

Natick Comets Hockey Club

Board of Directors

Natick Police Station

February 12, 2024,
7:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: David Mangan, Andrew Reid, Mike Balcom, David Cogliano, Jeff Schneller, Nancy Midura, Sean Stevens, Teddy A., Bob Klane, Anthony Fireman, Michael Byrum, Chris Boyer, Andrea Smith, Meg Whalen

I. Call to Order

II. Minutes from January 15, 2024 meeting approved.

III. Financial Report (Dave Mangan)

Mr. Mangan distributed the most recent bank statements. He indicated that the Club had approximately \$320k in the bank, which is approximately \$20k more than last year. He did expect that we would have future outlays for ice time but reported no areas of concern or red flags on the immediate horizon from a financial standpoint.

IV. Donations

The Board approved a donation for annual tuition to Learn to Play or House League for the Ben Hem Elementary School option.

V. Try Hockey for Free Day (Jeff Schneller)

- A. Mr. Schneller reported on the status of the "Try Hockey for Free Day" program the Comets are offering with support from USA Hockey. As of the meeting, with minimal advertising there were 20 registered skaters between ages 3 and 12. The Board discussed collecting equipment from the Comets community (helmets, skates, etc.). FMC is also willing to donate use of skates for participants. It was agreed that 10-11 coaches would be ideal. The Varsity Girls program offered to volunteer. Depending on its success, the Comets may pursue a similar event in the Fall. The Board determined that if participants in the Try

Hockey for Free Day who wanted to continue with Learn to Play for the remainder of the season, they could do that for \$100.00.

VI. Player Development.

The Board discussed revisiting the length of the Learn to Play Program and whether younger players should be moved up to Junior House League sooner. Specifically, the Board discussed moving LTP to 8 weeks and then moving participants up. The Board will revisit this topic in June/July.

VII. Update on Checking Clinic

Mr. Schneller provided an update on the checking clinic. He said that 12 coaches participated and Roger Gerillo was present. The feedback was positive and players were taught competitive contact. There was a strong interest in hosting additional checking clinics next season

VIII. Additional Games for MYCGL Teams this Season

Mr. Schneller described that some of the Girls teams have hit the 25 game cap before playoffs and the Club would have to pay for additional games. The Board approved an additional \$4,000 expenditure for an extra two games for the girls teams.

IX. Tryout Details

Mr. Balcom and Mr. Schneller described the tryout process including the use of evaluators and the process for goalie tryouts. Mr. Balcom indicated that he wanted to put a one page description of the tryout process and principles on the Club website to try and answer questions for parents.

X. Update on Required Neck Laceration Protection

Mr. Schneller reported that USA Hockey will require neck guards for any skater under age 18 beginning August 1. USA Hockey is going to make the neck guards available and it was decided that the Comets should notify the community well in advance of the August 1 deadline. Further, it was decided that the Comets would attempt to obtain neck guards for each coach in case players forget them.

XI. Purchase of Mite Nets

The Board approved purchasing six Mite nets for a total of \$2,800

XII. Midget Tournament/Year End Gift

- A. Ms. Midura provided an update on Senior Night for Comets players. There are three girls and 13 boys. Senior night is scheduled for March 9.
- B. Ms. Midura and Mr. Balcom also provided an update on the status of the Midget North Adams tournament. This is the second year the Comets would be attending. The first year was well received. The Comets are hoping to send two teams this Spring. The Board approved \$900 to support sending a second team.

XIII. Next Meeting: March 18, 2024

XIV. Adjournment