



Meeting Minutes

SASA BOD Meeting

October 13, 2025 6:00 PM

NCSS – Mable Room

Attendees – *In-person* – Kevin Smith, Emily Norris, Andy Norris, Chris Heald, Joe Montagne, Danielle Snelling, Melissa Viens, Chelsea Forsyth, Dan Ellis, Mike Irwin, Adam Routhier, David Blatchly, Tom Waltz, Nate Liese. Virtually: none.

Absent – Dustin Degree

Guests – *In-person* – JP Routhier, Ben Driver, Luke Cioffi, Chris Brosseau. Virtually: Sarah Redfield, Marnie Carlton, Jenna Tatro.

Meeting called to order 6:02 PM.

1. Meeting minutes – Motion to approve September minutes by Emily, 2nd by Andy.
Unanimous – motion carries.
2. Public Comment – None.
3. Head Coach – the season is off to a good start. There has been no canceled ice, ADM practices are working well and skills sessions for goalies at the Palace ice are going well with good reviews thus far. Need families to RSVP for skills sessions at Palace, and other practices. Thank you to Rob Sheppard for referral of Troy. May do special girls clinic this Friday. Kevin (former UVM woman's coach) willing to put on a clinic for SASA. Looking to do this each month. Locker rooms are going OK and a reminder that no cell phones are allowed in the locker rooms. Dry land starting in November and those should be treated like a practice. Coaches need to be communicating and coordinating practices and plans ahead of time. Games are going very well. Game Sheet is going well. Tom, Scooter and Toby are doing parent meetings. 1616 began in earnest yesterday for all 12U and up teams. Need players,

coaches, etc. to do those sessions. White boards have been ordered. Does everyone have a team manager? – majority do. We are paying for skills sessions – we do want kids attending these. Goalies, drylands, skills, etc. Encouraging coaches to emphasize this with their teams and require/encourage attendance. Parents meetings need to get the message out consistently. Coaches should be letting goalies know that Friday night skills need be priority. Skill sessions are for the player. Great feedback on 10U T4 meeting from a grandparent.

Nov 22nd Enforcers v Coaches game.

4. Girls Hockey – had girls try hockey event yesterday with 14 kids in attendance. Comets and coaches were there in full force. 2 families reached out and signed up (YB) following the event. Dani Roberts – she was willing to come do a girls clinic with girls, but is now being asked to do 6:00 AM sessions. She is willing to do this. Private lessons with \$10/player. 6:00 AM time slot. Emails from the scheduling committee – not able to put all 3 girls teams on ice. 10, 12 & 14 girls on ice for skills clinic. Some of the thinking was to have like skilled players on ice. We have plenty of volunteers willing to assist. We should be providing the same opportunities for these girls. 14U and 12U are on ice together Friday – could bring 10U together. Let's get all the girls to the movie night. Opening up another theater for the premier. We'll clear the schedule for girls practices. 2 for 1 ticket purchases until October 20.

SASA needs a U16 girls team next year. 15 9th graders, 17 8th graders, 15 7th graders. Graduating 2 seniors in 2026. 6 Juniors. Would a 16U be able to practice with Comets? – we could work something out. Need to plant the seed and put it out there. There is going to be a place for these kids to play.

Special hockey is in week 2. 22 kids, 4 new to the program. All smiles out there. Going strong. Fit all the kids with free equipment. Need coaches. It's a 1 to 1 program. Any of you who are registered with USA Hockey, we'd love to have you. Sunday nights for an hour. Glen Heald Jamboree not happening this year. Tournament is happening immediately following a big tournament in Mass. Canadian teams are unable to come. Any teams willing to come and scrimmage for fun. Can make it work for 10U and up. 5:50 (1 hour) Sunday's. Had a couple kids represent SASA in Maine, another one happening in Lake Placid. Thank you for keeping it going. Are you open to more ice? – perhaps. SB Designs donated the Leafs sign in the lobby at the Complex.

Need waivers from Comets and Bobwhite players. Chelsea has waivers from girls for hockey event.

5. By Laws – not much to report. By Laws went to the attorney for review. Working on getting together with attorney on recommended changes. Coordinating schedules has been difficult. Should be getting together this week with a follow up for the next meeting.
6. Communications – working on newsletter. One concern is that we are putting too much out – are things getting lost or not seen? Should we be staggering more? Don't want things getting missed. Reaching out to coaches for something quick on their teams. Please make sure that communication out to the masses goes through the communications team (Emily).
7. Volunteer Hours – we are looking for a volunteer coordinator. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit for this role, please reach out to Kevin. We need to look at a policy/procedure for when people sign up for hours and don't show up. Discussion on only putting out 2 weeks' worth of hours to limit the amount of hours that people cancel on. Have a threshold for timing of when hours can be handed back in. If you signed up for hours and can't cover it, you need to find your substitute. Limit the number of hours that families can take in a month. The no call no show is unacceptable. Need to get rules in place and communicated. Dana Boomhower as a potential candidate. Jeff Murray is a business teacher at BFA. Seniors need to volunteer hours / community service (10 hours) and could fill some of the openings. Would likely use these as fill ins later in the season. Nate is coordinating volunteer hours for the snack bar. Can specifically send link for hours sign up to those who are cleared for Skate Shop.
8. Fundraising – Calcutta – 89 tickets sold right now. We estimated for 200 people on food, etc. Silent auction – we have 50 items. Nice items – ebike from Bootleggers, heated vest, Jay Peak golf, Jay Peak seasons pass, Montreal Panthers game. Great group of volunteers, Calcutta board is secured. Darcy and Danielle have it dialed in. No DJ – donated all the sound gear for us. Authentic signed jersey's – we have the certificates. Adam to get list to Emily.

Gold athletics - \$18M with \$13M coming to SASA. Winning team prize of movie day at Welden Theater. \$300 value.

M&R gun raffles is set up. Launch in November/December.

Friday night games – Hockey Night in St. Albans will be the name. Ben & Jerry's will provide a free pint of ice cream to each player. Format will be double headers. Announce players, national anthem, 50/50 raffle. Northwest access willing to film games on YouTube live...Paul Schnider willing to help. Run 50/50 raffle online. All teams in SASA will have at least one Friday night game. St. Albans Leafs, 18U, etc. \$5M sponsor...CCR. Casey has done a ton of this stuff. Thinking about auctioning off a zero turn

Katelynn and Tasha are out fundraising corporate sponsors.

It takes all of us to make this happen. As a part of the Board, we have to be fundraisers. We need to sell out the Calcutta. We have 89 tickets sold and need to get to 125 to make this a successful fundraiser. Run a 50/50 raffle virtually via Zeffty.

Please send the link out to Bob White Fundraiser. It's quick, easy, and meaningful to our organization. Need a separate email address for each player. Easiest fundraiser we're ever going to have. This is part of the Board work...this is not the glamorous part. Fielded a lot of questions early on on what the money was going towards.

SASA should have its own YouTube channel. Ben sent Adam a link for a unit that costs \$400. Way better product than LiveBarn. Super effective. Drowns out crowd noise. Set it and forget it. Throw a sponsor on it and you can put a logo on the feed.

9. Tournaments - tabled for Executive Session.

10. Head Ref– Once high school starts try to avoid older age groups playing Saturday evenings as the more experienced refs are tied up with high school games. When will Saturday morning game slots be filled in Highgate? Mark is only seeing one game a week. Highgate only secured from 10 -11. Mark is requesting a team schedulers contact list. Every head coach, assistant coach, etc. is listed on the website. Bob Ashton – Nov 23. 3 teams this far – maybe 5. Total of 10 games.

11. Complex – a lot of questions about replacing scoreboard. We are not. We are getting an additional score board. Installed mid-November before high school

season starts. Will have SASA logo, figure skating logo and Handy's logo as Handy's is covering the cost of the new scoreboard. There is a new console coming with the scoreboard. Banners for the north end – is that going to take up all the extra space? Sponsor signs need to be placed somewhere as those sponsors are all paid up. Remove flags from south end and place new flags on North end. 76 state championship banners to place with plans to have them in place at the same time as the additional new scoreboard. Gary Choiniere's lift will be needed and we should be coordinating. Looking for a wow factor. BFA banners are also being redone. Friday night games begin November 7th. Adult hockey is wondering why they are being scheduled later and Mark starting to get questions as to why. Mark set that ice aside for us. Saturday mornings – please make sure coaches are taking cones, tires, bumpers and pucks off from the benches. Please put things away after we use them. SASA parking out front – all people, coaches, etc. Front door will be unlocked until the last person leaves. Craft show weekend – December 12-13.

12. New Business – None

13. Old Business – Is the November schedule completed? Is YB schedule done? Same slots every Sunday. Tournament weekends are fluid.

Locker room 2 is cleaned out and Joe filled it back up. Joe opening skate shop this weekend. He'll coordinate volunteers. He'd like to see hours guidelines. Skate Shop coming along – excited to get it going. Big thanks to Mike, Lucas, Jeff for their assistance.

Tournaments – 2 weeks' notice to the State so that teams can be prepopulated into Game Sheets.

Ice hand in sheet – this worked well last year.

14. Executive Session – motion to go into Executive Session at 7:45PM by Colin, 2nd by Melissa. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:19PM by Emily, 2nd by Joe. Unanimous. Motion carried.

15. Motion to approve up to \$2,000 (banners and accessories) for the purchase of State Championship banners for SASA by Joe, 2nd by Dan. Unanimous. Motion carried.

16. Adjourn - motion to adjourn at 9:21PM by Melissa, 2nd by Joe. Unanimous. Motion carried.