

# Natick Comets Hockey Club

## Board of Directors

Natick Police Station

January 15, 2024

7:00 pm

### MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Dave Mangan, Nancy Midura, Andrea Smith, Mike Balcolm, Tony Fireman, Nathan Joyal, Jeff Schneller, Sean Stevens, Mike Byrum, Andrew Reid, Chris Boyer, David Cogliano

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Minutes to December 27, 2023 meeting approved.**

III. **Financial Report Update**

Mr. Mangan provided an update on the financial status of the club. He reported there were no red flags and that the bank balance was where it was expected to be at approximately \$460,000 and have paid approximately \$120,000 in ice time and tuition reimbursement.

IV. **Tuition Pricing for 2024-2025**

Mr. Mangan and Mr. Schneller led a discussion regarding the circumstances surrounding tuition for 2024-2025 season. Ice time is more expensive as FMC is raising the rate for a fifty (50) minute sheet by \$10.00 and a sixty (60) minute sheet by \$12.00, **about 4%**. Last year the Board did not raise tuition for Travel hockey and raised it \$25.00 for development programs. For the 2022-2023 season, tuition was raised by \$25 **for travel programs**.

The Board also discussed a variety of options for goalie tuition. The Board discussed the need to incentivize goalies and tuition assistance, including free tuition, may be necessary. Options that were discussed also include purchasing goalie equipment.

Mr. Mangan did an analysis showing that the cost of ice is increasing by approximately 4% plus inflation over the last several years. Ultimately the Board voted to keep the tryout fee the same and apply it as a non-refundable tuition deposit. Further, the Board voted to increase tuition to certain programs by approximately 4%. The exact tuition increases approved by the Board for the 2024-2025 season are reflected in the chart below.

SKATERS					
level	current tuition	4% increase	Inflation Increase	New Tuition	% change
U8	\$1,575	\$63	\$75	\$1,650	4.76%
U10-U14	\$1,575	\$63	\$75	\$1,650	4.76%
U19	\$720	\$29	\$25	\$745	3.47%
Mite	\$1,575	\$63	\$75	\$1,650	4.76%
Squirt-Bantam	\$1,725	\$69	\$75	\$1,800	4.35%
Midget	720	\$29	\$25	\$745	3.47%
GOALIES					
level	current tuition	4% increase	Inflation Increase	New Tuition	
U8	Not Applicable				
U10-U14	\$798	\$32	\$37	\$835	4.64%
U19	\$360	\$14	\$15	\$375	4.17%
Mite	Not Applicable				
Squirt-Bantam	\$863	\$35	\$38	\$900	4.35%
Midget	360	\$14	\$15	\$375	4.17%

During the follow-up discussion, it was raised that surplus revenues could be applied into savings towards a yet to be determined days cash on hand target, additional contribution for tournaments pursuant to the existing policy or some other manner. In all cases a board vote would be required to apply the surplus, if any.

#### V. Tryout Planning

Mr. Schneller and Sean Stevens discussed the tryout planning process and schedule. Tryouts are tentatively scheduled for the last two weekends of March. The Board discussed the merits of having two or three days of tryouts. Further, the Board discussed the appropriate role of evaluators and the role current coach evaluations have in the selection process. It was agreed that the process needs to be explained in advance to members of the Comets community and be as transparent as possible.

#### VI. Bantam Goalies: 2024-2025

Mr. Stevens discussed the fact that the Bantams will not have a goalie next season. The Board committed to reaching out to contacts and neighboring towns to determine if it could get goalies for the Bantam teams next season. The Board will also try to use social media to recruit goalies. This will be a priority for the coming months.

**VII. Try Hockey for Free Days**

Mr. Schneller described a program promoted by USA Hockey entitled “Try Hockey for Free.” The intent is to boost enrollment in youth hockey. Specifically, the idea is to let interested players try hockey in November or February for free. If the player is interested he/she can then participate for 4 weeks in the Learn to Play Program. Helmets will be required but other equipment is minimal. Comets will also offer an equipment program from Pure Hockey. The consensus is that this is something the Comets should be involved in.

**VIII. Mid-Season Scheduling Report**

Mike Byrum provided an update on scheduling issues. The Board decided not to utilize the surface at Johnson School in the 2024-2025 season because so few teams utilized it. The Board also discussed a skills program to be run by the Boys and Girls Varsity teams. Finally, a checking clinic will be hosted on February 6th for Peewees, 2nd year U12s and U14s.

**IX. State Playdown Status**

Mr. Byrum provided an update on the State Playdown Games. Natick won 7 games and Framingham won 7.

**X. Next Meeting: February 12th**

**XI. Adjournment**