



JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Time & Date: 01/16/18 @ 6:30pm

Location: SUNY Geneseo, Schrader Bldg., Room 4, Geneseo, NY

Meeting began @ 6:36 pm

1. ATTENDANCE

Jeff Curry	Shannon Agosto	Dick Baumgardner	Amanda Cayouette
Mike Dale	Molly VanWyk	Aaron Utberg	Lee Sargent
Judy Keysa	Ken Claud	JoBeth Rath	Karyn Lipome
Kristen Felix	Dan Craun	Brenda Melead	Julie Matthews
Dave Wong	Cory Fitzsimmons	Jodi Deming	Chandy Kemp
Jonathan Bennett	Jason Bonsignore		

2. READ/REVIEW/REVISE/APPROVE PRIOR MONTH'S MINUTES – Shannon Agosto, Secretary

Discussion of previous month's Minutes (if any): None

Corrections/Revisions that need to be made (if any): None

Motion made by Jobeth Rath and seconded by Ken Claud to accept December meeting Minutes as is. Passed unanimously.

3. OFFICER REPORTS

President – Jeff Curry

Report:

- Jeff reports that the match penalty was lifted by EAHC at their meeting on Jan. 8, 2018 for Coach Bob Mulvaney, and he was allowed to return to all duties. Further, Jeff and Mike Dale (ACE) held several meetings (one for the players, one for the parents and one for the coaching staff). This matter is considered closed.

- Jeff brought up a concern that some Pee Wee & Bantam parents brought to his attention: the need for us as a league to look into a non-checking option at the Bantam level. Apparently there are a number of girls and others that will be moving up to Bantam next season who would like to explore a non-checking option. One of the major benefits would be that players wouldn't leave our organization if we had a non-checking option. However, no one knew any actual numbers relating to how many players actually leave due to that issue. The driving force behind this is the large number of girls that are now playing and the fact that we lose most of them to "girls only" teams at the Bantam level because there is no checking at the girls only level. Jeff advised that we could certainly bring this up at an Empire meeting and see how many other associations have interest in pursuing that option. Ken Claud, as Empire Rep, will bring this up at the next meeting.

- Further discussion was had regarding the no checking issue and there is a consensus that Empire probably won't change their policy on checking until USA Hockey mandates it.
- There was discussion regarding whether or not we should do a parent poll to our league to see if there is interest in a non-checking team (if that is an option), however as per Jeff, he advises that we find out if a no-checking league in Empire is even an option before we address it to our parents.
- A motion was made by Dick Baumgardner to have our Empire Representative inquire of Empire what the historical numbers are for checking vs. non-checking to see if it'd be beneficial to have a non-checking Bantam level at this time. The motion was seconded by Michael Dale and was passed unanimously
- There was some discussion re: midgets and what the numbers are going to look like for next season. As per Jeff, we can collect numbers to see how many are eligible to play at that level (FYI - there is no age distinct at the house level - currently it's Midget U18 for Empire BUT there is at the WNYAHL level ie. U16, U18). Jeff will talk to Dave Wong about putting out a poll to parents of that age group to see what they want to do.
- There was some discussion re: the try out process for next season. As per Jeff, historically it's hard to make a plan when we don't know what our numbers are yet. If anyone has specific suggestions for the try-out process, please pass those on to Mike Dale. As per Karyn Lipome, Empire is already discussing how to evaluate teams (due to the Pee Wee division being all one this year).
- Jeff got an email from a parent who was in Cleveland regarding an issue with a Mite coach & player at one of the tournament games. The situation is complicated by the fact that the player in question is the stepson of the coach in question. Apparently the players bio parents divorced and mom is remarried and her new husband is also an Asst. Coach on the Mite team where her son plays. Obviously there is some family issues at play that are overlapping into hockey due to the Coach and player relationship. As of today's practice, Jeff, Mike Dale & JoBeth Rath went to practice and pulled the coach from the ice for now, until further notice. They will also reach out to Coach Bennett & the other Asst Coaches to get their account of the situation and Mike will do the appropriate discipline (based on what they hear they will decide if it needs to come before the board again).

Vice President League – Judy Keysa

Report:

- No Report - Not Here

Vice President Hockey Operations – Dan Craun

Report:

- No Report - Not Here

ACE Coordinator – Michael Dale

Report:

- Mike held a coaching meeting last month and a lot of stuff was shared and the coaches had an opportunity to discuss issues. One topic of conversation was referees. Another topic was how to best utilize goalies during practice.
- Jason Bonsignore and Jeff reported that a goalie coach who has been working with the Red Wings has offered to come down to do some sort of clinic for our goalies (no specifics or prices were discussed).
- Mike will start to look at the evaluation process for the upcoming tryouts..

- Jason gave his Red Wings report at this time as we also discussed the Blues/Red Wings plans are for the upcoming season.
- Jason's report is as follows:
 - Jason thanked us again for allowing them to skate under our charter; as per Jason having the Red Wings teams works out good for AA level players, but not so much for the AAA level players as we are a lower tier; and he reports that the AAA Utica Team didn't work out for the Red Wings players that choose that option this year.
 - Jason reports that the 2004 Red Wing team plans to come back next year, but that the 2003 team has struggled due to the JV/Varsity hockey conflicts. He also spoke about doing a split season at that level for next season
 - Jason further reports that he feels he has a couple of younger groups (Squirt / Mlite) that would be interested in playing for the Red Wings.
 - Jason discussed his need to figure out what he's doing with the 2005 kids who want to play at a higher level.
 - Only a few families have failed to pay in full to date and most of the ones who aren't paid in full are in contact with both Jason and Amanda. There is one family who hasn't paid anything to date.
 - Jason would like to take on a more active role in our organization during the upcoming season
 - When asked about whether or not we are the "right fit" for the Red Wings, Jason reported that he has looked around to other organizations to see if another organization would be a better fit (for all of his teams) but hasn't come up with one.
 - Jason hopes that the Red Wings affiliation with the Blues will still be a two-tier process with kids moving up and down from us to them and vice-versa (FYI - only 4 former Blues players have made the move to the Red Wings to date)
 - Jason expressed his desire to have the Red Wings play some games at our rink, but they need their ice earlier than when we get it in and then when it is in there are many conflicts.
- We tabled the rest of the Board discussion about our commitment to the Red Wings until the end of the meeting when Jason & Brenda left the meeting.
- When we resumed discussions without Jason and Brenda the main concern about keeping the arrangement in place was "what is the benefit to our organization?".
- There is more work for Molly (scheduling games and practices all over the place because they don't always get ice at the same rink), Amanda (more registrations to collect) and Dick (he must send bills piecemeal to a bunch of different rinks, rather than one big check to one rink due to their practices/games being at several different rinks).
- This year there were only two teams and as per Jeff, he was contacted by a person from the 2004 team who indicated that their entire team was ready to leave the Red Wings at the end of this season.
- One benefit to our organization is that there is a small "up charge" to the Red Wings players, which enables us to make some money.
- It was decided that we would hold an early board meeting in February so that we can take a vote on whether or not to continue our relationship with the Red Wings for the 2018-2019 season.

Treasurer – Dick Baumgardner

Report:

- Gave report with up-to-date account figures, all bills (except ice time @ SUNY Geneseo) have been paid and there are no outstanding Invoices due and owing at this time.
- Dick reports that we haven't been billed from SUNY Geneseo

Registrar – Amanda Cayouette

Report:

- Amanda was not present, but sent the following report via email prior to the meeting:

Mite birth certificates: most submitted, a few are outstanding. USA Hockey (or West section) rules state that they should not be playing without being verified and the deadline for these was 12/31. Still submitting any that come in just in case there is leeway on the deadline.

Mite RWB fees: added in the registration system for all affected families

Balances: continuing to put pressure on families with outstanding balances. Nearing the end of the season and need them resolved.

Equipment Manager – Lee Sargent

Report: Not present – No report

EAHC Representative – Ken Claud

Ken Claud is the EAHC Bantam Commissioner – therefore Bantam playoffs will be held at our rink.

Report:

- Ken reports that playdowns will be Feb. 22-24 with the championship game on Feb. 25 at SUNY Brockport
- Ken also reports that some of the divisions will play playdown games at other rinks (besides SUNY Brockport)

WNYAHL Representative – Chandy Kemp

Report:

- Not present - Sent Report (including updated list of WNYAHL Fines) to Shannon, who distributed them to the Board
- FYI - There is no meeting in January, the next meeting is Feb. 13th.

Ombudsman – JoBeth Rath

Report:

- JoBeth reported that the only issue was the Mite issue (see President's Report).

Director of Communications – Dave Wong

Report:

- No Report

Ice Scheduler – Molly VanWyk

Report:

- Molly reports that the Feb schedule may be ugly because of all of the conflicts (ie. teams may not have their "usual" time slots) so she suggested that everyone check the schedule online.
- Aaron will continue to work with Molly to get the IPs and Beginners a couple of full ice practices (if feasible).

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee – Amanda Cayouette, Molly VanWyk & Kristen Felix

Report: No Report

By-Law Review Committee – JoBeth Rath

Report: No Report

Grow the Game Committee – JoBeth Rath, Cory Fitzsimmons & Aaron Utberg

Report:

- JoBeth reports that the second Try Hockey for Free event is scheduled for March 3rd.
- JoBeth asked if we could do a split season of Beginner/IP for the 2018-2019 season (ie. 8 weeks for like \$75 or something and then a second 8 week session). Some feedback she has received is that people aren't thinking about hockey in Sept & Oct. and some kids play football so they aren't available to play until after that ends so a second session would work better for them.
- No decision was decided upon regarding doing two sessions for Beginners/IP for next season.
- Aaron suggested that we get flyers out to Little League programs now for next season.
- There was also some discussion about our needing to update our Beginner language on our website to indicate that they only skate once a week (not twice like the website says).

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Lawsuit: At this point we are just awaiting the following item:

- money from the insurance company (if applicable)
- o October Update: Dick reported that Jeff received an email from one of the insurance companies that they paid one of the other insurance companies and we still haven't been reimbursed, so Jeff is going to look into this.
- o December Update: Jeff hasn't received anything in a while, so he will be following up.
- o January Update: Jeff isn't getting anywhere with the emails that are going through the Buffalo USA Hockey "State Rep" so Jeff is going to follow up the the "National Rep" .

B. Red Wings Report – Jason Bonsignore &/or Brenda Melead

- See ACE Report

C. Mites – EAHC – Red, White & Blue League

- See Registrar's Report

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Parent Concerns (if any) – NONE

B. Body Checking at the Bantam level - See ACE Report

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

Nothing at this time.

8. SET DATE FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

- We decided on an early February meeting so that we can do the vote re: Red Wings, so we decided on the date of Feb. 1, 2018 @ 6:30 @ Scharader, Room 1.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Dick Baumgardner and seconded by Jodi Deming to adjourn meeting @ 7:54pm. Passed unanimously.

Next Board meeting:

Feb. 1, 2018 @ 6:30pm @ SUNY Geneseo, Schrader Bldg, Room 1

Next WNYAHL meetings:

Feb. 13, 2018 @ 6:45pm @ Millennium Hotel, Buffalo, NY (Walden & Galleria Drive)

March 13, 2018 @ 6:45pm @ Millennium Hotel, Buffalo, NY (Walden & Galleria Drive)

Next EAHC meetings:

Feb. 12, 2018 @ 7:00pm @ Bill Gray's Iceplex, Rochester, NY (conf. room opposite Rink #3) **Primary Topic: Playoffs Scheduling (all Commissioners should have these finalized by 12/31 but only the dates are released until standings are finalized, game times are released once standings are finalized) and Questions**

March 12, 2018 @ 7:00pm @ Bill Gray's Iceplex, Rochester, NY (conf. room opposite Rink #3)