

SYHI Board Minutes

April 3rd, 2025 at 7pm

Location: Rec Center, Vanderbilt Ave, Saratoga Springs

Attendees: Bradford, Chatham, Comora, Eddy, Fitzpatrick, Forguites, Ely, Garrett, Guyette, Hanson, Kauth, Kelly, MacNaughton, Solek, Underwood

Virtual: Mulledy

Absent: Kernan

Overview

1. Introductions of new and returning board members.
2. Eddy called for approval of the March minutes Kelly motioned, Garrett seconded, all in favor.
3. Eddy provided an overview of the executive committee, and led the board to a vote on the following vacant executive committee positions:
 - a. President: Nomination received by the Governance Committee was Mike Kelly. No nominations from the floor. Kelly accepted the nomination. Eddy called a vote, all in favor.
 - b. VP of Administration: Nomination received by the Governance Committee was Georgana Hanson. No nominations from the floor. Hanson accepted the nomination. Eddy called a vote, all in favor.
 - c. VP of Operations: Nomination received by the Governance Committee was John Mulledy. No nominations from the floor. Mulledy accepted the nomination. Eddy called a vote, all in favor.
 - d. Secretary: Nomination received by the Governance Committee was Eileen Ellis. No nominations from the floor. Ellis accepted the nomination. Eddy called a vote, all in favor.
 - e. Registrar: Nomination received by the Governance Committee was Melissa Fitzpatrick. No nominations from the floor. Fitzpatrick accepted the nomination. Eddy called a vote, all in favor.
4. Committee Reports: Eddy moved into committee reports. Hanson stated that board members would soon receive a google form they could use to indicate which committees they would like to participate in, and committees will be named at the May meeting.
 - a. Executive Committee:
 - i. Eddy provided a high-level overview of the role of the executive committee, which is made up of the officers of the organization. The committee deals with overarching organizational issues, or specific items that get raised to the EC. The recent meeting focused on preparation for tryouts and the board meeting.
 - b. Finance:
 - i. Eddy provided a high-level overview of the finance committee's role, including budgeting, pricing of the season and tournaments, and fiscal tracking.

- ii. MacNaughton provided an overview of a preliminary full year look at the fiscal expenses and revenue for the organization. Fiscal year runs June 1-May 31. Places where there were large expenses include: the snack bar renovation, learn to play (less revenue than prior years) and tournaments.
 - iii. A recommendation was made to consider not running a 14U tournament, to minimize the loss the organization is experiencing in the tournament line of the budget. This will be raised with the 14U coaches once they are named.
 - iv. Quickbooks will be used fully for the next fiscal year.
- c. Governance
 - i. Eddy provided an overview of the the role of the Governance Committee, which focuses on review and recommending changes to core documents such as the bylaws, and player and parent handbook.
 - ii. Minor modifications to handbook and bylaws that will be shared with the board for approval at the next meeting.
- d. Marketing + Communications:
 - i. Hanson provided an overview of the role of the committee, with a focus on the newsletter, other public facing materials (including social media) and the Season Kick Off event. The committee will also focus on strengthening fundraising, in particular leveraging the 50th anniversary.
 - ii. Guyett provided an overview of one of the 50th anniversary ideas that require fundraising.
 - iii. Initial ideas shared were a golf tournament and crowd fundraising.
 - iv. Hanson uplifted the need to develop more materials to support families who are new to the program and hockey.
- e. Scheduling + Facilities
 - i. Eddy provided an overview of the committee, which spearheads setting up practice and game schedules for the year, referees, being a liaison with city and DPW and operating the snackbar.
 - ii. Girls tournament refs are set and were shared with the girls committee.
 - iii. Following the girls tournament, sheds need to be cleaned up, and need to ensure our equipment is secure.
 - iv. Brief discussion on upcoming scheduling, including summer hockey.
 - v. Guyett uplifted the organization's relationship with Pure Hockey for our jerseys and store, and that the 25-26 season agreement has already been signed. They are the primary vendor for the organization, and a portion of the sales come back to the organization.
- f. Coaching + Player Development Committee:
 - i. Ellis provided an overview of the committee responsibilities, which is to provide a fun and safe environment for the kids to develop as hockey players. Also a core focus is coaching selection, overseeing tryouts and placements, and meeting throughout the season (once a month) to support the on-ice operations of the organization.

- ii. Kelly added another key initiative for the committee the last few years was the growth of goalies in the program.
- iii. Ellis added that a great deal of work has happened to develop a comprehensive tryout policy and FAQ doc.
- iv. 10/12U tryouts have concluded. Received valuable feedback on notifications and communications of team layout at 10U with 4 teams that will inform communications in advance of next season. Overall positive.
- v. Upcoming tryouts include 14U, 16U + 18U.
- vi. Kelly provided an overview of the process of building out tryouts, and it was raised that overall, this year was positive.

g. Girls:

- i. Hanson provided an overview of the committee whose sole focus is to grow the participation of girls in SYH, efforts that have culminated in the first season of a wrap program for 8U and 10/12U girls.
- ii. Focus the past month centered on executing an 8U jamboree, and a home tournament the first weekend in April with 4 8U teams and 5 10/12U teams.
- iii. Kelly raised that girls hockey is separately financed in case that question is raised by others in the organization.
- iv. A flag was raised, around a need to communicate on girls jersey numbers not necessarily being their co-ed numbers for the season.

h. Tournaments:

- i. Eddy provided an overview of the tournaments committee, which is charged with ensuring tournaments are successfully executed.
- ii. Guyett recommended that we announce tournament dates as soon as possible to support filling.

5. New Business:

- a. Kelly raised the upcoming NYSAHA North Section meeting on April 6th and the need to determine who will be in attendance. Kelly will be in attendance and provide a recap at our next meeting. He previewed agenda items including potential rule changes, and an item raised by Bethlehem regarding player movement and tryout timing. Kelly flagged that our projections are pushing capacity at mites, which is something the organization will continue to grapple with. Elis raised that player movement is a relatively newer challenge.
- b. Kelly raised that the NNYSHL will be looking to hold a parity event to address some of the challenges with teams being inaccurately placed in a division.
- c. Guyette requested continued engagement in the organization as an advisor to the board to support the ultimate transition of various functions she has historically had. Hanson motioned to approve her continued engagement, Garrett seconded. All in favor.
- d. Hanson raised the agenda of the next upcoming board meetings, and uplifted that a doodle will come out to schedule the annual planning meeting in May.
- e. Kelly recommended that the Governance Committee review the bylaws to consider the best timing of elections given they coincide with tryouts.
- f. A question was raised about meeting attendance. Remote is an option, but the preference is to be in person whenever possible. .

- g. A question was raised about the average work load of committees, and how many committees board members should be prepared to engage in. Existing members provided an overview of the time commitment and some recommendations. It was raised that there is an expectation that board members participate in home tournaments.
- 6. Adjourned: Kelly motioned, Ellis seconded, all were in favor.