



Meeting Minutes

SASA BOD Meeting

July 14, 2025 7:00 PM

CPSC – classroom

Attendees – *In-person* – Emily Norris, Melissa Bocash, Nate Liese, Dave Blatchly, Mike Irwin, Tom Waltz, Colin Branon, Kevin Smith, Chris Heald, Joe Montagne. *Virtually* – Chelsea Forsyth, Dustin Degree

Absent – Dan Ellis, Danielle Snelling, Danielle Luneau

Guests – *In-person* – Andy Norris, Matt Robtoy, Dana Boomhower, Jason Booth, JP Routhier, Rachel Berthiaume. *Virtually* – Mike Weber, Sarah B, John Cioffi, Ashley Ovitt, Heather Gonyeau, Adam Routhier.

Meeting called to order 6:59 PM.

1. Meeting minutes – Approval of meeting minutes from the 06/09/2025 SASA BOD meetings. Motion by Joe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Emily. Unanimous – motion carries.
2. Public Comment – 12U - 10 skaters and no goalie. Concern about safety and numbers. All 12U teams are committed to making it a great season for all players.
3. SASA Treasurer – Kevin presented Andy Norris as Treasurer. Chris Heald, JP Routhier and Melissa Bocash spoke in favor of the appointment. Motion by Colin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe. Unanimous – motion carries.
4. Head Coach – State's and Regional for the 14U – 18U cohort is being moved to late October/early November to accommodate prep school teams in CT. As such youth teams need to play 20 games and girls team 14 prior to States, which are currently scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 31 – Nov 2. A head coaches meeting was held in June and went very well. There will be an all coaches meeting in August ahead of Faceoff to provide guidance on how to make Faceoff successful. Faceoff is

scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup>. We will not be limiting the number of coaches on ice this year. USA Hockey requires that we only roster 4 for the bench, but we are encouraging/accepting all to participate. All teams have at least 3 coaches signed up. USA Hockey Registration opened as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Players and coaches can now register. IHS is set up and running with credentials being passed along to head coaches. Looking to purchase additional practice gear (cones, bumpers, etc.) now that we have the space. Fittings went very well. Over 180 kids in the first 2 sessions. 8U was also a success. We have captured all but about 10 kids in each group. Working with CrossBar to export rosters from SportsEngine to CrossBar. All commitments have been made. Mental health awareness – Comets work at NCSS willing to provide training. 1616.org through VSAHA once a week video for all players 12U & 14U, coaches, parents around mental health awareness. More details at Faceoff for coaches. No Venmo...ACH or credit card processing. Volunteer hours – still need to sort out specifically, but likely to start high at 20 per family as we have in the past. Need to create a ‘no show’ policy for volunteer hours. Kevin is going to search for the i-pads that SASA bought last year. The goal is to have 1 permanently at the scorers table, 1 as a roving i-pad for coaches to sign and 1 as a Highgate i-pad. Training on the clock and scoresheet are needed. People are very intimidated by running the clock and it is not easy to do. Dana Boomhower to research and source ipads and connectivity for ScoreSheet.

5. By Laws – By Laws committee is taking sections and providing proposed options for revisions to the Board for consideration. There has been limited feedback thus far. Please respond and provide feedback via email. The committee is under a self-imposed time line that by the end of September the changes are completed and the required notice of change is sent out to membership. The goal is to vote on and implement the new By Laws at the October meeting. Discussion around term limits and the potential peaks and valleys that could occur within the organization. The organization is benefiting from high interest and involvement now, but what if that fades in the future? People need to feel that they can contribute to stay involved. Questions arose around why are we doing this and what fundamentally needs to change? Discussion around policy versus procedure. By Laws won't dictate everything the Board does, rather set the parameters for which the Board will operate. The election process was a disaster this spring based on differing interpretation of the By Laws. We need to clean that up. Discussion around a member vote for Board positions included questions on whether members vote for Executive Committee officers, or general officers. Membership would vote on general officers, it is up to the Board to elect its Executive Committee, etc.

President appoints Head Coach, etc. Timing will be everything. Having elections take place following the season will allow time for the new Board to reorganize and begin to prepare for the upcoming season. Question on why you have to be a Vermont resident...its within the existing By Laws, but can easily be removed. Discussion around the nominating committee being seen as a potential gate keeper for the Board. We want all interested parties to be able to participate at some level.

6. Communications – Emily sent out first newsletter. Keep it concise. Keep it going monthly. Future focus will be on coach or team specific things that are happening. Thinking of ways to incorporate the survey results into the net newsletter(s). At what point is that data stale?
7. Technology – Microsoft Office is up and running with many Board members having received their log in credentials. Dana Boomhower has offered to assist in getting others established and can even do a screen share to make it easier. Now that we have the tools, we need to all be using them consistently. Dana Boomhower has created channels within Teams for each appointed committee. Within that channel Dana is creating a project board to be able to assign tasks to stakeholders who then own the project and can update progress as it goes. Crossbar is coming along nicely. Tournaments are built and registration is ready to go once volunteer hours are decided. We're hoping to go live very soon.
8. Finance – no report.
9. Fundraising – Shaun Brooks has graciously donated his barn at Maquam Barn and Winery for Calcutta, Thursday October 28<sup>th</sup>. Bob White is meeting with Kevin and others on Fundraising Committee to discuss digital fundraising and advertising.
10. Young Blades – Need to get signs out soon...once registration is open. Open registration in CrossBar, have coaches register in SportsEngine?? Discussion on how many coaches is appropriate for Young Blades and what is required of coaches. From a scheduling perspective need to have a start date – OK to start later.
11. Mites – No report.
12. Girls – 2 weeks ago started summer program. First on ice last week and there were 26 girls. Met with families this week and Comets players regarding girls hockey promotional video. Shooting to have video done next week. Girls try hockey flyer is

almost done. Waiting to hear from Mark Deso on use of trailer. Essex is doing 4 girls try hockey sessions this year. Middlebury is trying to get their girls program up and running.

13. Scheduling – Need to get ice for the 14U – 18U given the change in State's and Regionals. Leddy will have ice starting in September. Discussion on 18U and what is going to happen with the 2 teams. Kids have to get 10 skates in to play in the State tournament. Looking to a fair and equitable tryout. We have 7 coaches and 28 skaters for the 18U group. Question came up around is there anything that requires players to attend practice, if they don't show for practice do they play? If you miss one practice you don't play 1<sup>st</sup> period. There needs to be accountability. The discussion led to this being a coaches decision currently and further discussion around setting organizational standards around this will occur at another time.

14. Tournaments – No report

15. Skate Shack – Joe has set a hard deadline to get inventory ordered by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Will need 450-500 hours for Skate Shack for 25/26 season. There was a group of people who worked out well within the Skate Shack last year, looking to get that same group re-engaged. Mike has spent a couple of days in the skate shop working on the renovations. He is running out of free time and looking for skilled assistance. A few more solid days in there and it should be wrapped up. Need power along the back wall and lights.

16. New Business – Location of this meeting to PTC, NCSS. This is not a comfortable setting. Ted Mable Center is available and willing to host us. Emily to set up the August meeting at Ted Mabel Center at NCSS.

Matt mentioned that the newsletter was confusing in that some people thought Matt's dryland was being paid for by SASA. Parents are paying individually for their children to participate. Kevin asked Matt to provide a proposal regarding what is needed. Don't want Matt doing this for nothing.

17. Old Business – None.

18. Executive Session – Motion to go into Executive Session at 9:32 PM by Joe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Emily. Unanimous – motion carries.

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 10:22 PM by Colin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe.  
Unanimous – motion carries.

19. Snack Bar Door - Motion to not spend more than \$4,248 for the rollup metal overhead door on the snack bar by Joe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. Discussion around capital improvements and what responsibility CPSC has in those costs. Kevin and others meet with CPSC next week to discuss leases, etc. and will address this at that time.  
Unanimous – motion carries.

20. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn at 10:27 PM by Colin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe. Unanimous – meeting adjourned at 10:27 PM.