

Watertown Hockey Association
8/20/2025 – 5:45 PM
Flower Memorial Library- South Reading Room
Meeting Minutes

Board Of Directors	Executive Committee
Vega Nutting	Ginger Sherrill - <i>President</i>
Dave Cushman	Shane Caswell - <i>Vice</i>
Jordan Hess	<i>President</i>
Jeremy Kreigbaum	Sean Ryan - <i>Treasurer</i>
Shane Caswell	Amanda Caswell- <i>Secretary</i>
Ginger Sherrill	Michelle Rist - <i>Registrar</i>
Michelle Rist	Vacant - <i>Ace Coordinator</i>
Tom Eiss	

- Establish Quorum Present- Majority of Directors (4 or more required)
 -Jeremy, Jordan, Michelle, Dave, Ginger, Shane arrived at 6:25pm

- Call Meeting to Order
 -5:54pm

- Approve Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2025
 -Change Scott Waller to Weller
 -Jordan 1st motion to accept meeting minutes
 -Ginger 2nd motion to accept meeting minutes
 -Ayes: 5
 -Nays: 0
 -Abstentions: 0

- Public Participation
 - Karen from PPS was present to answer any questions regarding PPS. Pricing and correspondence was provided to the board as a part of the meeting packet. They reviewed a new financial proposal from Power Play, which includes \$95 per hour coaching sessions, \$40 per hour ice time, and \$135 per hour goalie trainings, with a potential one-week session and one weekend of development per month for 8 people. Information was briefly presented on PPS response. Concerns were raised about moving on the PPS proposal due to potential increases in ice time pricing from the City. It was decided that the WHA will follow up after a decision is made from city council on ice time expense.
 - Amelia Earheart, 14U AA selects manager, was present and questioned available budget for the 14U Select team. The treasurer engaged in discussion about over budget items. The treasurer suggested items that could be cut to remain on budget for the season. A spreadsheet was provided of the budget breakdown for the team. Budget adjustments were discussed, noting discrepancies between planned and actual spending, and emphasized the need for a \$1,000 increase to align budgets accurately. Conversations will continue between the treasurer, registrar, Amelia and Dave Cushman regarding their budget.
 - Jon Rose presented dates for tournament bound teams to declare and provide associated rosters. December 31st is the last date to finalize roster or self-eliminate from tournament bound. Concerns were raised about not being able to schedule the 16/18U team games. The issues presented were surrounding a lack of ice contract to finalize available ice times. In addition, 16U wants to purchase new jerseys, pants and shells that are the same color scheme as the 14U AA select team. Michelle will send Jon and email with detailed purchase information.
 - Jon Rose said he would be willing to fulfill the ACE position if his evaluation system is supported. Concerns were expressed about a lack of system for coach evaluations and roster approvals that were done last season, and he emphasized the need for a structured approach. He said he appreciates the

direction the new WHA board is headed and would like to be a part of the next year. Discussion ensued about having someone to shadow the ACE process for a future transition. Jordan is willing to serve on the committee to learn the position for future years.

- Executive Committee Reports

- President

- Financial Situation Concerns update

- The meeting focused on financial and operational issues, including unexplained charges, insurance policies, and membership data management. Concerns were presented about uncollected funds and unclear expenses, suggesting a need for further investigation and possibly legal counsel. The group discussed the importance of obtaining receipts for expenses and the need to audit financial records moving forward.

- Uncashed Check update*: Nothing to report yet. The president will be making calls to get \$15k in checks reissued.

- Outstanding charges and legal counsel*: A question was raised about next steps if we can't justify expenses? Sean and Dave are going to reach out to accountant and other association that is in a similar situation.

- Unity gave back money \$4,000, that was deposited into their account rather than the WHA account.

- Sports engine update

- 2k members are listed in Sports Engine; includes members from 4 years ago. Jeremy, Jordan and Amanda volunteered to assist with clean up before the beginning of season.

- Investigations

- 18U team investigation is still pending.

- A new investigation was discussed regarding a coach who was removed from a Unity team's bench in May for inappropriate behavior. The need for better education on rostering and team affiliation rules for coaches was emphasized, as well as the importance of ensuring affiliate organizations follow the same rules as regular season teams. A board member mentioned the need to review the implications of being an affiliate organization and consider implementing a spring or summer program to clarify the responsibilities and benefits of affiliation. A question was raised about the fee that was assessed for Valkyries in the 2024-25 season to be an affiliate. \$25 was assessed per player but not for any of the Unity players. It was expressed that clarity and equity on the affiliate organization status needed to occur.

- Board Members

- Tom Eiss has resigned his position from the board due to family commitments and will not be able to give the required time, leading to a discussion on appointing a new board member.

- Ginger motioned to appoint Sean Ryan to board

- Dave 2nd motioned to appoint Sean Ryan to board

- Ayes: 6

- Nays: 0

- Abstentions: 0

- It was noted that May 31, 2027 is the expiration for position.

- A discussion ensued about Chris Nethers being recommend to the board as a potential as an appointed position. Concerns were raised about conflicts of interest being the owner of Power Play Sports. No action taken.

- Ice Scheduler position: Ryan McIntosh has expressed interest. Dave and his wife are willing to assist with ice scheduling operations if needed.

- Ice contract was not signed by city. There is a potential \$30k in charges coming additional from city for ice. There might be an option to pay monthly rather than in bulk. As progress is made on the contract, information will be shared with the board.

- Registrar

- Overview of process that registrar must clear all coaches before they can participate was provided. They have been working with active teams to get within compliance.

- NYSAHA has contacted registrar about goalie options at 16/18U. Encourage all teams to roster 2 goalies, but goalies cannot roster on 2 tournament bound team. It was reported that 18U needs a 2nd goalie.

-USA Board Roster- we are required to roster the board. 2 members need to complete background checks ASAP to get listed.

-Coaches and Managers group has been created in Sports Engine. Who is going to oversee this group...last year was the ice scheduler. No decision made.

-Jersey order status: 14U selects has been submitted; 16/18U is in process.

-Team store: Available to board for review before meeting; concerns raised about select on items. September 15th would be open week of on ice activity. Families can order direct from website. Michelle will send Amealia Earheart the team store information to see if selects would like to order warmups.

-Report provided in meeting information.

○ Secretary

-No Report

○ Treasurer

-Report was provided before meeting.

-Question were raised about \$12k of open charges. Discussion ensued about how to rectify these excess charges. The president reported itemized breakdowns of receipts were requested from the previous president, but they were not provided. Michelle will request a breakdown from the former president about items that are outstanding.

-Dave recommended a supplemental non-profit insurance dishonestly policy. He is going to get a quote and provide and update on this type of plan.

-Question were raised about an audit process. It was reported that an outside agency would need to conduct as the treasurer is not the person to conduct an audit. The treasurer is going to get a quote for an audit.

-The treasurer reported they have been trying to justify expenses. A question about what we should do if we can't justify the expenses. Concerns were raised about how the IRS view of expenses not justified.

• Directors and Coordinator Reports

○ Ace Coordinator (*Vacant*)

-No Report

○ Tournament Coordinator

-No Report

•Committee Reports

○ Coaching Committee (*Vacant*)

-No Report

○ Finance/Budget Committee

-No Report. Acknowledge this is in the bylaws, but the committee does not meet. This will be a suggested bylaws change.

• Old Business

○ Power Play Sports 8U proposal

-Proposal included for consideration. Discussion took place in public comment section.

○ 14U Girls Full Season Team Update

-Not enough girls to field a team due to delays in registration and commitments. It was noted the Thousand Islands Youth Hockey Association expressed interest in running an all girls' program, but no plans have been made for the up coming season.

○ Meat Raffle

-Tabled until non-profit status is reinstated.

- iPads, Game Sheets and Manager Procedures for 25/26 season
-Ipads will be housed in the coaches closet at the rink and will not leave the rink. Once managers are identified for each team, a meeting will be held on policies and procedures.
- City Contract (**Ginger**)
-See above information in president's report. There will be a meeting with Scott Weller. Dave will reach out to mayor and other city people about historical context of ice with WHA.
- Ice Schedule (**Ginger**)
-Proposal has been presented. Nothing is set until we hear from City.
-Discussion about USA hockey regulations and age-appropriate times ensued.
-Dave will work on the ice schedule and provide to Ginger. The goal is to try to get a draft for 16/18U so they can begin scheduling.
- Affiliate Player Definition (**Ginger**)
-Tabled
- Conflict of Interest Forms (**Amanda**)
-Please update and submit. Shane had put form in chat.
- Update on checks (**Ginger**)
-See above in president's report.
- Bylaws Committee Update (**Ginger**)
-Tabled
- New Business
 - Vacant Positions
 - Snowbelt Representative
 - FaceBook/Media Liaison
 - Tournament Director
 - Ice Scheduler
 - Tournament Bound Liaison
 - Update on Nina Harff call (**Dave**)
-Mr. Cushman stated Ms. Harff alleged that Mike Ledoux requested funds for JCC hockey while representing the WHA interest. A board discussion raised concern over the potential conflict of interest. Mr. Cushman mentioned that Ms. Harff reported she had repeatedly tried to contact WHA about the funds previously donated to WHA but received no response. Previous minutes also state Mr. Ledoux contacted Ms. Harff regarding donated funds and reported Ms. Harff would like to be kept abreast of the donated funds and any proposed initiatives for its usage. Mr. Cushman also reported Ms. Harff expressed concern over WHA finances and stated that money will not be given to WHA until the finances are in order and the non-for profit paperwork is filed.
 - Select Team Update (**Dave**)
-Tabled
 - Apparel (**Michelle**)
-See president's report.
 - Volunteer Safe Sport Training (**Ginger**)
-Tabled
 - Mite calls update (**Dave**)
-Tabled

- Zoom (*Ginger*)
 - Tabled

- Socks (*Michelle*)
 - Tabled

- Other Business:
 - Scholarships
 - Tabled

- Action Items:
 - Ginger: Follow up with the city regarding the ice contract and potential \$30,000 price increase.
 - Dave: Work with Amanda on the ice contract negotiations.
 - Michelle: Send an email proposal about using the existing jerseys for the 16U team.
 - Michelle: Forward information about the apparel options to Amelia.
 - Michelle and Ginger: Open the team store on September 15th for direct ordering.
 - Sean: Reach out to Steve about audit options for the uncategorized expenses.

- Meeting Adjournment: 7:48pm

Respectfully submitted by: Amanda M. Caswell, WHA Secretary