The Natick Comets Hockey Club
Board of Directors

June 16, 2025

Chase Arena **7:00 pm**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Dave Mangan, Mike Balcom, Teddy Efstathiou, Kristian Efstatiou, Andrew Reid, Michael Byrum, Ron Chin, Alicia Deig, Drew Ballow, Bob Michaud, Andrea Smith, Lauren Thomson, Aaron Souza, Jeff Schneller, Amanda Potter and Russell Webber

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Approval of May Board Minutes**

Meeting Minutes for the May 2025 Board meeting were approved.

III. **Financial Update**

Mr. Mangan provided a brief update on the financial condition of the Club. Mr. Mangan reported that there were no issues to report and the Club was where it expected to be at this time of year.

IV. **Executive Committee**

Mr. Cogliano led a discussion regarding the composition of the Executive Committee for the 2025/2026 season. It was determined that the membership of the Executive Committee would consist of President, Treasurer, Clerk, Vice President of Player Development, Vice President of Operations and Director of Girls Hockey.

V. **Proposed 2025/2026 Girls Program**

Mr. Ballow led a robust discussion regarding the condition of the Girls' program and potential modifications regarding the same. The Board considered a variety of options including playing a modified MYCGL schedule, which would include no league games for 10U. Option Modified MyCGL schedule.

Mr. Ballow also discussed rebranding the Girls' program with a vision of a "girls - community focused fun hockey program." One of the structural changes that the Board discussed and considered was creating a dual roster program at the 8U and 10U program, which would enable girls to play on both a girls team and a coed team. Under this program, the playful tuition for the coed team and an additional $350 to play on the girls' team. The intentions to increase female participation. The Board voted to support this rebranding modification/measure and the dual roster program

Mr. Ballow further discussed the Girls 10U Team and ideas for increasing participation and retention. A number of ideas were considered but the Board approved a program where the 10U girls (and possibly 8U Girls) did not play in league games but played once a week for scrimmage type games with adjacent 10U teams. The goal is to increase participation, make it fun, reduce stress and support the dual roster program.

Mr. Ballow presented a number of good creative ideas that he will continue to pursue as to feasibility. Two that were approved and concrete:

- Bruce Ilhoff will facilitate a "Girls Only" Skills Program with his High School team between August and October
- Meredith Hendricks has volunteered to run a "Girls Only" dryland agility and conditioning program.

VI. Photo Scheduling

Ms. Eftstathiou discussed photos for the upcoming season. Ms. Whalen is going to bring options for the Board to consider at a future meeting.

VII. Tent Purchase for Natick Events

Ms. Efstathiou discussed the need for additional pop up tents for Club events including Natick Days. The Board approved an expenditure of $1800 for two and potentially three tents.

VIII. Storage Container Upgrade

Ms. Efstathiou discussed that the existing storage locker is leaking and needs to be replaced. The Comets have had the existing locker for ten years. Ms. Efstathiou is researching a variety of replacement options. The goal is to obtain one with rolling doors. Once Ms.

Efstathiou completes her diligence, the Board will vote by email potentially authorizing a purchase.

IX. **Try Hockey for Free**

Ms. Efstathiou and Ms. Smith discussed September 13th and March 7th as USA Hockey's Try Hockey For Free days. The Board approved participating in the program on September 13, 2025.

X. **Data Management**

Mr. Souza led a discussion regarding the Club's perceived inefficiencies and complicated approach to storing Board and Club related information. There was a consensus that the Board can improve its information governance so appropriate access was granted and monitored.

XI. **Learn to Play/House League 2025-2026**

Mr. Chin led a discussion regarding the Learn to Play (LTP) and House League programs. For Mites, it was agreed that there was no need to change from last year and the Club would utilize the services of Solid State for the Saturday skills session for LTP.

Mr. Chin proposed implementing a House League for ages 9-12 that ran on both Saturdays and Sundays. Mr. Chin also proposed a second tier House League for Peewee and Bantam aged players. It was agreed that this would be a positive area of development for players who were not yet ready to play at the higher competitive level of travel hockey.

XII. Next Meeting: It was agreed that the Board would not meet in July but if a meeting was necessary, it could be held by video.

XIII. **Adjournment**