

# UVHA Board Meeting Minutes



February 24, 2016 ~ 6:00 PM

Kinney Pike Insurance, White River Junction, Vermont

1. **Attendance:** Amy Aher, Kathy Roberts, Kylie Ammel, Sarah Morlock, Matt Maher, Ryan Ray, Justin Barwood, Bill Mason, Scott Christian, Bill Mann
2. **Meeting called to order:** 6:05 PM
  - a. January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were unanimously approved (motioned by Ryan, seconded by Justin).
3. **Monthly Reports:**
  - a. **Webmaster**-Matt reiterated that there is a need to keep web content up to date. At a minimum, program descriptions should be added prior to the preregistration launch. Matt learned that we are now able to migrate non-SportNgin registered association emails to SportNgin.
  - b. **Coaching Coordinator**-The Board discussed the usefulness of an end-of-season coaching survey. Parents will be asked to complete an online questionnaire, providing the Board with feedback regarding their satisfaction. Ideally, this information would help the Board to reflect upon and make improvements to coaching. However, there was concern that the data would be skewed as dissatisfied members are inherently more likely to participate. It was agreed that this survey would give the Board insight but that the percentage of association participation will be taken into consideration and comments carefully weighed. As the only non-coach on the Executive Board, Sarah will access and filter the responses to maintain privacy.
  - c. **Equipment Manager**-Roger "Roni" Gillies has stepped forward as a willing candidate to fill Kristen's position as Equipment Manager. This will be brought to vote at the Annual Meeting.
  - d. **SafeSport Coordinator**-As SafeSport Coordinator, Kathy will be given log-in information to access state background-check records and communicate standings to the Board. She reported that parents were typically present in the locker room before and after practices and games. However, many SafeSport Monitors were not consistently upholding their duties. She suggested that future volunteers be more explicitly briefed as to their responsibilities. Due to the configuration of our home rink, Justin and Ryan suggested that Monitors also escort players to and

from the ice, in particular when a player has been ejected from a game. Monitors are relieved of their duties when coaches are present.

- e. **Treasurer**-Ryan shared an expense report, to date from June 1st. Current expenses total \$80,380. Total income totals \$115,581. All bills are paid up to this point. But the association has not yet been billed for February and March ice and referee fees. Three teams will be potentially eligible for regionals based on their state tournament success. Past precedence deems that the Board will cover Regional tournament fees for any teams achieving this status as there are financial and future repercussions for not participating.
- f. **Fundraising**-Sarah reported that \$12,625 has been raised to date. Most recently, Shaw's has contributed a total of \$1,000 and NHAH awarded the UVHA with a \$1,000 ADM grant. Looking ahead to the Skate-a-thon, the Fundraising Committee is confident in reaching the year's \$15,000 goal, thus securing the maximum matched contribution. For convenience and accessibility, Kathy suggested that the association consider a PayPal account for future fundraising ventures.
- g. **Registrar**-With the exception of one player, Kylie reported that outstanding registration fees have been paid. The 2016-2017 USA Hockey registration will not be active until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to this, the Board determined that preregistration will open April 1<sup>st</sup> and close May 31<sup>st</sup>. Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once teams reach ideal capacity, subsequent registrants will be placed on a waiting list. There will be no preregistration discounts following June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- h. **Scheduler**-Justin distributed a revised end-of-season ice schedule. The last two weeks of practice ice will be utilized for scrimmaging and step-up skates. The Travel Mites will host two full-ice jamborees. Bryant Harris will return for the final skills session March 15th.

#### 4. New Business:

- a. **Member Suggestion #1 Follow Up**-Coaches did not express interest in accessing an association owned projector for the review of game footage. Without coaches stepping forward with intent to make use of one, the Board opted to not purchase a projector at this time.
- b. **Member Suggestion #2 Follow Up**-WABA rink managers have been made aware of the issue with the gap between the ice and the Zamboni door. The Town has taken it under advisement.
- c. **Spring Tryouts Revisited**-The Board again discussed transitioning from a fall to a spring tryout schedule. Scott voiced his support of a spring tryout process, citing that players are at their best at the close of the season, both from a skills and conditioning standpoint. He suggested that a spring tryout could also help to forecast tiers and allow for early season team functions and play. In Scott's experience, associations typically fill their "A" teams to a minimum, leaving spots to be backfilled with "B" team players who have progressed or players new to the association in the fall. The pros and cons were of a spring tryout were again discussed at length. While the group was generally supportive of a change,

ultimately, the Board was not comfortable implementing a spring tryout this late in the season. The Board will revisit this topic in the near future, planning for 2016-2017. Matt clarified that it is not permissible for teams to function in the off-season under the Storm banner in non-sanctioned, exclusive events.

- d. **High School/Bantam Dual Roster**-Bill informed the group that he has had a number of parents approach him to ask if the association would allow a player to roster with both their high school and UVHA Bantam teams. Given high school coaches' agreement, the Board was comfortable with a player dual rostering as long as he/she paid the full UVHA Bantam fee and as long as that player did not take a spot from a UVHA Bantam-only eligible player. Scott urged the Board to consider requiring dual roster players to participate in at least one Bantam practice a week to ensure team cohesiveness. Matt motioned to allow high school players to dual roster on a UVHA Bantam team with the understanding that they would pay the full Bantam fee, obtain varsity coach approval, and that a part time player would not take a Bantam-only eligible player spot. Ryan seconded Matt's motion. All voted in favor.
  - e. **Team Planning/Projections for 2016/2017 Season**-This season's registrations lent to 2016-2017 team projections of 15 Bantams (no identified goalie), 34 Peewees, 29 Squirts, 13 Travel Mites, 19 House Mites and 9 Termites. Justin recommended that to field full ice teams, there needs to be, at a minimum, 11 skaters and a goalie. Team size will need to be closely monitored during registration for ice buying. The Board will also need to soon consider the recruitment of players to round out three teams at the Squirt and Peewee level. It was alternatively suggested that the association allow up to 30 players to register at each level. Any players registering beyond that would be wait listed until optimal numbers were achieved for three teams.
5. **VT State Meeting Report:**
- a. VSAHA is mailing the UVHA's \$487 Grow the Game Grant award.
  - b. The next meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Comfort Inn in Montpelier.
6. **NH State Meeting Report:**
- a. International and Canadian transfers have to go through a transfer process every year as long as they remain non-US citizens.
  - b. Kathy Roberts, as SafeSport Coordinator, has been designated as UVHA's point person for logging into and reporting on background checks.
  - c. The next meeting is May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Concord.
7. **Meeting Adjourned:** 8:25 PM