. Old Business –

- By-Laws revisions – Jill Vespa reported – Dan Overton has the changes discussed at the last meeting and after some discussion, will be revising.
- Tryout Process – Listed in the Policies and Procedures Manual, section 4.3.6. USA Hockey rules apply. Parents and participants should understand that as skaters reach higher levels, more game time evaluation is considered. The lower levels (mites/squirts) have less game time evaluation and more skills evaluation. Discussion of whether to go with a + / – score or a 1–5 score during evaluations took place. Motion made to keep the tryout process as it stands. All approved.
- Midget Program – Proposed a Midget Committee chaired by Rich Connolly with possible members being Tom Franks, Will Gonyeau, Paul Murray, Belinda Davidson, Mike Haskins. Committee items:
  - Midgets can not play split season and full season at the same time.
  - EYHA will have 2 midget teams this year based on the numbers from the survey. EYHA board has to review the team rosters from Mike Haskins group and Glades as well.
  - There are opportunities to play in So. Burlington in September. Schedule reviewed.
  - Question asked if 2<sup>nd</sup> year Bantams could play up to Midgets. Board reinforced that it is EYHA Policy that no player will play above the player’s actual age group as defined by USA Hockey. Accordingly, the Board affirmed the No response. This created discussion surrounding whether a Bantam level player knows the policy and risks

associated with playing on the Split Level Midget team. The risks are that the player will not be eligible to play in Vermont State Tournaments and that they will only be able to play at the Bantam Level when returning to EYHA. Al was asked to contact Mike Haskins to ensure that he was aware of these issues so that he can inform Bantam age parents who may be trying out for the Split Season Midget teams.

- Coaches are needed
- There isn't any ice time in Waterbury but possibly Morrisville.

Rich continues to be very committed to the Midget Program.

- Policy and Procedure Handbook Draft – This document was reviewed cover to cover. Parents are expected to read this document and to be familiar with its contents. Please note that some changes were made from the draft version.

#### 4. New Business –

- Tryout dates – September 25 – Oct. 1. Warm ups the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Refer to [www.essexyouthhockey.org](http://www.essexyouthhockey.org) for specific team dates and times.
- Number of teams – Tomi Tanghe had a survey sent to all team parents to distribute to get an idea of numbers for this year. Registration will determine final numbers, however, the survey indicates the following possible numbers of travel teams: Mites – 2, Squirts – 3, Peewee – 2, Bantam – 3, Midget – 2, U12 – 1, U14 – 1. Note these projections may change based on new player registrations at all ages.
- House Program – Informational meeting to take place at the High School on 9/5 for parents of new participants to discuss the program and expectations.
- Essex Skating Facility: Al reported that he spoke with representatives of the Essex Skating Facility on the renovations. He noted that a new main entrance was established on the football field side of the building and a enclosed vestibule was under construction to shield the entrance from the elements. This may

impact visitor familiarity and tournament entry fee collections. The primary rink parking will be shut-down during the winter leaving the parking lots in front and in back of the school as the primary with some parking off of Old Colchester Road entrance. There are no other logistical changes impacting the interior of the rink for this coming season. The rink opens Sept 18. Al asked for volunteers for Sept 12 at 6 PM to paint the EYHA logos on the ice surface. (Jill - need the names of the volunteers here)

5. Next Meeting Dates -

- Registration - September 7 & 9 - at the Inn At Essex.
- September 21st, Location: Essex Fire Department - Sandhill Station near Foster Road. Park in the rear and on Foster Road - please leave side parking open for emergency responder parking.

6. Executive Session - closed session

7. Motion to Adjourn - Motion approved at 11:45pm

Jill Vespa  
Secretary