

Essex Youth Hockey Association
Board Meeting – Essex High School room C102
January 18, 2007

The meeting commenced at 7:12pm

Member Attendees: Kate Connolly, Stephanie Paquette

Board Member Attendees: Craig Benson, Rich Connolly, Al Foice, Bruce Garrapy, Kib Horsford, Jon Laliberti, Kay Maloney, Kevin Norris, Jill Vespa, Wolfie

December Meeting Minutes - Approved the December minutes.

Visitor Discussion – Concerns regarding overflow locker rooms and adjoining locker rooms with girls and boys overflow. It was suggested that parents / coaches need to monitor overflow and as appropriate block the entryway to the restroom portion of the locker room in order to keep the boys and girls separate. Long-term the problem will ultimately be remedied when the facility renovation is complete.

Committee Reports

- a) Registrar – Kib Horsford reported: discussion – Should we have an early spring registration. Some discussion ensued however it was decided that end of season registration is not required but there may be some value in exploring an earlier registration timeline. No decision made but tabled for future discussion.
- b) Treasurer – Kay Maloney reported: Kay asked board members to review the budget spreadsheet and report back to Kay as to where you feel your line items will shake out.

January payments are being collected. Kay reaffirmed our policy that players with unresolved travel payments will not be able to play in the state tournaments. As long as there is contact with Kay as to how and when she will receive payment, players will be considered resolved. Noted by board that all teams have had two practices per week and the time frames are longer. Practice time to game was very successful.

EYHA Rink Fund	\$21,471.33
Primary Checking	\$27,430.49
Secondary Checking	\$47,399.74
Total Bank Accounts	\$96,301.56

Net cash flow for 2006-7 pending payment of final ice rental costs will approximate a negative \$6K which was previously discussed as acceptable. c) Travel – No report

- d) House – Wolfie reported: Things are progressing well and all levels are playing games with other towns. House players are happy. We need a “gift” for players for the end of the season. John LaLiberti agreed to coordinate this based on given budget.
- e) Head Coach – No report
- f) Women’s Director – No report
- g) Ice Coordinator – No report
- h) Fundraising – Kay Maloney reported: Commented on positive efforts of Estelle and the fact that we should clear \$14,500 in sponsorships.
- i) Tournament Director – No report.

- j) Head Referee – No report
- k) Equipment Manager – Rich Connolly reported: Rich was asked if the EYHA still has pins – he replied yes. Rich indicated that we need to think about financing new home jerseys for next year. We need to consider various options including but not limited to charging players for their home jerseys consistent with other organizations. Could we find a corporate sponsor to buy jerseys? Rich noted that there are parents willing to donate used goalie equipment and we have not taken advantage of this opportunity. At this time Stephanie Paquette donated goalie equipment to EYHA in exchange for a donation receipt for tax purposes. Kay will draw up a donation form that donors can utilize for a write off on their taxes.
- l) State Representative – Report below under New Business

Old Business

- a) Midget teams – Rich Connolly reported: Rich would like to review the outlook of the Midget program. In many ways this is the JV team for two high schools. It's very competitive hockey and very important regarding their development as players and as pre adults. We want this program to look like more than the team you land on if you don't make the high school teams. Rich would like more of a pre-season program with other towns. We have time to develop the program to create an even stronger team next year. Rich would like to see the midgets play with the HS preseason program in order to give them this experience which will allow them to experience what will be needed before they try out for HS. How do we handle this as a board regarding registration and ice time? This needs to be planned early so we can capture our 2nd year Bantams. This will remain as an Old Business item until the plan is researched, created and voted on as a board. Kay and Rich will research and report on in March. Rich's report and observations were well accepted by the Board.
- b) Update on the New England Festival (March 23-25) 16/17 year olds at UVM – Al Foice reported: We need to coordinate volunteers in all areas. Al would like us to be able to have a concession stand for some fantastic fundraising. More information and sign ups will be out soon.
- c) Year-book – Jill Vespa reported: One quote at .14 per page. Layouts of book are in the thought process – one page per team. Email will go out to teams regarding getting pictures to Jill. Jill will email volunteer list to solicit year book sponsors.
- d) Awards – Al Foice and John Laliberti reported: Weston Lee, Greg Lahoulier, one other. Coaches sometimes have a hard time deciding on one player for the sportsmanship award. Al will handle the aforementioned awards and John will handle house / novice.

New Business

- a) All Star selection process (VSAHA) – Kevin Norris reported: Discussed below.
- b) VSAHA items – Considerable discussion surrounding the debate whether the Glades should be considered for the All Stars and State Tournament play. VSAHA is asking local organizations to vote on whether Glades should be considered for All-Star nominations. VSAHA is seeking input from local organizations as to how All-Star nominations should work for Allied Members (Glades and other Select teams) not considered a Local Member (Essex, CSB...) There needs to be an understanding from the state as to how this should work regarding how many can be nominated within each tier. Kevin's opinion is that VSAHA is placing too much on the Local association's to determine the outcome with limited information. There are many

issues and questions that arise that require discussion in order to make an informed discussion. As it relates to State Tournaments, the Glades expressed interest in having their Major teams represent Vermont at Tier 1 regionals as this is what most NE states are doing. Some discussion ensued regarding the ability for Local teams to compete effectively at the Tier 1 level. Also, questions arose regarding how this would impact the current format for regional representation including Tier 2 and 3. Many questions with no answers led to the Board suggesting to State Representative Kevin Norris to ask VSAHA to ask the Glades for a formal proposal and to have VSAHA evaluate the impact to the Local Associations. This would enable Local Associations to make more informed decisions. Rich Connolly commented that Vermont should send the best players to All-Stars and the best team to regionals....even if this means Glades participation. Other board members recall the Glades introduction to VSAHA and a plan that indicated no interest in All-Stars or State / Regional tourney participation. Some questioned the motive and sudden change in direction. This reinforced the view that the Glades should make a formal proposal with sufficient lead time for Local Associations to review and react to avoid knee jerk reactions that don't benefit either side of the debate. Kay and Kevin both suggested that VSAHA and/ or the Glades should look at other sports as to how they handle select teams and All Stars – specifically youth soccer as there are lessons to be learned from that experience. As it relates to Glade related matters nothing was resolved. Discussion ensued regarding the EYHA position on All-Star nominations. Experienced coaches and board members commented that the second most controversial administrative event after tryouts is All-Star Nominations. Often there are complaints from parents regarding the selection and recommendation process. Various options floated but the most appealing was to recommend that VSAHA have self-nominations at all levels for both boys and girls. After some discussion the Board made a motion that: *EYHA recommends to VSAHA that self nominations for All Star tryouts be implemented for all levels boys and girls. Second. Motion approved. Kevin will advocate at the state meeting for the above. The state is asking too much of the local associations & coaches. Motion: If this motion fails at the state level, we will nominate Peewee and girls as required but employ only the self-nominating feature for all ages where the feature exists. .*

- c) Girls U19 pre-season tournament – Kay Maloney reported: Executive session discussion.

Next meeting date – February 15 at 7pm in room C102 of the Essex High School.

Open session adjourned at 9:20pm

Executive Session: Closed session

The executive session adjourned at 9:40pm