

Natick Comets Hockey Club

Board of Directors

Chase Arena

August 21, 2023

7:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: David Cogliano, Andrew Reid, Jeff Schneller, Nancy Midura, Mike Byrum, Glenn Soucy, Nathan Joyal, Tony Fireman, Rose Schneider, John Smutko, Joe Marashio

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes from July 17, 2023 Meeting

- A. Minutes approved unanimously

III. Finance Report

Jeff Schneller summarized an email from Dave Mangan who was absent from the meeting. Mr. Schneller provided the following report:

- A. Dave Mangan and Sean Stevens are working on a handoff of responsibility for the Club's finances. From a finance perspective, this is a relatively quiet time of the year. The Club recently transferred \$425,000.00 into a money market account, which is expected to generate approximately \$1,300.00 per month in interest.
- B. The Board continues to reach out to sponsors and, thus far, has received positive feedback.
- C. Mr. Mangan, through Mr. Schneller reported that the Club has an anonymous donor who has specified that he/she wants a detailed plan as to how the money will be used with the request that its use benefit the program from a long-term perspective. In the current year, the Club allocated \$8,000.00 from the anonymous donor to pay for the Driscoll Skills Sessions available to the entire Club.

- D. Mr. Schneller reported that the Scholarship Committee only received two (2) applications for scholarships from graduating boys. The Scholarship Committee did not receive any applications from graduating females. Apparently, the two graduating females did not want to compete with each other. The Scholarship Committee was going to continue to evaluate and announce recipients soon.
- E. Mr. Schneller informed the Board that Pure Hockey gave a monetary contribution to the Comets in the form of store credit valued at \$11,000.00

IV. Rink Contracts

- A. Mike Byrum identified that three (3) contracts with rinks needed to be executed. Execution of the contracts is a prerequisite to the Comets obtaining insurance through USA Hockey. The three rinks at issue are: 1) Chase; 2) Babson; and 3) Northstar. Mike Balcolm indicated he would sign in the coming week.

V. Practice Schedule Update

- A. Mr. Byrum provided an update to the skills program.
 - 1. Skills ice has been set through Peewees. The Bantams and Midget skills sessions still need to be scheduled. Each session will be forty (40) minutes on Wednesdays and Fridays. It will appear on the Crossbar calendar with a "Driscoll" designation. The plan is that one practice a week will be given up to skills for ten (10) weeks.
- B. Mr. Byrum further reported that preseason ice is being used at a positive rate with approximately 15 players per session taking advantage of the opportunity.
- C. Mr. Byrum informed the Board that the NHS Hockey Alliance would like to use a couple of sheets over Thanksgiving to help players prepare for high school tryouts. There was no opposition to this request as this happens annually.

VI. Planning for State Playdowns

- A. Mr. Byrum informed the Board that he is planning for the State Playdown games and that he will be working with someone from Framingham to schedule. It is expected that the first Playdown Games will be on Veterans Day with location to be determined.

VII. Coach Equipment

- A. Mr. Schneller and Mike Balcolm informed the Board that Chase will not allow coaches on the ice while the ice is being cleaned. In order to save time at practice, Mr. Schneller requested that the Board obtain a set of weighted cones and large whiteboard for each coach. The cost is \$137.90 for a total of \$3,725.00 The motion was approved.
- B. The Board also approved the purchase of two hard shells for Shooter Tutors. The two hard shells cost \$1,100.00.
- C. The Board discussed the benefits of “quick change” pads (24 inches) for Learn to Play. Pure Hockey does not have larger pads so if the Board wants to procure those it will need to use Vaughn and obtain elsewhere. The Board also discussed future goalie clinics and Mass Hockey’s recommendation that Mites and Squirts use multiple goalies in a game. Mass. Hockey does not recommend goalie specialization before Peewees. The Board believes the Comets have enough goalie equipment to dress two goalies for each game. Finally, Mr. Balcolm appointed Mr. Marashio to the Goalie Committee.

VIII. Coaching Needs

- A. The Comets still need coaches for Midget 2, Learn to Play, House League and Junior House League. Mr. Balcolm graciously offered to be listed as the Midget 2 coach if the Board is not able to appoint someone else. With regard to Learn to Play, House League and Junior House League, Mr. Soucy is confident that we will have volunteers for those roles when the programs begin.

IX. New Off Ice Storage for Equipment

- A. The Comets were able to procure additional storage space at Chase. It was agreed this space would be used for Learn to Play, House League goalie pads and pucks. Coaches need to be advised to use this space and keep it organized.

X. Comets Sponsorship of Hole for NHS Hockey Golf Tournament on September 22, 2023

A. The Board approved a motion to sponsor a hole at the annual High School Golf Tournament, which is a fundraiser for the boys program. The Board further approved making an equivalent donation to the girls High School program. Each donation is \$250.00.

XI. Next Meeting: September 18, 2023

XII. Adjournment