



Exeter Youth Soccer Association

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors

Held at Parks and Rec, 32 Court Street, Exeter on October 11, 2022

1. Chairman welcome

The meeting started at 7:05 pm. Marc Chabot noted there was a quorum with more than half the directors in attendance, welcoming Luke Martel, Maria Proulx, Stephen Osborne, Geoff Meadville, Jenn Young, Brian Melick, Scott Craig and Patrick Garrity. Marc, Maria and Luke joined by video conference. There were apologies for absence from Randall Skaal, Porter Hayes, Jason Faria and Matteo Taormina.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held August 16th, 2022, having previously been circulated as draft, were approved by a vote.

3. Former Director

Marc recounted a call with Chuck Murray former director that Jenn and Stephen had also participated. It was noted that the call was civil and provided clarity to Chuck, with him accepting that the club's continuing preference is to offer coaching positions to parents before looking outside the membership.

4. Annual Meeting

Marc noted that at the annual meeting, in January 2023, for the election of officers both he and Stephen would not be putting themselves forward as their board tenure ends. There would also be 3 new open positions on the board with Brian also retiring. Stephen confirmed that, with these seats opening, the board would expect to have 10 members, leaving space for 5 fresh appointments.

There was a discussion about others who had previously expressed an interest in volunteering for the board. Jenn and Patrick will follow up with Laura Tongbua. Geoff will reach out to Tegan Lister.

5. NNESL/ Fall

Maria summarized that the season has been generally progressing successfully with only a few lopsided matches standing out. She noted that Rye has dropped out of the U14/5 girls division and this impacts Exeter because the FC Exeter team will have 2 fewer regular season matches. Maria has organized an additional friendly for the girls, against Matteo's U13 FC Exeter boys at Brentwood, with game officials.

There were no significant team issues that haven't been addressed.

Maria said that NNESL had experienced better referee coverage this season with most if not all games having refs. She noted that away from the Seacoast, NHSL is continuing to have a harder time. Maria attributed the local improvement in part to efforts by NNESL, including at FC Exeter, in promoting more new referees and youngsters signing up.

Maria advised that at NNESL, a trans gender policy is still under review by the board.

Regarding the Academy, Patrick, will said he would check in with coaches this week, on Thursday. There has not been much feedback from them to date.

There was a discussion about the Capitol Cup weekend tournament. In general, Patrick felt that interest in the tournament is lower than some may think and that while the club made every effort to place players on a team for the weekend, there was not a high demand or expectation. Geoff said that one cause of this may be that parents lock in on the NNESL published schedule and believe that the Capitol Cup weekend is a week off.



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There followed a discussion about coaches' use of the SportsEngine app. It was agreed that use should be encouraged and supported through demos or training as needed. On SportsEngine coaches can load games, practices and tournaments so that parents have a single view of the season. Provided coaches update schedule changes, which in all cases they should be aware of, this is a reliable approach and many coaches take this approach, even if messaging to them has been different. Jenn will look into whether the app can be administered at the club level for importing rosters, initial schedules etc.

Scott also raised the issue of the administrative burden on coaches. He said that anything that can be done to make volunteering easier, should be considered. He gave the example of jamboree/ tournaments waivers that can be a bane of coaches as they chase down similarly busy parents. Jenn will see if a preseason waiver may be put in place to cover Seacoast United tournaments, at registration.

Luke will enquire of Seacoast what is open for a coaches appreciation night, after the end of season playoffs weekend of November 12/13. Jenn asked that any coach who brings a kit bag, gets an extra drinks ticket.

6. Fields

Patrick gave an update and confirmed that matches and practices have enjoyed adequate field resources with games fields at Brentwood and Exeter and additional practice space, with goals at Brentwood, Stratham MS and Timberland.

There had been a double booking at Timberland where there was a TOPS soccer conflict on Thursday. This has been reaccommodated for FC Exeter. With 21 home games this weekend, Patrick has instructed Bob Hibbard to repaint lines, as needed.

Finally, Patrick confirmed that North Hampton, with floodlights, should be available for the end of daylight savings (November 6) ahead of playoffs weekend.

7. Financial

Jenn said that the cash balance of \$96,443. This is approximately \$6,000 up year on year. Revenue is up about \$14,000 and expenses are up approximately \$8k year on year. She noted that while Bob Hibbard has been invoicing earlier than usual and tournament costs were already invoiced for the Capitol cup, while NNESSL had not billed, making things overall broadly comparable.

Jenn authorized Patrick to order 130 medals for the Academy players, at approximately \$400.

8. Other Matters

Scott asked about the club's mission and how it related to inclusion of players across the range of interest from social to competitive, noting a player had dropped because the level of play was not challenging enough. It was confirmed that all abilities are welcome and that the club with a mission to support the development of happy, healthy and productive youth through competitive soccer and the club fostering robust participation in its soccer programs, positive feedback and the success of its teams.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 8.15pm, with the next meeting to be held on November 8, 2022.