



UVHA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
March 29th, 2023 – 7:00 PM
via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Membership Welcome

Outgoing President Barton recapped the season that was, reporting that the ice is out at WABA and that the UVHA had another great season. This year 155 players registered with Storm, which was up significantly from the past couple years, with the pandemic and limitations coming from that. This past season was a more normal year with much growth and promise. There were 80 players who were 8 years old or younger. President Barton was thrilled that we have so many young kids trying hockey through us saying “too many kids on the ice is a great kid to have”. Storm Academy was very strong and consistent this year. In years past, the Academy program has slowly lost kids throughout the season but numbers stayed strong this year all the way to the end.

The theme for 10U was improvement this year. Both teams had an intimidating start to the year but it was amazing to see the development and improvement from start to finish. Both teams finished middle of the pack in the GSL, just missing qualifying for the GSL state tournaments and won other weekend tournaments of their own. The 12U tier 3 team were challenged this season, and while there was much growth, did not qualify for the GSL Tournament. The 12U tier 5 team had a great year, qualifying for the state tournament, and missing the semifinals by a tie-breaker by two goals. At 14U, both the tier 3 and tier 5 teams were very competitive. Tier 3 Battled hard throughout the year qualifying for the state tournament. The tier 5 team finished 3rd in the GSL standings and went on to win the state championships. The families and players of that group were thrilled with their experience for the year and UVHA was proud to raise their banner at WABA.

We hosted a 12U GSL State Tournament for the first time in more than 5 years. There were a lot of favorable comments from other teams that were happy with the experience we provided there. We also hosted a Mite jamboree. Both events raised money for the association.

The 2023 Skate-a-thon was a big success. This was the first time we have ever grossed over 20k. President Barton thanked parents for buying into that event. The Skate-a-thon is the sole reason we have not raised fees over the past 6 years and while he can't promise that for next season, we won't have to raise them much next season.

President Barton ended by saying that none of this season could have been possible without the parents and volunteers. He thanked everyone for being a part of our organization and tooted the rewarding experience of all working together towards providing our children the opportunity to play ice hockey.

Justin Montebianchi spoke next, saying that he got on the call to thank the board for everything that has been done for him and his family to make it a great experience. This year was Justin's family's last year with Storm before moving on to high school.

Board Position Elections

President Barton asked all the candidates that were present to introduce themselves to the membership attending. For the candidates not in attendance (Tom Daniels and Cherry Sullivan), Brock Mission: The “Upper Valley Hockey Association” mission is to introduce the youth of our area to and promote the game of hockey, so that every child in the program can enjoy a positive experience through encouragement, skill development and character building while creating a passion for the game.



and Jen provided a brief introduction. Attending members were given a link through the zoom chat feature to vote via Google Forms.

Looking Forward

While waiting for the results of the election, President Barton spoke about next year; “The year that will be”. Brock reported that spring tryouts were the first change because it has become evident that due to other associations having spring tryouts, that we will provide the best experience for our families with this change. The biggest con with this is how much children change and develop at different times, stages, and speeds. The board took this into account with the way they set up the tryout process for the 2023-2024 season. Brock feels having spring tryouts will give the board and families the ability to plan ahead and be more prepared for the start of the season in the fall.

Other big news reported by President Barton is that the 14U teams have formed a partnership with Woodstock. Youth hockey across the country and New England is changing and players are being pulled away from local organizations. Every year, teams across the Upper Valley are at these weird numbers to put together teams. Both UVHA and Woodstock agreed to put together an experience to help keep players playing locally in the Upper Valley. This partnership will expand the pool of players within the organization and allow players to play at an appropriate level for each individual.

Brock spoke about the assigned roles of board members as a new thing this year for the board. This is the first time in 6-7 years that we will have 310U teams. UVHA will have to figure out a new ice schedule to maximize on ice training time but President Barton reassured families that the practice schedule would continue to be consistent. Sadie Woods asked if coaches were set for next season. Brock replied that is generally set, with each team having a coach on the team that is capable of doing so. However, official rosters have not been named for each team. Brock reported that the board will be supporting coaches within the coaching role.

Election Results

Outgoing President Barton reported the results of the election. Will Meyer will be the new UVHA President, Jen Callahan remains Secretary, and member-at-large seats were won by Cherry Sullivan, Tom Daniels, Allison Mancuso, and Dana Wright.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm

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