

**Newtown Soccer Club  
Open Meeting  
Minutes  
September 11, 2014**

**Present: John Premus, Cindy Stierle, Maureen Trivers, Rebecca Morits  
Apologies for Absence: Josh Drew Tony Filiato, James Kelly, Brian Gioele**

**Also Present: Peter D'Amico, Anthony Leuci, Jody Huzina, Linda Hess, Michelle Greenspan**

**Meeting called to order 7:05pm**

**1. Premier (CFC) Program Update**

Mr. Matzke was not present but provided an update that was shared at the meeting.

- Teddy Haley is the new Director of Coaching (DoC) for the CFC West Boys program  
Brian Matzke will continue to be the DoC for the Girls CFC West program
  
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Travel Practice / Fall Developmental Program
  - 5 girls in the Academy program U8 / U9
  - 17 girls attended the Academy program at U10 / U11 as their optional 3<sup>rd</sup> practice
  - 20 boys attended the Academy program as their optional 3<sup>rd</sup> practice
  
- Premier Teams
  - 18 boys from Newtown are on CFC West teams
  - 18 girls from Newtown are on CFC West teams
  - Goalkeeper training for the CFC West teams will start Monday 9/15

**2. Recreation Update**

Rebecca provided an update on the REC program.

- Registration
  - Registration numbers are down about 26 players from last year (529 vs. 555) seems like the drop is on the girls side in the U8 & U 10 divisions
  - There were enough players to create a 5<sup>th</sup> U14 Boys Rec team which is great
  - Players still being assigned to teams due to requests to accommodate practices days / times
  - Practices are being scheduled at St. Rose

**3. Travel Update**

- **Assignments.** All Coaches and Managers have been assigned. First week of games went smoothly.
- **Week 1 Games.** In week 1 our travel program enjoyed 10 wins and only 4 losses.
- **Newtown Premier.** Kevin O'Hara's U13 Newtown Premier team is 4-1 on the season and lost in the finals of the Farmington tournament in overtime. They are off to a very good start.
- **State Cup.** State Cup schedules are being posted and Managers have been informed to begin coordinating with their opponents. We have 3 home games for the State Cup scheduled on 9/20 and 9/27 (U12 Boys, U12 Girls, U14 Girls).
- **Adidas Uniforms.** Josh is in contact with Soccer Post in regards to outstanding Travel equipment (warm up jackets, etc) and is also discussing issues with the uniforms in regards to ripping or pulling (socks and uniforms).

- **Goalkeeper training.** Starts today (9/11). There are 9 players registered from U9 – U11 and 9 players registered from U12+. Of these 18 players, there are 10 boys and 8 girls which is great to see. Michael Brennan, a former CT All-State and Dartmouth College goalkeeper, is running the program for the Club. You can read Mike’s bio on the Newtown Soccer Club website.
- **Winter Training.** Josh is finalizing practice days and times for Winter training. At this point we are fixed on Mondays and Wednesdays with the only outstanding item being the times for training on those days.
- **Free NHS Clinics.** Free Clinics begin this weekend and are being provided by the Newtown High School Varsity Men’s and Women’s soccer teams and coaches. This is a great opportunity to build the soccer community by having our High School players serve as role models and leaders to our young players.

**GROUP 1:** REC U6 & U8 and TRAVEL U12 & U14 (9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25)

**GROUP 2:** REC U10 and TRAVEL U9 – U11 (9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1)

#### 4. Field Scheduler Update

- **Practice / Game Schedules.** Linda Hess reported that practices and games are still being scheduled.
- **Tier 1 Field.** The Club is investing in improvements to Tier 1 field, which is privately owned and currently has U4, U5 and goalkeeper training scheduled on it. The improvements include aerating the field and filling in ruts with topsoil and over-seeding.
- **Parking @ Tier 1.** Parking is always an issue at Tier 1 and it is also a safety issues for parents and players. The Club will be putting up signs to direct parents to a parking lot near the field and use of a path to get from the parking lot to the Field.
- **St. Rose Field.** We have confirmed use of the St. Rose field for weekday soccer practices. While used in the past, the soccer club has not made use of these fields for the past year or two. This provides the Club with another option to move games around if field conditions at other fields are poor.
- **Park & Rec.** Linda does not believe that Park & Rec will have a meeting this year on Field use and instead is giving teams the same field use times as they had last year. Park & Rec is also working on a new field use document.
- **SWD Playoffs.** The soccer club will be hosting the SWD playoffs for the weekend of Nov. 8 / 9. This will include 2 semi-final games on Saturday and a final game on Sunday.

#### 5. Referee Update

- **Re-certification.** E-mails were sent out to existing referees that they have until 12/27 to recertify.
- **New Referees.** Michelle and Jody plan to send out communication looking for new referees after all the back to school activity is over.
- **Referees.** The club has close to 100 referees which is great as many clubs do not have enough local referees so have to request ref’s from the District or State.
- **Mentoring Program.** Michelle and Jody will continue the mentoring program as this has proven to be successful and has been positively recognized by the State.
- **Kickoff Meeting.** Michelle and Jody plan to have a Spring Referee kick-off meeting. Details will follow as we prepare for the Spring season.

#### 6. Administration and Field Maintenance

- **FFH Goals.** Mrs. Stierle recommended that we purchase 2 additional practice goals for FFH since we have a lot of teams practicing there and the town may create a 3rd practice / game field.

- Equipment pick-up. REC coaches have picked up their medical kits, balls, etc. required for the REC season. Cindy and Tony will coordinate with any new coaches that were not available or were newly assigned to a team.

## 7. Special Needs

- The special Needs program will begin this Saturday (9/13) at Newtown High School and runs from 9 – 11am.
- The Newtown High School Men's and Women's Varsity team and coaches will help run the program along with Travel players to assist the kids.
- There are approximately 10 kids signed up ranging in all age groups.
- The Newtown High School Coaches will work with the School's Unified Sports program and parents to discuss a Unified Sports soccer program. One already exists for other sports including basketball.

## 8. Any Other Business

- **Labor Day Parade.** The Newtown Soccer Club won "Best New Entry" for the 2014 Labor Day parade. Kudos goes to Kelley Johnson for coordinating the event and dialogue between the Newtown High School Girls Varsity program, Newtown Soccer Club, and many Alumni (some of whom flew in to attend)
- **Open House.** The club is looking to schedule an Open House this month for all parents. The purpose is to meet many of the Coaches and Board Members and to also provide information on programs and volunteer opportunities.
- **Volunteer Suggestions**
  - Mike Sepp is considering a community service event for the Soccer Club and will connect with Brian Neumeyer's culinary class to assist with preparation of food.
  - Melissa Eigen made some suggestions to help improve the Club. These suggestions included coordination of an end-of-year event for the soccer club, selection of new REC uniforms i.e. MLSRec uniforms, and other miscellaneous items. A meeting with Melissa is being scheduled to discuss.
- **Uniforms for Bridgeport Team.** A request was made to the Club for any extra uniforms, balls, shoes, etc. that can be donated to a Bridgeport school soccer team. Rebecca will be coordinating this.

With there being no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned: 8:10 p.m.