



## **FC EXETER**

### **Monthly board meeting**

**March 12, 2024**

**At Exeter Rec and via Zoom**

Present: Maria Proulx (President), Patrick Garrity (Vice-President), Ben Bailey, Jon Fagan, Michael Hill, Geoff Meadville, Jessica Costa, Christie Farris, Scott Craig, Eric Kelley, Cathy Golden, Porter Hayes, Jenn Young (Treasurer), David Richards, Luke Martel, David Richards, Matteo Taormina, Shane Bradt

Absent with Regrets: Dave Richards

### **Welcome and meeting minutes**

Maria Proulx opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Eric made a motion to approve the February minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

### **NNESL Update**

Matt C. is going to help get NNESL going with Kim helping. Matt is taking a reasonable fee which will help the league financially. Paulo from Portsmouth is stepping down from the Board and the Board is looking for a replacement. Jason from Garrison City is looking for a replacement before he steps down.

Curt Kenoyer has agreed to step in as Interim President. Maria agreed to step in as VP on an interim basis through the Spring. There will be work done to make sure all clubs are represented on the Board. The Annual Meeting is tomorrow night (3/13/24).

Last month there was a vigorous debate about the rule limiting the ability of a club to move players within two teams in the same division. Maria opposed it on behalf of FC Exeter. Eventually it was dropped. There was also discussion of a rule to limit teams from taking players from another club's catchment area. The Board felt a rule couldn't be adopted for this season.

Jenn Young asked about the NECSL integration. Maria said we are going to fold in NNESL in a hybrid format. NECSL will do scheduling and ref coordinating. Matt will do the rest of the work for Spring. We will see how it goes and quickly talk about what the Fall will look at. Jenn expressed concern about moving into NECSL without written reassurances.

Patrick asked if they've done this before and what advice they have for us. Maria said NECSL wanted to absorb us completely and dissolve our board and structure. Some of the NNESL Board members, including Maria, were resistant and want things in writing and that, before we go all in we need to build in guardrails. 3 Step owns NECSL and US Officials and is setting the fees for refs. Jason asked if they ever came through on Maria's request for an MOA to lay out all the terms in writing. Maria said that would come before we go all-in in the Fall.

### **Bylaw Issues**

Jason proposed that we live under the proposed role changes approved in January, but noted that they couldn't become official changes because we can't suspend the bylaws or change them without posting seven days ahead.

Because our bylaws are prescriptive and should be reviewed, Jason suggested a committee to do an overall review of the bylaws because that's good practice and we have a standing committee in the bylaws. We could incorporate the changes or trim down the prescriptiveness to make it more flexible.

Jason noted that, in order to have over 15 Board members, we would need to make the expansion of Board members official by posting the proposed change seven days ahead of the meeting in which it will be voted on. **Jason will post it at least seven days prior to the next meeting.**

### **Election of Secretary**

Jason Faria volunteered for the role of Secretary at the February meeting . Maria held a vote to confirm his nomination. The nomination was approved unanimously.

### **Fields**

Fields will be available the week of April 8. Patrick confirmed usage of all fields (Brentwood, Exeter, Timberland, N Hampton, Stratham Memorial School). Steven's Park in Stratham is not confirmed because they're trying to figure out if they will have Spring soccer. Brentwood is becoming popular with Lacrosse. Saturday, April 6 is the Brentwood cleanup. Need volunteers. We want to stay active in maintaining our commitment to the Brentwood fields. Activities are increasing, so having our foot in the door in many places is important. Patrick will be putting out the grid with available times. Maria said Seacoast is available to support on Tuesday or Thursday, just need a decision on which date.

Jessica looked at potential use of Sawyer Park in Kensington. Spring could be tough with baseball tournaments, so if we are good for Spring. Kensington wants to entertain more proposals for use of fields, so we could put in for Fall. Could fit 11v11 and two smaller. Maria suggested thinking about a proposal for Spring anyway to get our foot in the door. Jessica said they charge \$70/hour normally, but lower for a blanket permit for the season. Patrick will look at the overlay. We may need to bring goals, line it, etc. Matteo suggested that maybe we shift goals from the Timberland field to Kensington as part of the negotiation since we just use

Timberland for practice. EJBSL offered \$4000 for 6 games/week in Kensington, not including lights.

Jenn asked about lights at Knowles. Patrick thinks they don't run them in the Spring and that it may be cost-prohibitive. Patrick will look at the master schedule when it comes out. They only have one team using that field in N Hampton.

### **Coaching & Academy**

The Coaching Committee met prior to the Board meeting and decided to have the Coaches Meeting on April 11 at the Exeter Rec. Maria informed the Board that she had already contacted Laura Skaal to find a location for April 2. The meeting will be April 2 so coaches can get on the fields for the week of April 8. Maria suggests that we send an email to coaches to let them know what is coming up. Laura has a template. **Jason will ask Laura for the coach email template.**

### **Equipment**

Luke made the point that there should be succession plans for each of the positions. Need someone to learn the ropes. Patrick said some of the one-person committees were left that way because the one person was making it work. **Patrick will circulate the roles to look for more volunteers.**

### **Tournaments**

Scott reached out to the Harvest Cup. Cost will remain the same (\$125 per team savings). Their organization committee will convene in March. They don't allow Premier teams. It would only be Championship level. They canceled and refunded last year. Maria heard they cancel often. Pete Levassiuer tournament hasn't responded. We have time to figure it out before Columbus Day. Maria said that there have been complaints about the Harvest Cup often canceling quickly due to weather.

### **Team Formation & Evaluations**

Jessica went through team formation suggestions.

#### **BOYS:**

Two teams for U15 2009-2011's.

2012's - we have 25 players and can make two teams, possibly two Premier.

2013 - 24 players, two teams, Premier/Championship.

2014 - 19 players, two teams, possibly two balanced Championship teams **(need coach feedback from Laura Skaal).**

2015/16 - 41 players (19 new players who didn't play in fall) four teams.

#### **GIRLS:**

2009-2010 - 18 players, one team Premier.

2011 - 15 players, one team Premier.

2012 - 18 players, two teams, Championship and share, possible pull up from 2013's

2013 - 14 players, one Championship team. 2014 - 18 players, two teams one Premier one Championship.

2015/16 - 23 players, two teams.

#### HIGH SCHOOL

BOYS: Two teams, U19 in both NNESL and NHSL

GIRLS: One team. If Seniors want to play it will have to be U19 in NHSL, if not, it's U17 in NNSL

**All HS teams will need to be registered in both. We can pull out of NNESL if there aren't enough teams for a league.**

Jess will set a team formation meeting with the committee. Jenn said that she would be happy to teach members of the committee to form rosters. Jason and Jessica will connect to make sure teams have coaches.

#### Financial Report

Cash balance is \$123,002. Registration is down about 20% 288 last year, 254 this year. IRS 1096 and 1099's were filed in February. We will need to open Fall registration next month. We will need to vote on registration fees next month, so we will need to know what NNESL's increases will be. **We need a Scholarship Committee next month. Maria volunteered.**

#### Adjournment

Jessica made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09pm, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried unanimously.