

An Amherst Hockey Association Board of Directors meeting was held February 11, 2014 at Howard Johnsons.

A quorum was called at 7:18 pm. The following members of the Board of Directors were present: Bachand, Deres, Feldman, Kang, Lanzafame, Motyka, Schein, Scott, Smith, and Sullivan.

Jeff Smith moderated the meeting.

1. The Minutes from the 1-7-14 Board of Directors Meeting were approved.
2. LTP/LTS Update (Feldman). The AHA Novice season was discussed and reviewed. Skaters are being identified for movement to Mite teams, and in-house coaches will attend Mite practices to get an introduction to ADM-style practices.
3. Hockey Operations Review. David Sullivan reported to the Board the recommendations from the Hockey Operations Committee regarding the Spring 2014-15 season evaluations. The Committee recommended holding Red Team tryouts over two sessions for the Squirt and Pee Wee divisions. The first day would be 80 minutes (skills and game play), and the second tryout date would be a 50+ minute game play assessment. Players not selected or not participating in the Red team tryouts will attend subsequent White Team tryouts with a similar format. Individual tryout jerseys with easily identifiable numbers will be purchased for each registered player with a \$10 registration surcharge. Players will keep the jerseys. Hockey operations will also work to improve real time communication between the evaluators and on ice coaches.

The recommendations reflect the need to decrease the number of skaters at each division/team evaluation to ensure that each player is thoroughly and efficiently evaluated given the large number of players within these age groups.

Combined Bantam Red and White evaluations will be conducted over two sessions. Formal Mite evaluations will be held in the fall to match more accurately player development and skill with team placement. Two Mite pre-evaluation sessions will be held in the spring to orient current and future Mites for the fall evaluations.

The Committee also recommended increasing the registration fee to non-AHA skaters to \$250 dollars in order to discourage evaluation "window shopping" by outside players which greatly disrupted team/roster placements the previous season. Outside players who evaluate and make a team would then be asked to sign a commitment to AHA within three days.

Goalie evaluations will be conducted over two sessions. A skills session will be arranged with Stop-it Goaltending at Stick Time in Agawam, and a gameplay session will be held at a site TBD.

4. GSL Update. Jeff Smith strongly recommended that AHA consider purchasing removable boards for Mite half-ice games. The GSL will only schedule games at rinks which provide these boards, and AHA mite have had their “home “ games at outside rinks such as Greenfield and Smead. The Board will actively pursue procurement.
5. The UMASS Intermission Shootout and AHA Annual Banquet were discussed.
6. Dan Feldman encouraged Board members to solicit candidates for the upcoming AHA Board Elections in March 2014.
7. Matt Motyka provided a brief financial review.