

WATERTOWN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Location: Fairfield Inn, Watertown, NY

Date: 04/19/2023

Time: 6:00 PM

Board of Directors:

Vega Nutting, Board President Michael Ledoux, Board Vice President Board Members Samantha VanBrocklin, Ice Coordinator Chris Nethers, Learn to Play Liaison Tim Esposito (via zoom) Tom Eiss Adam Nyitray (resigned) Thomas Brown (via zoom) John Terry	Additional Elected Positions Brian Nutting - WHA Treasurer Angela Keegan - Secretary Michelle Rist - WHA Registrar Dan McAloon - Ace Coordinator *Amanda Gregory - Equipment Manager *Lori Felder - Tournament Coordinator *Not in attendance
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Agenda Items

Meeting called to order 6:08 PM

March Meeting Minutes Review: Vega Nutting motioned to approve minutes from 3/15/2023 meeting, seconded by John Terry, no one opposed, motion carries.

Treasurer's Update: After all expenses have been paid there was \$28,000 in fundraising. **Mike Ledoux motioned to approve, seconded by Vega.**

Committee Updates: Coaching committee: Dan McAloon recommends keeping the current committee. 3 applications received for coaches. Need head coaches applications by April 30th. Vega to send an email out and mention at the banquet. Consider a director for mites again and then head coaches.

Ice Updates: Reach out to Dennis and TI person in charge regarding getting a block of ice.

Uniforms: Michelle has registration setup, just needs some minor things, pricing, sizes, etc. Avg per pair \$125/home and away jersey and socks. Mensleaguesweaters.com/Rockwell, they keep you updated on where things are. All jerseys are done for Watertown Wolves semi pro too.

Chris: Troy, Owayo, MLS: All three have been great: MLS is recognizing WHA through Unity, etc. Troy is very interested because of loss of Unity. Owayo is sending us samples. Will have samples from all 3 by next board meeting. Run through PPS, cover time and fee and still get a better price through PPS.

- Possibly subsidize cost
- Full mites cost paid and then a reduced cost for all levels above

12U: Concerns from Mike L: it's an us vs. them mentality 8 kids made it and however many didn't and will have to tryout again in the fall. It is divisive. Kids that made it were going to make it anyway. No one new came in, some that made the team scored in the top 8 and made the decision to wait until the fall to commit. Tryouts were run well, a lot of kids evaluated. Coach trying to create a team that is a super team that isn't what WHA is about. There is value in players that have been committed to WHA for years.

Tom E rebuttal: We get on the ice halfway through sept and don't have a team til mid October. Last year we played Lysander mid October and they had 25 games in and we have just started. Struggle is that we get our ice in later and other teams have been on the ice for weeks when we start.

Mike L: What was accomplished? You still have to have tryouts in the fall.

Tom B: 3 WHA players committed to leaving the assoc. end of Feb - 1st weekend in March.

Tom Eiss motions to approve the 12U roster sent after evaluations, Tom Brown seconded.

Mike Ledoux, John Terry and Chris Nethers: don't feel that there was any benefit at this point.

Need to look at the agreement for the 2nd half of the evaluations.

16U/18U update:

16U/18U: Look at Pre/post, declaring tournament bound, roster sizes and how IHA fits into running a full season 16U/18U. May consider state bound, need to tell players what they intend to do prior to having evals in august before they decide what they are going to do. May have returning players that want to finish HS/youth hockey closer to home. Several parents texted Vega asking what our 16U/18U program is going to look like.

- John, Chris and Mike only plan to cover pre/post coaching. John; value in IHA for the full season, good feedback from those who didn't have a spot on 16U/pre/post
- John: WHA we have continued to grow, stay the course, we will see people come back and teams continue to grow. Credit to what we are doing here.
- Put verbiage together for Michelle to have for registration. Vega is going to work on ice contracts.

New Facility:

Tim E: New facility meeting pushed off to next month for the breaking of ground after the state budget has passed. 3 hockey rinks, one year-round.

Unity Updates:

12 teams this season, thanks to WHA for the ice rentals. Planning on running 10U/12U tournament at Clarkson.

JCC Update:

Plan here: AAU is taking over organized club hockey in the USA. AAU college varsity club. 33 teams in that league right now, from Clarkson club to buff state and OCC. Jeff Wiley is a proponent of this. If this hockey program takes off, Ledoux will step to assist. 3 practices mid-week, Sunday night games and work for ice time with the city. Offering decent ice rate with the city, JCC has approved the club and Facebook page. School offers 1 PE credit for skating, looking to add to 3 PE credits for the club hockey team. School will fund 45% of the ice time. 20 player roster would be \$900-\$1200/player includes uniforms, ice time, transportation and practice times. AAU club, no eligibility standard can be any age, must be 6 credit student passing classes, can be remote student. Will be managed by the athletic dept, funding from school club funding. Coaches will be unpaid for the first year, funded by school for 2nd year if the program is successful. Where do you find 20 kids who are walking in as 2023 players now, at 13 players so far. Qualified hockey players will play on the club team no matter what gender.

New Board Member:

An electronic system for voting is not available this short of notice. Adam N has put in his resignation today. Previous board member interested, board can appoint: Mike Ledoux motions to approve Jordan Reber, seconded by Chris Nethers, all agree, motion passes.

Banquet/Voting:

Angela K, Tony F, Brittany and Kevin Norsworthy turned in letters of interest. Vega will be there the whole time, Sam V volunteered to assist too in doing the votes. 2 votes per registered player. Sam, Jess and Vega have been working on banquet items. Sam to print ballots for the banquet for board member voting. June 1st the new board starts.

Vega Nutting motioned to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM.