

WATERTOWN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Location: Maggie's on the River, Watertown, NY

Date: 2/27/2024

Time: 6:00 PM

Board of Directors:

Vega Nutting, Board President Michael Ledoux, Board Vice President Board Members Samantha VanBrocklin Chris Nethers Thomas Brown (not in attendance) Angela Keegan Anthony Felder Jordan Reber (not in attendance)	Additional Elected Positions *Brian Nutting - WHA Treasurer Angela Keegan - Secretary Michelle Rist - WHA Registrar Dan McAloon - Ace Coordinator *Lori Felder – Tournament Coordinator *Not in attendance Public Participation: Amanda Caswell, Ginger Burns, Megan Luna, Griff Biedron, and Joe Bennett
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Agenda Items

Meeting called to order 6:06 PM

Public Participation: Girls Teams Proposal:

Amanda Caswell and Ginger Burns provided a proposal to the board and requested a feasibility study over the next month to gauge interest in a girl's hockey program in the north country. Hasn't been a feasibility study done in the north country, at this time not looking to pull girls off the coed teams. Pull in numbers numbers from other organizations as well. Reach out to other associations...biggest hurdle, competitiveness for players from TI, SR, etc. Would have to have boards to facilitate a girl's program and clarify it is not the intention to poach players. Looking to field teams at 8U, 10U and 12U level right now. Board provided feedback that if there are practices occurring as girls teams and tournaments in addition to coed practices and tournaments that there would have to be discussions regarding cost recovery. Next step is Amanda will draft an email for WHA board to review and then to be sent out from WHA board to neighboring associations regarding this feasibility study to get their buy in.

10U issues:

Concern is that girls are being bullied on the team. Ginger Burns was asked to mention at the board meeting, the parent sharing concern could not attend to give specifics, but the claim is that the excuse given by more than one coach is "boys will be boys". Coach present for meeting stated that was not said by him and that things he is aware of were addressed. Proper avenues should be utilized prior to bringing to the board. Without specifics, WHA board has no grounds to address further.

12U issues:

Parents expressing frustrations were encouraged to attend board meeting but none were in attendance. Over the season there have been a few instances where coach Griff has been asked by 10U players to practice with 12U team and he's allowed them to practice with them. The night before the board meeting, five 10U players attending practice with 12U. Per public participant, only 1 was pointed out by parents since this same player played in a 12U game previously. Practice, red team has had more practice slots than other teams, they pick up a bay slots, dry land on some practices, very few 12U players from other teams are showing up to these but they are offered to the other teams... Suggestion by Ace coordinator: have an open forum with parents at both levels to meet with the coaches and discuss through the proper channels first.

January Meeting Minutes Review:

Michael motions to approve the minutes, Tony seconds, no one opposed, motion passes.

Unity Ice:

Unity: Request any unused ice that is going to go vacant, let Tony know and Unity will pick it up.

Banquet: Continue WHA affiliation with Unity.

This year mites will have their own banquet, WHA provide funds for it. Mid-April Saturday 10U morning, 12U afternoon, Sunday 14U morning and 16/18U in the afternoon.

16/18U coaching and evaluations:

Reach out to Jon Rose 16U and John Terry 16U. Josh VB could be 18U option. Mike and Chris stepping away from head coaching next season. Coaching committee to have a meeting about timing of getting started. Put out applications for coaches...March 16th deadline for coaching applications. Talk to Jon, John and Josh to see where their head is at when they want to do tryouts.

16U

costs/registration: Brian to look at cost breakdown of the season for 16U.

Board Positions: Tom Brown not returning, need younger group coming in to Board positions. Start conversation now on FB and get that out there.

- Need website person
- Ice scheduler
- Etc.

Taxes: Work in progress

Open Agenda: February 23rd via text board approved Aidan T and Owen O to pay a pro-rated amount to join the 18U team for the remainder of the season. Following the approval, Owen O opted out of joining the 18U team. March 6th via text the board approved to add Logan G for pro-rated amount and Noah T to 18U roster. All players must register with WHA to play.

HS donations: Chris Nethers thanks WHA for the donation of \$2500 to IHC. Kasey Kittle ending season and will be sending a letter of thanks from TI for the \$2500 donation. Email from Obay sending a letter for the appreciated donation of \$2500 to OBay. Have a WHA board member at the banquet to read the letter (Sam). Not to include monetary amount in the social media appreciation. Obay is buying jerseys with the donated money from WHA. Alex bay girls are buying new jerseys with the donated money as well.

College Scholarships: Sam to get the scholarship form template from Tyler Christman scholarship and she will edit it. Four \$500 scholarships available. Scholarship naming considerations: 1 Blair Harff, 1 Henry Lent, possibly Stephen L Rich for one and the first figure skating coach Raymond Dorr. Can continue discussions to confirm naming.

Vega Nutting motioned to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 PM.