

UVHA Board Meeting Minutes



January 17, 2018 ~ 6:00 PM

Kinney Pike Insurance, White River Junction, Vermont

1. **Attendance:** Mindy Dube, Kylie Curtis, Sarah Morlock, Jason Spaulding, Justin Barwood, Matt Maher, Roger Gillies, Alex DeFelice, Josh Obar

2. **Meeting called to order:** 6:05 PM
 - a. The December 20th meeting minutes were unanimously approved (motioned by Matt, seconded by Kylie).

3. **Monthly Reports:**
 - a. **Webmaster**-Jason has been working to upload content, to the extent that he is comfortable. After again following up with Kelly, he confirmed that the Policies and Procedure document is now posted on the website. Kelly should also soon be adding the Articles of Incorporation document.
 - b. **Coaching Coordinator**-Alex reported that there were two coaches who did not meet the deadline to recertify at Level III. Alex did reach out to the handful of coaches in need of an updated CEP; most followed through. These two individuals who can continue on as practice coaches, but will no longer be on rosters.
 - c. **Equipment Manager**-John purchased 20 new game pucks and has repurposed a small canvas bag to be stored in the bin at the rink. It's labeled with a tag that reads "Storm Home Game Pucks Only." As Justin suggested, this bag of pucks should be used exclusively for home games.
 - d. **SafeSport Coordinator**-Jason was recently made aware of concerns regarding potential bullying at the Squirt level. It was also brought to his attention that the language and behavior in the locker room at the Pee wee level was, when unsupervised, inappropriate. This led to a Board discussion of the responsibilities of the locker room monitors. Jason will send an email to coaches and ask them to be sure that their locker room monitors are performing their duties. He'll also address player behavior expectations in his mid-season email.
 - e. **Treasurer**-Ryan was out of town on business and unable to attend. Matt reminded the Board that the Lebanon PO Box is still being automatically billed to his personal bank card. He requested that this be changed as soon as possible.

- f. **Fundraising**-The Fundraising Committee is meeting tomorrow night to begin planning for the Skate-a-thon. Sarah will again provide FRC members with a letter describing the UVHA and detailing the purpose of the Skate-a-thon: letters will be shared with businesses when making donation requests. Sarah regretted to inform the group that the establishment that had previously provided disc jockey and photo booth entertainment at the event was not available Friday, March 9th. Justin suggested that we alternately make use of the PA system at the rink. Matt and Kylie both had additional ideas for making do with in-house entertainment.
- g. **Registrar**-Kylie completed and submitted full ice mite rosters. She shared that there are a number of players who have not yet had their birth certificates verified by NHAHA. Kylie will send this list of players to Alex so that he can inform coaches who will then need to ask parents to get copies of birth certificates to Kylie as soon as possible, in advance of tournament time.
- h. **Scheduler**-Bill wasn't able to attend.* Justin explained that he took a closer look at the overall schedule and noticed that while the total number of games per team was close to the same, some teams had a marked number of home games more than others. Justin voiced his concern about this. He believes, and the group agreed, that because team fees are assessed to cover the cost of home ice, we should take heed of the equity of home games. Justin and Bill will continue to fill out the end of the season ice, paying particular attention to the dispersion of home games going forward.

4. New Business:

- a. **Official Name Change**-Greater Lebanon Youth Hockey has been officially renamed Upper Valley Hockey Association at the State level, thanks to Matt's diligence. He will follow through with filing for a name change at the IRS level. Matt once again recommended that the Board consider the dissolution of HYHA in order to operate as one entity, the UVHA, citing his reasoning as follows:
 - i. **Board independence between GLYHA/UVHA and HYHA**
 - ii. Although the Greater Lebanon Youth Hockey Association (GLYHA)/Upper Valley Hockey Association (UVHA) and the Hartford Youth Hockey Association (HYHA) are now both reinstated within their respective states and the Board have the proper 501(c3) paperwork retained on the Google drive and with UVHA's accounting firm, the problem of maintaining both of these entities remains. Moving forward and if both entities are to remain operational, it is critical in my opinion that these boards become independent of one another, with non-overlapping boards of directors, distinct meetings, and distinct reporting of those meetings. I believe this is critical to prevent unintended convolution of our finances and real or perceived conflicts of interest that could negatively impact the governance and/or operation of the Association. It is important for all involved to recognize that recent successes of our fundraising efforts will be accompanied by the potential for greater visibility and scrutiny.

iii. **Dissolution of HYHA**

- iv. As an alternative to sustaining both Boards, it remains a viable alternative to dissolve the Hartford Youth Hockey Association. As part of that activity, HYHA finances could either be completely merged with GLYHA/UVHA or partially merged in the form of a protected account. Under a protected account, the use of funds could be restricted to limited purposes, such as the funding of scholarships for Vermont-based players. The dissolution of HYHA is the only path available to one UVHA-related board, due to the continuing desire of the membership to participate in the Granite State League (GSL), the associated NH-based non-profit requirement, and the high switching costs (money and effort) related with re-establishing the UVHA website, which is subsidized by the New Hampshire Amateur Hockey Association (NHAAHA). Members of UVHA have long considered the maintenance of HYHA necessary to have a Hartford-based link to the Wendell A. Barwood rink, which located in Hartford and subsidized by the taxpayers of that time. This link is presumed to be critical in maintaining favorable position concerning the scheduling of practice and game ice, and this is certainly not a benefit members should take for granted. At the same time, the existence of a parallel organization leaves open the option for the membership to fracture and for a subset to gain position based on aligning with one entity or another.

This was briefly debated, but, ultimately tabled for future discussion. Alex will email the UVHA Board the list of members of the HYHA Board. HYHA will need to meet prior to their Annual Meeting to plan for reorganization and to determine the operational needs of this association.

- b. **Mid-season Letter**-Jason is drafting a letter to email to the membership. This correspondence will highlight positives from the season thus far and remind families of the Code of Conduct to curtail undesired behaviors.
- c. **Electronic Forms**-Kylie explained that while there is an option uploading electronically signed Consent to Treat and Code of Conduct forms during the registration process, we still need signed hard copies for team binders. As the electronic submission seems to confuse this, Kylie suggested eliminating the option of uploading the forms during the SportsEngine registration process. Instead, she advised that each coach/team parent be given hard copies to distribute and collect before the start of the season. Jason will reach out to Kelly to ask him to look into the plausibility of removing the electronic form option from SportsEngine registration.
- d. **Coaching Holes**-Looking at preliminary numbers for next season, there will likely be a need for additional coaches at the 10U and 12U levels. The Board will need to keep this in mind and prepare to recruit coaches for the 2018-2019 season starting this spring.

- e. **Letter to Selectboard Chair**-Sarah drafted a letter to Hartford Selectboard Chair, Richard Grassi, expressing the UVHA’s support for the Parks and Recreation Department’s plans for rink improvements. Sarah will edit the letter, based on Board feedback, and share the revised version with Jason before mailing to Mr. Grassi at the Town Offices.
- f. **Inclusion of Off-ice Training**-Jason brought up for Board consideration the idea of building the cost of off-ice training into the UVHA’s fee structure so that parents opt in and pay one fee at the head of the season. Matt furthered this notion, suggesting that the Board think about doing the same for the Pot-O-Gold tournament rather than asking parents to contribute to cover the team fee at the end of the season. For those who take advantage of the option, this would allow families the ability to roll these additional costs into their automatic payment plans.

5. **NH State Meeting Report:**

- b. The next NHAHA meeting is February 17th.

6. **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:40 PM

**1/25/18 Appendix*

Following the meeting, Bill shared the chart below, detailing the distribution of total, home and away games by team, as of January 25th.

Team	Games	Team	Home	Team	Away
BT1	37	BT1 H	19	BT1 A	18
HM	18	HM H	15	HM A	3
PW1	35	PW1 H	19	PW1 A	16
PW2	31	PW2 H	17	PW2 A	14
SQ1	30	SQ1 H	14	SQ1 A	16
SQ2	29	SQ2 H	13	SQ2 A	16

TER	17	TER H	17	TER H	0
THFF	1	THFF H	1	THFF H	0
TM	23	TM H	14	TM A	9
TMB	5	TMB H	3	TMB A	2
TMR	5	TMR H	1	TMR A	4
Total	231	Total	133	Total	98