

Natick Comets Hockey Club

Board of Directors

Chase Arena

October 23, 2023

7:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: David Cogliano, Jeff Schneller, Nancy Midura, Mike Byrum, Meg Whalen, Glenn Soucy, Nathan Joyal (left at 7:30 pm), Teddy Efstathiou, Dave Mangan, Rose Schneider, Andrea Smith, Sean Stevens, Anthony Fireman and Michael Balcom

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2023 Meeting

- A. Minutes approved unanimously

III. Finance Report

- A. Mr. Mangan provided an update on Club finances. Mr. Mangan reported that the money market account and checking account have positive cash flow. As of the meeting, the balance is between \$18,000.00 to \$20,000, with no anticipated large expenditures in the near future. Additionally sponsorships have increased by \$9,000.00 from previous year.
- B. With regard to specific donations, Phil Moscovitch connected the Club with Mathworks to make a donation of \$1,500.00. The Board also discussed how some employers donate cash in return for volunteer service and how to publicize that benefit as a source of potential donations.
- C. Mr. Mangan discussed developing a Finance Committee charter, to facilitate a more targeted emphasis on budgeting strategy. Mr. Mangan distributed an initial draft charter to focus the discussion but the Board did not vote on it. Included in the charter are criteria for assessing tuition assistance. Further, the Board discussed the goal and benefits of moving from Excel spreadsheets to Quickbooks to enable the Finance Committee to generate a monthly P&L statement and more effectively monitor the finances in real time and inform decision-making. It is estimated this process will take two seasons to perfect and generate accurate reports. It was agreed the role of the Finance Committee would be to assess the financial impact of decisions not to assess judgment on

whether a particular decision is appropriate for the Board or Club. The draft charter is attached.

- D. Discussion also about the impact of cash flow on the budgeting season. Because revenue fluctuates around tryouts and when tuition is paid, it is difficult to forecast and have a set budget season.

IV. Update on Comets Polar Plunge

- A. Mr. Mangan provided an update regarding the Polar Plunge. The town would charge \$150.00 for a lifeguard. The Board tentatively proposed December 9 as the date for the event but recognized that there was a need to establish logistics and prizes for most money raised. The idea was to open the event up to anyone who would like to participate.
- B. Ms. Whalen shared that the Club has received additional requests for contributions from other elementary schools and the Red Hawk Foundation for Comets baskets. As in the past, the Board approved making those donations.

V. State Playdowns Status

- A. Michael Byrum and Nancy Midura provided an update on the State Tournaments. The Midget level tournament remains in a state of flux. The U18 team is scheduled to participate but the U16 team is not yet entered. It was observed that Framingham is not entering the tournament this year at the Midget level. All of the girls teams are entered in the tournament. The only team definitely not participating is the Squirt 4 team. Scheduling the games is proving very difficult.

VI. Rinks Update

- A. Mr. Byrum provided an update on rinks and rink usage. Mr. Byrum informed the Board that use of Johnson school was very low. Specifically only three teams took advantage of the opportunity. It was decided that the Comets would not offer it for use next year.
- B. The Board further observed that turnout for practices at Northstar is very low presumably because of the distance (40 minutes away). Currently we have a commitment for next year, but Mr Byrum is going to pursue whether there is an option to reduce or eliminate the Comets' commitment.
- C. The ice at Rivers is becoming available for 3 hours on Saturdays. Although Rivers cut back on availability for the Comets, it was agreed that this was quality

ice time that was good for makeup games and practices. Mr. Byrum also mentioned that there may be sporadic availability of ice at Noble and Greenough School.

VII. Skills Update

- A. Mr. Byrum and Jeff Schneller provided an update on the Skills programs. In order to maximize efficiency and attendance it was agreed to combine Midget 1 and 2.
- B. Mr. Schneller indicated that USA Hockey is offering training for Peewees on competitive contact and body checking for Bantams. The one hour sessions are free.

VIII. Crossbar Single Session Registration

- A. Mr. Byrum discussed optionality for Crossbar allowing scheduling Sunday open ice time as a single event open to different age groups. November 5th was going to be the first date to try it.

IX. Girls U16 Team

- A. Mr. Byrum described that Framingham has a large U16 girls team and the Comets have a lot of girls moving up in this level. The Comets will need to consider placement options and the number of teams at the U16 level next season.

X. Goalie Training Opportunities

- A. Mike Balcom updated the Board on discussions he and Mr. Schneller recently had regarding goalie development. Mr. Balcom reiterated his preference for a Goalie Committee that would help develop goalies next year. Further Andrea Smith volunteered to send an email regarding “Stop It” and other training opportunities to goalie families. The Board discussed a variety of options for getting goalie instructors and special sessions for goalies through Driscoll or other organizations. It was agreed that the Goalie Committee would consist of Andrew Reid, Andrea Smith, Dave Mangan, Teddy Efstathiou and John Smutko.
- B. Glenn Soucy added that the Learn to Play program has scrimmages on Sundays and it is difficult to get goalies as the pads are too big and no one wants to play goalie at that age.

XI. Midget Leagues

- A. Mr. Balcom provided an update on the success of the Midget teams and leagues. The Midget 1 and 2 have done well with 11 games. The U16 team has had 10 league games plus additional non league games. The HSP team has had more challenges because of early morning games in Marlboro. Overall the Midget program has been successful.

XII. Board Governance

- A. Mr. Balcom discussed a need to develop and utilize more Board committees and implement more structure on the Board including succession planning. He asked that Board members think about this and the Board will continue the discussion.

XIII. Next Meeting: November 20, 2023

XIV. Adjournment