

Comets Board Meeting

Monday June 15, 7:00pm @ Natick PD Conference Room

In Attendance:

Scott Kleekamp, Russ Webber, Aaron Souza, Scott Lauer, Kate Dukat, Kristian Efstathiou, Teddy Efstathiou, Bean Clark, Alicia Deig, Andrea Smith, Elitza Miteva, Lauren Thomson, Bob Michaud, Andrew Reid

July Meeting: there was brief discussion of the next scheduled meeting (July 20), which will take place in person and the need to address events taking place in late August and early September (Hockey Night in Natick, Natick Days).

Approval of June 8, 2026 Special Board Meeting Minutes: a motion was made to approve the June 8, 2026. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Board Transition and Calendar Review: the backend changes relating to the board transition are underway. Comets email addresses have been assigned, along with shared drive access.

Financial Update: Andrea & Russ reported that the transition of the organization's bank account is underway and that an appointment had been scheduled with Citizens Bank. Scott K. raised whether it was possible to transition to an interest-bearing account. Andrea reported that at the moment the Citizens account was connected to QuickBooks and transitioning would be difficult to accomplish at the moment. Scott K. summarized the state of Comets budget for the upcoming year, which is in a break-even posture. Certain expenditures have been eliminated—eg, 3rd party contractors, use of non-Chase ice (Babson excepted). The budget does not depend on it, but it is also anticipated that the new programming may generate additional revenue and put the budget in a less precarious state.

Rink Advisory Committee Meeting and FMC Update: Meeting between rink advisory committee and FMC was productive. FMC understands the Comets have budget limitations this year and not be buying as much ice as in years past. Ice allocation is not yet final, as FMC has not yet finalized their rates.

2026-27 Practice Structure: a Comets family in attendance raised a question about changes to the practice structure for the upcoming season. Scott K. emphasized that there will be multiple opportunities for puck touches in terms of team practices, skills,

and the Friday night scrimmages. The overall approach is intended to be more flexible and less siloed. There was discussion about these changes needing to be communicated to families before the season begins.

Travel Team Registration: motions were made to register travel teams in the VHL and CGL, both of which were seconded and passed without noted opposition.

Ice Optimization Update: Scott K. presented on the ice optimization efforts. A coaches meeting will be scheduled in July/August for coaches to align on practice structure. Scott K. also proposed the creation of a “Coaches League” which could be open to coaches or other interested adults. Doing so would allow the Comets to preserve certain ice times for future years, appease FMC and possibility prevent them from raising rates now that Comets are dropping ice, as well as generate some revenue by charging \$150 per participant in registration for the fall season. A motion was made to offer the “Coaches League” starting this fall, which was seconded and passed. Scott K. also proposed the creation of after school “session packs” for interested middle school players. These would be mainly Comets players, but could also be made available to external players who register. A motion was made to move forward with session packs was seconded and passed.

LTP Program Changes: Lauren T. presented on her revamp of learn to play. LTP would have 3 options: the normal weekend slots and an additional weeknight session at Babson. Kids participating in Meteors (house league) who are sufficiently skilled can also be invited to CDL on Fridays. Costs for both will remain unchanged. It was noted that because Meteors will not be starting until December, that sheet will be available for flex ice pre-December. Upcoming try hockey for free events: 9/6 (Comets), 10/3 (USA Hockey), weekend of 10/16 (girls), 2/27 (USA Hockey). Voting on these events was tabled until cost estimates are available.

14U Rosters: a motion was made to approve offering two 14U teams, which was seconded and approved. Originally 3 teams were approved, but a third team does not make sense given lack of goalies and lower registration numbers. Scott K. offered to communicate with 14U families about this change.

Junior Redhawks / NHS Clinics: the Board discussed the skills clinics offered by the NHS Varsity teams at the end of August. The revenue from these clinics is donated to the Redhawk Foundation. Per Scott K., the ice is already budgeted for already. A motion was made, seconded, and passed authorizing the continuation of these clinics.

Girls Hockey Development Program: Sean V. noted that he has had some discussions with Bean C. about using some of the goalie ice for GHDP.

Bylaw Review: Elitza M. noted that there would be a meeting in the near future to discuss review and modernization of organizational bylaws.

Appointment of Director of Youth Hockey: the Board discussed the position of Director of Youth Hockey and Nathan Joyal's request to serve in that role. It was noted that the position of Director of Youth Hockey may be superfluous and unnecessary in light of other positions. Action on this request will be deferred for further review.

Honorary Trustee Positions: Drew B. reported that the honorary trustee positions are now vacant. There was some discussion about whether honorary trustees were needed at all and if so, whether they should retain voting privileges. This ties in to the bylaw review and may be taken up by that committee.

Team Nomenclature: the Board discussed the nomenclature for teams going forward, consisting of "Level-Coach," – ie, 8U-Smith, 10U-Jones, etc. Crossbar will reflect.

Practice Players / Alternates: there was a brief discussion on the Comets handling of practice players and alternates. The Comets handbook does allow for both alternates (members of team who practice and may be called to play if needed) and practice players (who are permitted to practice with team but do not have game privileges).

Meeting adjourned.