

The Natick Comets Hockey Club

Board of Directors

Natick Police Station
7:00 pm

March 17, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Aaron Souza, Kristian Efstathiou, Andrew Ballow, Alicia Deig (partial attendance), Bob Michaud, Andrew Reid, Mike Balcom, Chris Boyer, Russell Webber, David Cogliano; Lauren Thomson (partial attendance)

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

The Minutes for the February meeting were approved.

III. **Regular Financial Update**

Mr. Mangan was not present and we did not conduct the ordinary financial review. Mr. Balcom distributed a sample report that was discussed as a possible financial snapshot of the Club's finances that could be presented monthly.

IV. **26/27 Membership Update**

Mr. Balcom led a discussion regarding current enrollment and distributed a document that revealed how enrollment numbers compare to prior years. Enrollment for the upcoming season is slightly down.

V. **LTP and House Programming and Tuition (Mike Balcom)**

Mr. Balcom and Mr. Ballow led a discussion regarding the LTP and House League programs and potential tuition. The Board discussed a number of proposals about the programs and appropriate tuition. It was decided that the most time sensitive issue was to identify a director of the program. It was agreed that High School players and peewees and bantams could be used as on ice coaches. The Director does not need to be the on ice director.

VI. **Refund to Injured Players**

Mr. Ballow raised a situation where a player suffered an injury in October and was not able to play the entire season. The decision was made to provide a prorated refund to the family. Medically approved injury.

VII. **Alternate Player and Practice Player Rules** (Mike Balcom)

Mr. Balcom led a discussion as to how the Club should approach alternate players and “practice players.” The focus of the discussion was on the 14U and 19U teams where there are many conflicts. Ms. Efstathiou indicated that she has done a lot of thinking on this issue and would present some ideas when there was more time to consider the options. The Board agreed with this assessment and agreed it would be placed on a future agenda.

VIII. **Tournament Subsidies**

Mr. Balcom raised an issue that has come up several times related to how much the Comets would subsidize tournament participation. It was agreed that this could be addressed in December after the registration numbers were finalized.

IX. **Handbook Update**

Mr. Ballow informed the Board that he asked Mr. Fireman to update the handbook in both form and substance. Mr. Balcom indicated that it would be helpful if the handbook could be accessed and searched electronically.

X. **Updated Job Descriptions**

Mr. Ballow indicated that he thought it would be helpful if Board members updated their job description before the annual board meeting. Mr. Ballow provided a link to each Board member for the description. Mr. Ballow requested that each Board member update the description by April 1.

XI. **Committees, Advisory Teams, Purchasing Decisions**

Mr. Balcom commenced a discussion regarding the roles of the committees, advisory teams and purchasing. Mr. Balcom indicated that purchases should be approved by the Board. If there is an emergency purchase, it can be approved by the Executive Committee but needs to be ratified by the full Board. Members of the advisory teams do not need to be members of the Board.

XII. **Goalie director and Advisory team in 26/27**

There was a discussion regarding the ongoing concern about goalies and the need to identify a goalie director. The registration numbers look good currently for goalies but retention of goalies is an ongoing concern.

XI. Nomination Committee Update

Mr. Balcom discussed the role of the Nomination Committee. Members of the Nomination Committee are Alicia Deig, Andrew Ballow, Andrea Smith, David Mangan, David Cogliano and Megan Whalen. It was discussed that a scheduler and director of goalies were critical roles.

XII. Expanded Coupons for LTP, Meteors, House and Travel

The Board approved providing \$300 coupons to be used at any level within the Club. The Board approved this as well as a \$300 coupon for the Hockey Moms event.

XIII. 19U Teams

Mr. Balcom said that there was interest in having two 19U teams. This would necessitate bringing in players from other towns. There was not a lot of interest in encouraging this. It was agreed that players could participate in tryouts and be placed on a team notwithstanding that playouts already occurred.

XIV. 18U and 16U Select Teams

Mr. Souza led a discussion about what options existed for the 18U and 16U Select Teams. Mr. Balcom described to the group the nature of the current league and stated that these leagues are not part of the Valley League. The purpose of these seasons is to be half season, limited contact, quality hockey to prepare players for the High School season. Kurt Borgman is going to run the teams for the upcoming season.

XV. Pure Hockey Update

Mr. Balcom described Pure Hockey's relationship with the Club. Pure Hockey is a platinum level sponsor and provides \$150.00 for each coach and \$50.00 off for every player or coach for in store purchases. It was mentioned that gift cards were not distributed this year and that the contract needs to be executed immediately.

XVI. Volunteer Appreciation Night

Mr. Balcom described a Volunteer Appreciation Night to be held at Morse's Tavern on April 2, 2026. It will be open to coaches and Board members.

XVII. Goalie Equipment Update - EBUG Jerseys

Mr. Balcom and Mr. Webber discussed the current need for goalie equipment and whether the Club collects gear for sharing. There was a discussion to set up a receptacle to collect equipment at Chase to help alleviate the financial challenges of being a goalie.

XVIII. Next Meeting: April 13, 2026

XIX. Adjournment