

# The Natick Comets Hockey Club

## Board of Directors

Chase Arena

November 18, 2024

7:00 pm

Attendees: Jeff Schneller, Mike Balcom, Anthony Fireman, Sean Stevens, Andrea Smith, Michael Byrum, Dave Mangan, Jessica Morency, Aaron Souza, Chris Boyer, John Smutko, Teddy Efstathiou, Megan Whalen; Bob Klane; Lauren Thomson; Glenn Soucy

### MEETING MINUTES

#### I. **Call to Order**

Mr. Balcom called the meeting to order just after 7:05 pm.

#### II. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the October Board Meeting were approved.

#### III. **Financial Update**

- Dave Mangan stated that the financial condition of the Club remains solid and consistent. There are no red flags at this point in time in the season.
- Eating a little into the buffer but okay. Nothing atypical & nothing unusual.
- Need to find a new Assistant Treasurer (Sean Whalen is doing it now) - someone who knows Quickbooks. Campus Bound information was shared.

#### IV. **Committee Structuring (Mike Balcom)**

- Passed out a sample of an document that will be sent later where folks can volunteer to be on committees listed - some guesses were made on who might be good members
- Scholarship committee needs a different chair (Dave Mangan).

#### V. **Scheduling Update (Michael Byrum)**

- **Final Skills Attendance**

- Numbers were exactly as we saw & expected; Older kids attendance was ~35% which was not a surprised to Solid State; Next year we should consider taking a different tact on the older kids, maybe doing a single-event registration to allow kids who want to be there to sign up; Spend the money a bit more wisely next season

- **State Playdown update**

- Down to 5 games left to play between Framingham & Natick; 11 already decided; Deadline is end of January
- U18 & U16 had their tournaments over the weekend; U18 won 2 of 3 games but missed out on Sunday playoffs (by a tiebreaker); U16 ran the table and won the tournament championship (U18 Tier IV)!

- **VHL game expansion ask**

- Offered 2 sheets on Saturday afternoons at Chase to VHL for games for the rest of the season, waiting to hear back

- **Avario Scheduling SW update**

- Going slowly, looking to try to do more focused attempt to see how it runs with raw data (empty ice times & teams), will continue to work on this.

- **Rivers update**

- Ice is coming after Thanksgiving on Saturdays (2-3 sheets) like last year

VI. **October Saves Update (Meg Whalen)**

- Five goalies: \$19K raised so far; \$44K raised for three years total

VII. **Polar Plunge Update (Meg Whalen)**

- Saturday, Nov. 30th - \$3K collected (13 participants)

VIII. **New Years Eve Skate (Meg Whalen)**

- 5:40-7:40pm, need to determine cost per person (\$10 per person)

IX. **Brown Elementary School Raffle Donation Request (Jessica Morency)**

- Give them one-session of Learn To Play/Jr. House/House (\$250); Move to have an automatic approval which was approved so we never have to vote on this again
- X. **Jr. Crusaders Mites weekend Jamboree (Jeff Schneller)**
- Got an email from that program, doing a weekend for youth Mites (U8) lower level and the next weekend for Girls (U8) lower level; \$350 per team; Forwarding that email to Lauren
- XI. **Try Hockey For Free Recap (Jeff Schneller)**
- Went very well, good attendance, jerseys came a week late so we can use them next time; gave them \$50 off coupons for Learn To Play
- XII. **Mass Hockey / Boston Bruins Event (Jeff Schneller)**
- Two weeks ago doing a Centennial event at Matthews Arena (3x3 tournament for 4-5 hours) - picked a boy & a girl, coaches picked them - also a goalie - kids get tickets to a Bruins game
- XIII. **Tryout Planning (Jeff Schneller)**
- Talked to Solid State and they are willing to do any component of it, on ice, evaluations or both - we should start now to decide this, need to get the cost - need to see how it compares to what we pay for the evaluators last year, need to get references from Solid State
- XIV. **Purchase Tryout Jerseys (Teddy Efstathiou)**
- Need to vote to approve to get new ones for this tryout, then throw away the old ones; Need costs & timeframe for December
  - Approved up to \$3K for tryout jerseys so we can move on that.
- XV. **Natick FireHawks (Dave Mangan)**
- Scott Kleeklamp asked if Comets might be interested in taking on the Dryland Development Program/Natick Firehawk Middle School as part of the Comets
  - Big challenge is a Middle School program which is not under MA/US Hockey so it might have be done outside of the Comets

- Aaron Souza with a meeting with Dryland Development leaders and our Executive Team to explore this further.

**XVI. Next Meeting: December 16, 2024**

**XVII. Adjournment**