

The Natick Comets Hockey Club

Board of Directors

May 20, 2025

Natick Senior Center

8:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

Russel Webber, John Smutko, Aaron Souza, Alicia Deig, Andrea Smith, soucy, Ron Chin, Bob Michaud, Teddy Efstathiou Kristian Efstathiou, Aaron, Lauren Thomson, Mike Byrum, David Mangan, Anthony Fireman, Drew Ballow, Nathan Joyal, Amanda Potter, Mike Balcom

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of April Board Minutes

The Minutes for the April meeting were approved.

III. Elections for Board Roles

Mr. Cogliano in his role as Board Clerk and chairperson of the Nominating Committee read the names of the Board Members and the roles for which each Board member will have for the 2025-2026 season. The slate was presented to the Board and approved. See Attached for Complete list

IV. Discussion and Possible Election for Executive Committee

Mr. Cogliano led a discussion regarding the composition of the Executive Committee. There was a discussion as to the members. It was decided that this would be discussed further at the June Board meeting.

V. Regular Meetings/Agenda Structure

Mr. Balcom led a discussion regarding the future conduct of Board meetings. He expressed a desire to lean on the Roberts Rules (*i.e.*, sponsor makes a motion, second the motion and discussion so all can be heard) for Board meeting discussions and action. Further, there was a discussion regarding reports from the various committees and advisory teams on a

regular basis, possibly monthly. Mr. Balcom emphasized that the Board needs to rely on the Committees to meet between meetings and perform the necessary work to report progress at Board meetings. There was a consensus that progress on initiatives should occur primarily at the Committee level with regular reports to the full Board.

VI. Coaching Clinic Update

Mr. Balcom discussed a scheduled September 4th coaching clinic. He suggested having a vendor come in and provide coaches with youth coaching training geared to hockey. The Clinic would include a guest speaker from the University of New Hampshire and provide the coaches with materials.

VII. Hockey Think Tank for Club Support

Mr. Balcom and Mr. Schneller led a discussion about the Comets retaining HockeyThinkTank.com to work with the players and coaches throughout the season. Hockey Think Tank will conduct weekly meetings and work with the Board, coaches, parents and players to provide advice and recommendations for improving the program holistically. Previously Hockey Think Tank worked with Dryland Development. The cost for a season long engagement is \$15k and members of the Board wanted to learn more about the program before committing the funds. Mr. Balcom and Mr. Schneller agreed to schedule a presentation by Hockey Think Tanks to members of the Board before the next meeting.

VIII. Update from other Natick Youth Sports Programs

Mr. Balcom reported on his consultations with other youth sports programs in Natick. Mr. Balcom reached out to other programs to understand best practices and how the Comets compared. For example, Mr. Balcom learned that soccer locks down its attendance 48 hours in advance of a game and baseball speaks to a coach who receives three negative reports. Other programs also emphasized that they try to utilize civic engagement in their programs.

IX. Next Meeting: June 16, 2025

X. Adjournment

