

An Amherst Hockey Association Board of Directors meeting was held September 10 2013 at Howard Johnsons, Rt. 9, Hadley Ma.

A quorum was called at 720. The following members of the Board were present: David Sullivan, Kari Bachon, Gary Elson, Ryan Scott, Pete Stoneham, Jeff Smith, David Smith, John Cristoforo, Eliot Deres, Joe Lanzafame, David Schein, Dan Feldman. Guests , Ted Niemiec of the Springfield Falcons, Tom Beckwith, Rachael Daley and Vincent Sarno were also in attendance. Matt Motyka arrived late.

1. Meeting minutes were approved as is with a minor change noted in section 6. Kathy Reidy's name was misspelled. Motion to approve was made by Dan Feldman and approved by all.
2. Ted Niemiec of the Springfield Falcons gave a presentation about the opportunities for our leagues to play mini-games and participate in half time events on ice at Falcon games. All members present received flyers and documentations.
3. Ryan Scott: There have been some complaints about the Ice time and Puck time the Mites have, as well as some miss understanding as to what is expected of the Mite Families. The mites do have less ice time then the other teams but they also pay less in dues. It will also help if we get more information from Hockey Opps to give parents a clear idea before the start of the season. It would also be helpful to include a cost analysis on the website. (Eliot Deres: Seconded the need to put all the information on the Website)
4. Dan Feldman: We do need to revise the Hockey Opps Guidelines. We should have a clear outline for next meeting.
5. Jeff Smith: We need to discuss the need for Rink Dividers. The cost ranges from 5,000.00 – 10,000.00 depending on the type and size we need. Different rinks have different styles and some Rinks do share. We need to look at more than just the cost of the dividers, we need to look at the set up time, storage, ice cuts and ice play time, as well as whether or not we will have the manning to set up and take down the dividers.
  - a. Dan Feldman: We do need the dividers to in order to host Jamborees. We do need to look into it more and move on it in the future but we have no room for it in the budget at this time.
  - b. John Cristoforo: I have seen some rinks where they use netting as a divider. It works although it is not the most effective and may reduce our costs.
  - c. Dave Sullivan: Last year we put 10,000.00 in to the budget to buy dividers. Letts take a closer look at them. Let's try to figure out whether or not we have the manpower to make the investment worthwhile rather than looking at simply the cost of the dividers. (Ryan Scott: What happened to the earmarks in the budget for the Dividers did we lose them?) (Dan Feldman: We bought a lot more ice time this year.)

- d. Joe Lanzafame: Let's spend the money and buy the dividers if we will use them. My only question is if we start hosting more games will we lose ice practice time? (Dan Feldman: We will lose some but it may also allow us to buy more ice time as well.)
  - e. Tom Beckwith: Do we have the man power to put up the buffers? Mites didn't have enough home games and having the dividers might help to bring us more home games.
  - f. Dan Feldman: At this time Money is our main constraint. We are operating in the black but with let's try to use grant money from Mass. Hockey or USA Hockey to purchase the buffers. We can revisit the subject of buffers at a later date when we have more information.
6. Ryan Scott: We are still working on Website access. We had an issue with the registration section. People who registered and paid for Evaluations last spring have to still pay for the 2013-2014 Season Evaluations. We are looking into it and trying to figure out how to fix it.
  - a. Dan Feldman: We held registration this year so it would match up with the registration with USAA Hockey. We are working on the official rosters (Jim Mileski) and will have it completed by the 23 September GLS Deadline.
7. Eliot Deres: We have 22 Midgets registered and are still trying to get them all to come to practice at once. Our first game is on Friday and we have 14 games scheduled for the season.
8. Kari Bachand: We had one person volunteer to help take over the Coffee Table at Amherst College. (information noted in Section 6 of the last minutes) We need to decide if we still want to continue hosting the Coffee Table. It is a lot of work to organize for one person. (Dan Feldman: We have a volunteer and it is late to back out now. Lets continue it for this year and we can look at it again for next year.) Sybles Sponsors us and donates the Pizza. I am working on handing over all information to our new Coordinator. (We do not need a motion on the Coffee Table as it is already part of this year's budget) The Web sponsorships is going very slow. It is a lot of work and very time consuming. (Rachael Daley Volunteered to take over some of the Web Sponsorship responsibilities)
9. John Cristoforo: We are doing well collecting items for the Gear sale. We have a lot of items for the Squirts, Pee-Wee's, and Bantams but we need equipment for the younger guys, the mites and LTP/LTS parents.
10. Dan Feldman: Who is planning the 2/2 Challenge? Try Hockey for free day? It takes a lot of work and prep time? We don't have the ice on the 2<sup>nd</sup> but we may be able to do it on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - a. Dan Feldman will chair the committee with Rachael Daley and Dave Sullivan. We will need players from all levels to help with gear and getting kids on the Ice. Dan Sullivan will see if we can use the Big Ice for Try Hockey Free Day.
11. Gary Elson: We are looking to use Amherst for the Freeze Out tournament. We may also be able to have the games be a bit longer. (Dan Feldman: We are working on getting more Ice. We are having some scheduling conflicts but Brad is working on it.) We are looking to have 12-16 teams

for the Freeze Out. We are also looking to have a Mini-tournament for the Mites. We will have about 4 teams to play full ice games for this tournament.

12. David Sullivan: Hockey Opps Update: We have had successful meetings. The new philosophy has been implemented and is working very well.
  - a. We will have 80 Min practices; the longer practices help to improve our players by increasing stamina.
  - b. We have also hired Coach Caz from Blazing Speed Hockey to run our Power Skating clinics. He has been hired on a Practice by Practice basis. We expect great things from him.
  - c. Opps will be reassigning players throughout the league to be sure they are all on the right teams the assessments should be done in the next 2 weeks.
  - d. We will be subsidizing 500.00 per tournament for the Squirts – Bantams. There was talk about a motion to increase that. Would we like to make a motion or open it for discussion?
    - i. Joe Lanzafame: If we increase the Subsidy we will need to up the dues by 30.00-50.00 per player. Either way the parents will still be paying for the tournaments.
    - ii. Dan Feldman: The money issue is a catch 22, yes increasing the dues will most likely get more players to practice because the parents have more invested. But keeping it affordable is how we get players. If we raise our dues by too much it will cause us to lose players due to affordability. I think we should raise the subsidy to 800.00 from 500.00. Asking Parents to pay more is just not fair to them.
  - e. Please everyone apply for your Play down Teams.
13. Ryan Scott: I need the Notes from the Coaches meeting for the Website. I would also like to get a plan from Coach Caz so we can work in line with his plans for the site as well (Matt Motyka: Coach Caz is sending it to me. I will forward it to you.)
14. Dan Feldman: In the past our LTS/LTP and Try Hockey Free Day have all gone out together. I think that system works well and I would like to do that again this year.
  - a. LTP is planning our second season with GSL at Olympia. We need to organize a policy and post it on the website for LTP Skaters to move up to Mites near the end of the season if they are ready. (Dave Sullivan: We do need a formal process with Hockey Opps Assessment so we can make an offer, to parents when it is time. This will help back fill the talent all season while not giving into Coaches desires to keep certain players or reject certain players.) (Ryan Scott: We also need to make this policy clear to parents from the start of the season and to allow LTS Players to move up to LTP as needed.)
15. Jeff Smith: I sent out the notes on GSL and will continue to do so. We will go over staffing, the Rink Dividers, Scholarships and Goalie clinics at tomorrow night's meetings. (Dan Feldman: Bryan couldn't make this meeting I will email him about going tomorrow evening)

16. Matt Motyka: Passed out copies of the Budget Report: We are operating on a Deficient of over \$18,000.00. I was very conservative with the budget so our deficient should not increase. It very well may be much less.
- a. We need to follow up on the Hadley Hospitality Funds. (Dan Feldman: I will follow up on that.)
  - b. This year we are providing more Power Skating and Goalie Clinic Opportunities.
  - c. Dan Sullivan: We are spending the money on things we want to spend money on things we want to spend money on. Even if we charged another 100.00 per player we still would not even break even.
  - d. Dan Feldman: We need to set up a Fundraising Committee.
  - e. Tom Beckwith: I think the time to consider raising rates is after we see that our new programs work, not before. We need to tap into our volunteers to help raise some money.
  - f. We have Power Skating clinics with Coach Caz scheduled throughout the first half of the season but we are not locked in for the second half of the season yet.
  - g. I should have a more solid figure by the next meeting for the budget. Please email me if you see anything that needs to be changed or addressed.
  - h. Many rinks are raising the rates for ice time and games .( Motion passed to raise ours to 135.00)
17. Dan Feldman: The Taxes have been submitted and we are working on them.
18. Dan Feldman: What has been the feedback on the new practice Schedule? (David Sebein and David Sullivan both reported positive feedback.)
19. Dan Feldman: Kerri Bachon needs to step down from her position as VP and Fundraising chair. (Request submitted in writing) She has family reasons and will continue to help during the transition, but is no longer able to continue as a board member. We will need to fill her position before the next Meeting. (The Board accepted her resignation.)

No further Business – meeting adjourned at 932pm.

Minutes taken by Rachael Daley.