

Natick Comets Hockey Club, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Annual Meeting 2016
Tuesday, May 17, 2016

In attendance: 49 members of our community, Attendees are recorded in the Minutes binder.

CALL TO ORDER, ANNUAL MEETING 2016:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM.

Welcome by Larry: Introduced himself and other members of the executive board, and Dave Hoffman, whom were all sitting in front of the group of Comets community.

Financial Update:

Update from the Fiscal Year 2014 to 2015 (Sept 1 2014 to Aug 31 2015)

Last Year: Our total income was \$499,000.00.

Our total costs were \$520,00.00 broken down in the following way: Ice rentals - \$235,000.00 45%, Leagues \$209,000.00 40%, and numerous other fees such as credit card fees, medals/items for skaters were all less than 5%; all remaining items were under 1%.

The significant difference in costs from 2013-14 and 2014-15 was the cost of the new jerseys, \$22,000.00.

Once again our state and federal taxes were filed and there were no issues at that time.

Recap of the past year:

Overall our program ran well last year. We had many teams make it to states, into the finals of many tournaments around the state and others, and the league did well as a whole. Larry researched youth sports and found an interesting article from a Google search, from the New York Times on "How Adults Ruin Youth Sports." The article was focused on Lacrosse in which kids were interviewed, instead of parents. The focus of the interview stressed the number one thing for them was to have fun, then closely behind was be with friends and get fit. There was nothing listed about the coaches' selection for the assigned teams, placement of the players, not what will happen next. It was about fun and that is what we should try to focus on for the 2016-17 season as well.

With that said:

What is Next?

1. We will be announcing and asking for you all to vote on the new proposal of a slate of names for the board of directors shortly. Some new names to replace our members who will be leaving us. We had a few folks leaving us after 6 Years of service: Clare G, Doug R, John D, Rose S, Dave F, Lynn R. There are a few other folks without the lengthy careers but will be missed as well: Matt M, Sarah B, Kevin B., Shaun S.
2. Larry announced he reviewed the by-laws and found out that Comets committees do not have to consist of ONLY board members, there can be community members welcome to join. Are there any volunteers who might be willing to assist on a committee as it is needed? Two volunteers: Carol Cain, son on Bantam and Dawn McCarthy, players on Midget and PeeWee
3. The Bantam reorganization: Most people are aware there are 5 Bantam teams and we are working on re-aligning them to 4 teams. There is a committee in place now working on this and hope to be done shortly.

4. The question about ice times at other locations: Babson was brought up for ice time at 6:00am on Sundays and 20 people said they would be willing to travel to Babson at 6 am this for extra ice time.
5. Instead of posting a partial list of tryout results, next year we will post all of the teams at the same time.
6. Tryouts are run in the spring when everyone is around and the skating is still fresh in their heads and bodies instead of in the fall. We post the scores because this has historically before the kids return from spring break.

Open Table and around the room for questions

**The following questions/comments/suggestions were presented by the community:
Answers given by board members: Larry Slotnick, Eric Beard, Dave Camacho, Ann Fisher**

“Scheduling teams of like age group on the ice at the same time. This is part of USA hockey guidelines.”

- Larry: We all want more ice time to allow this to happen, we have been sitting in on the Rink Oversight committee meetings to try to find ways for more ice and what else might be next.

- Ann F: In the beginning of the year we grouped as many of the age groups together. But, as we moved into the HS and Middle School seasons, we had less ice time. As we got to the end of the season, several teams were continuing to progress on in finals or states or with tournaments, forcing us to continuously reschedule practices and tryouts so I had to, at times, put non-like age groups together. However, each team should have gotten at least one practice a week.

Comments were made about informing the Comets community of the Rink Oversight Committee’s meeting(s) so they could have the chance to attend. The Comets Board of Directors will try to post this as soon as we are made aware of this. Great idea.

“We just need to go to the town and ask for more ice time, the town still owns the rink and we should be able to work that out.”

- Larry, we have and we will continue to do this.

Bantams had 5 goalies what will happen to the 5th goalie?

- Eric, they will play as a part time goalie.

Has this Rink Oversight Committee always been in place and we just did not know about it?

- Larry, Yes

Why did the Director of Player Development place the skaters on teams and not have a committee placing the teams?

- Larry, this was not done very differently than years past.

“I have been coaching with the Comets for 4 or 5 years and I have never been asked my opinions of the players during the tryout process. This was always very curious to me.”

- Larry, provided a process which has been more widely used in the past and for some reason, there was some opposition to this years' process. We could move to coaches, assistant coaches having more help with placement.

- Eric B, it is my desire to have more opportunities for coaches to be involved at each level for placement. This years' placements were more number-driven from the data from the tryouts, and second year kids were given more preference over 1st year players and coaches were called as needed.

"I can recall times when the placement process was in bad shape and this year is far improved from years past."

"Calling for more transparency, would like to see the players scores posted without names but just the scores."

- Larry, strongly advised not to put this in the public hands.

"Was it a board decision to not have a committee for each age group?"

- Larry, NO

"There is anxiety in the Comets community because of lack of communication. Anything and everything would be helpful. Post all the meeting times and locations, including the minutes when they are complete."

- Larry, DONE

Dave C: (looking for feedback)

Checking clinics: were they helpful, are they worth it?

- "they were great but need more coaching help on the ice."

- "have the clinics in late summer"

- "Would love to see more women on the ice helping and coaching. Pass the word around, help out."

- An explanation of what that entails, coaching expectations, was provided.

Just a reminder that there is now stick time offered from USA Hockey.

Eric's new form for coaches to fill out is great and easier to us. Might add what level they think the skater could be at next year.

"It seems like this year the coaches' evaluations were not valued as much, or at all, because it was based more on scores without conversation."

"I agree that the coaches' evaluations are valuable because they are on the ice with them for more than the season."

"The placement should be changed for the benefit to the teams. We should overload the A team so we have enough players."

- What we need to keep in mind is our upward flow of players because of not enough players down at the lower levels.

NO additional comments at this time.

Ballots passed out and collected for tallying. Majority ruled and slate was voted in.

Meeting adjourned 8:55PM