

Glastonbury Lacrosse Club

Meeting Minutes

1. Program Administration and Feedback

The meeting opened with introductions and administrative updates. The group discussed using the Glastonbury Lacrosse Club website to post meeting agendas and minutes, as well as using ChatGPT to assist with meeting documentation.

The board reviewed feedback regarding proposed program changes. Christopher emphasized the importance of establishing concrete deliverables and completing planning in a timely manner, particularly for upcoming winter and spring programming.

2. Fall Registration and Player Evaluations

Christopher provided an update on fall registration, with approximately:

- 50 boys registered
- 33 girls registered

The group discussed potential practice and team configurations based on participation numbers.

The board also discussed evaluations for seventh- and eighth-grade players. Topics included:

- Registration for evaluations
- Establishing clear evaluation criteria
- Input from high school coaches
- Use of independent evaluators
- Separating responsibilities between coaches running drills and evaluators rating players

Further planning is needed to finalize the evaluation process.

3. GLC Community Lax Day

Eileen presented the initial plan for a free **GLC Community Lax Day**, scheduled for **November 22**.

The event is intended to:

- Introduce new children to lacrosse
- Engage current GLC players and families
- Involve Glastonbury High School lacrosse players
- Help grow participation in the youth program

The goal is to recruit approximately **8–10 high school players** to assist with the event. Ryan Kelly is expected to help develop the event plan and recruit high school participants.

4. Community Lax Day Equipment and Insurance

The board discussed equipment needs for children who may be trying lacrosse for the first time. Possible equipment and safety considerations included:

- Lacrosse sticks
- Goggles
- Helmets
- Tennis balls
- A no-contact instructional format

Questions remain regarding available equipment, facility requirements, and insurance coverage.

Follow-Up: Christopher will gather information from Westport PAL regarding how similar community lacrosse events are structured and insured.

5. Raffle, Merchandise, and Enrollment Goals

The group discussed adding additional attractions to Community Lax Day, including:

- A raffle
- Donations from local businesses
- GLC merchandise as prizes or giveaways

Christopher identified a goal of approximately **25 first-grade players** in the program. For comparison, the previous kindergarten group included approximately **22 players**.

The board also reviewed participation numbers for the current fifth-grade boys' group as part of broader enrollment planning.

6. Event Supplies, Outreach, and Budget

The group discussed the current supply of GLC merchandise and noted that existing inventory may be limited. Additional merchandise may need to be ordered for Community Lax Day.

Follow-Ups:

- Eileen will coordinate merchandise and potential raffle items.
- Christopher will assist with phone calls, donations, and community outreach.
- The group will compile an estimated Community Lax Day budget for review on **October 13**.

7. Buttonball Shed Relocation

The board discussed the equipment shed at Buttonball Lane. The shed needs to be cleaned out and eventually relocated.

The potential relocation cost could be as high as approximately **\$25,000**.

Before proceeding, the club will need:

- Town approval
- Confirmation of a suitable new location
- A clearer understanding of relocation costs and requirements

Follow-Up: Kristen offered to contact the appropriate town property manager to begin gathering information.

8. Club Investments and Fundraising

Christopher proposed protective netting between parking areas and playing fields as a potential future club investment.

The group also discussed the need to establish a dependable annual fundraising strategy. One recurring financial commitment is a scholarship estimated at approximately **\$4,000 annually**.

Additional topics requiring future discussion include:

- Turf-related funding
- Capital improvements
- Scholarship funding
- Long-term financial planning
- Sustainable annual fundraising

No final decisions were made.

9. Crossbar Communications and Contact Management

Kristen recommended using Crossbar to communicate with seventh- and eighth-grade families regarding evaluations.

She offered to create a Crossbar team or communication group using players from previous seasons. Christopher agreed to help Kristen become familiar with the process.

The board also discussed challenges associated with outdated family accounts remaining in Crossbar and the amount of manual work required to maintain accurate contact lists.

10. Organizational Roles and Coaching Structure

The group reviewed feedback regarding recent club communications and discussed the importance of clearly defining organizational responsibilities.

The board emphasized that:

- Club and board members should focus on supporting the overall infrastructure of the organization.
- Coaches should be able to focus primarily on coaching and player development.

The structure and use of **paid versus volunteer coaches** will be included as a topic on an upcoming agenda.

Discussion included:

- Recruiting qualified paid coaches
- Continuing to utilize strong parent coaches where appropriate
- Establishing consistent expectations for all coaches
- Determining when professional coaching is most beneficial

11. Dedicated vs. Shared Paid Coaches

Eileen raised the question of whether GLC intends to:

- Assign one dedicated paid coach to each team, or
- Use paid coaches who work across multiple teams.

No final decision was reached regarding the preferred coaching model.

12. Coaching Staffing Goals

Christopher described a long-term goal of recruiting qualified paid coaches at multiple grade levels, with particular emphasis on the seventh- and eighth-grade programs.

The group acknowledged that the availability of qualified coaches may limit what can realistically be implemented.

One potential approach discussed was:

- Prioritizing professional coaches for the **7A and 7B teams**
- Using qualified parent coaches for other teams when appropriate

The final staffing model remains under discussion.

13. Program Development and Coaching Alignment

The board discussed the importance of creating opportunities for coaches to meet as a staff and align around common program objectives.

Christopher questioned whether wins and losses should be considered the primary measure of program success. The group discussed the importance of establishing development-focused measures that evaluate areas such as:

- Player skill development
- Understanding of the game
- Teamwork
- Effort

- Coachability
- Long-term player growth

The board will continue working toward clearer program-wide coaching and development standards.

14. Recruiting Coaches

Megan Murphy noted that recruiting paid coaches can be challenging, although flexible coaching arrangements may increase the available candidate pool.

She provided an example of a younger coach who successfully manages responsibilities with two teams.

Christopher agreed to contact several organizations and individuals regarding potential coaching candidates, including:

- Eastern Connecticut contacts
- Ryan Kelly
- True Lacrosse
- Other local lacrosse clubs and programs

15. Closing Follow-Ups

Christopher will also:

- Gather coaching wish lists and program needs
- Seek advice regarding fundraising opportunities
- Continue exploring potential paid coaching candidates
- Work toward determining participant fees for the upcoming season by **November 1**

Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Person	Target
Research Community Lax Day equipment, format, and insurance practices with Westport PAL	Christopher	Before final event planning
Coordinate Community Lax Day merchandise and raffle items	Eileen	Before Nov. 22
Assist with donation calls and community outreach	Christopher	Before Nov. 22
Develop Community Lax Day budget	Board / Event Committee	Oct. 13
Contact town regarding Buttonball shed relocation	Kristen	TBD
Create Crossbar communication group for 7th/8th grade families	Kristen, with Christopher assisting	Before evaluations
Research potential paid coaches	Christopher	Ongoing

Action Item	Responsible Person	Target
Contact Eastern, Ryan Kelly, True, and other local programs regarding coaches	Christopher	Ongoing
Develop coaches' program wish lists	Christopher / Coaching Staff	TBD
Gather fundraising recommendations	Christopher	TBD
Determine upcoming participant fees	Board / Christopher	Nov. 1

Items for Future Discussion

- Final seventh- and eighth-grade evaluation process
- Paid versus volunteer coaching structure
- Dedicated versus shared professional coaches
- Coaching standards and player-development measures
- Buttonball shed relocation
- Protective field netting
- Annual fundraising strategy
- Scholarship funding
- Turf and long-term capital planning