

# **Natick Comets Hockey Club**

## **Board of Directors**

Chase Arena

July 17, 2023, 7:00 pm

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

#### **I. Approval of Minutes**

The Board approved the minutes from the June 19, 2023 Board Meeting

#### **II. Discussion Regarding Goalies in the Comets**

- Jeff Schneller led a discussion regarding goalies and the challenges to ensuring all teams had full-time goalies. It was decided that a goalie committee would be appointed to assess a number of issues surrounding goalies including tuition support and recruiting for goalies from Massachusetts Hockey and surrounding towns. The Goalie subcommittee includes Andrea Smith, Andrew Reid, David Mangan and John Smutko.
- The Board further discussed updates on Massachusetts Hockey training for goalies and the consensus was that the Comets would like to offer more assistance to goalies including “coach the coaches” and acquiring quick change pads.
- Mr. Schneller also led a discussion regarding clinics that the Comets would be offering to members of the Comets including an open forum for parents, skills clinics and an event with the Providence Bruins.

#### **III. Approval of Learn to Play and House League Tuition**

- The Board approved to raise tuition for the Learn to Play program and House League by 3% rounded up to the nearest \$5 increment.

**IV. Ice procurement Approvals**

- The Board discussed further efforts to procure additional ice time at local rinks. Mike Byrum indicated that the Comets could obtain two hours of ice on weekends at Northstar Ice Sports in Westborough at 8 and 9 am on Sunday morning for \$320 per hour. The Board agreed this was a reasonable price for the. Mr. Byrum was also authorized to procure ice at Babson and Loring for similar prices.
- Mr. Byrum indicated that the Comets would begin having available ice the week of August 14th. The consensus of the Board was to use this ice both for early practices and training for coaches.
- Mr. Byrum also discussed utilizing the “rink” at Johnson School as the Comets have done in the past.

**V. Approval of Ice Hockey Systems Software for Coaches**

- The Board approved obtaining Ice Hockey Systems, which consists of an online video library for coaches. The cost of obtaining the tool is \$1,500 for the organization.

**VI. Street Hockey Tournament with Parks and Rec**

- The Board discussed organizing a street hockey tournament through the Natick Parks and recreation department. Mr. Schneller had discussion with Travis Farley, the Director the Natick Parks and Recreation Department, who has expressed an interest in organizing such a tournament for younger players. At this stage, the idea is that the tournament would be for younger players and the older players (Midgets and Bantams) would referee the games.

**VII. Coach - Midget 2**

- The Comets still need a coach for the Midget 2 team. The Board considered a variety of various candidates and a number of mechanisms for recruiting coaches.

**VIII. Equipment Checking Pads**

- It was agreed that Mr. Stevens could spend \$160 for checking pads.

**IX. Update on U18/U16 League**

- Mike Balcolm provided an update on the U18 league, which will consist of ten teams and the U16 team, which will consist of six teams.

**X. Finance Committee**

- Mr. Balcolm discussed the need to utilize the Finance Committee. Dave Mangan is the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and is charged with leading the establishment of policies, procedures and scope of the Finance Committee.

**XI. Comets Scholarship**

- Mr. Mangan led a discussion of the Comets Scholarship program. It was agreed to go ahead and solicit applications for scholarships from recent graduates of the Comets seeking scholarships for college or trade school. It was recognized that although it was late in terms of applying for scholarships, the Board wanted to go ahead and offer the scholarships this year. Individuals from the Board will review the applications.

**XII. Driscoll Skills**

- Andrew Reid led a discussion about bringing back Driscoll Hockey for a formalized skills training throughout the year. After a lengthy and robust discussion on the proposal, the Board approved the proposal and authorized Mr. Reid to continue discussions with Driscoll and commit to an arrangement with it.

**XIII. Adjournment**