

# WATERTOWN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## MEETING MINUTES

Location: Fairfield Inn, Watertown NY

Date: 8/18/2022

Time: 6:00 PM

### Board of Directors:

<p>Vega Nutting, Board President Michael Ledoux, Board Vice President</p> <p><b>Board Members</b></p> <p>Samantha VanBrocklin, Ice Coordinator Chris Nethers, Learn to Play Liaison Tim Esposito Tom Eiss (not in attendance) Adam Nyitray (not in attendance) Thomas Brown John Terry</p>	<p><b>Additional Elected Positions</b></p> <p>Brian Nutting - WHA Treasurer Angela Keegan - Secretary Michelle Rist - WHA Registrar Dan McAloon - Ace Coordinator Amanda Gregory - Equipment Manager</p>
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## Agenda Items

### *Meeting called to order 6:02 PM*

#### July Meeting Minutes Review:

Samantha VanBrocklin motion to approve minutes from 7/27/22 meeting, seconded by Tom Brown, no one opposed, motion carries.

#### Treasurer's Update:

- CD, no good rates online, Brian wants to ask at the bank.

#### Committee Updates:

Bylaw Committee: No updates, committee hasn't met yet.

- Need to fix the player moving up bylaw before the season starts.
- Email/text – it must be unanimous and within 24 hours, need to look at the bylaws to see if there is a difference between text or email voting.

Fundraising Committee: No updates. Golf tournament upcoming; 30 hole sponsors, 20 teams so far. 1 year PPS membership raffle board; WHA wants to give PPS back 30% of the raffle board money. Vega motioned to have 30% of the raffle board money donated back to PPS, Chris seconded, motion passes.

Coaching Committee: Dan McAloon working in the background on this but no updates.

#### Statement from Michael Ledoux regarding Unity

“On behalf of UNITY Athletics, I (Michael Ledoux) want to thank the Watertown Hockey Association for their unwavering support of the UNITY Hockey Club. Our summer season ended this weekend at the UNITY Cup Girls of Summer Tournament at Cheel Arena on the campus of Clarkson University. UNITY will provide a comprehensive overview on participation numbers, the season in brief review, and what the future has in store for UNITY Hockey.

The future looks bright, and we expect to expand to age based teams in the summer of 2023. We will also be asking that the girls hockey teams fall under the WHA banner for spring/summer hockey. I will submit a formal request for the adoption of the girls teams as WHA affiliates over the winter. I would also like to note that nearly all of what we do as UNITY from an administrative, coaching and managing perspective is being done by members of the WHA. On behalf of every UNITY Hockey member we just want to say Thank You!" Unity Girls 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U Michael Ledoux would like to be under WHA umbrella; will be submitting a formal request in coming weeks.

- Almost everything from Administrative to coaching are affiliated with WHA.
- Tournaments were successful and we would like to get tournaments at Canton and again at Cheel. Get WHA ice at the end of the regular season.
- Unity will not run in the normal season, it will only be summer season.

**Mites Discount – past players**

2 players who signed up at the end of February paid full price. WHA did not refund them, they only skated for 5 weeks. Vega motioned to charge them only \$65 for 2022-2023 season, Michael Ledoux seconded, motion passes.

**Snowbelt/Gold Division Update:**

Group wants to put together a 10U gold division travel, team needs to be declared by Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Nyitray, Reber and McAloon to discuss doing this. Brian getting more info on Gold Division.

16U needs to be declared as tournament bound by Vega. Vega to contact by next week.

**Logo Update:**

No response from the attorney. What do we need to do moving forward? Need multiple vendors.

**Old Rosters in SE:**

2019-2020 Rosters, there are 59 groups of rosters. Can we remove the old rosters, so it doesn't email to old groups? Michelle, Samantha and Vega to meet and figure out how to remove old rosters.

**IHC Update:**

8/19 meeting with Chris, Michael and IHC. Create a club team: IHC has proposed to fund the program, would be done in Varsity timeline. Ice is going to be looked at; being a municipal rink, school teams can request slots already taken. This will be Michael Ledoux's team fully supported by IHC. No money from players to pay over the \$395, IHC will take care of insurance. Games will follow Varsity rules. High school; No juniors or seniors on the team, it's JV.

Conflict: Trying to create Snowbelt/TB team at 16U. IHC club team during same time as WHA snowbelt team. Choosing IHC over WHA snowbelt team for those not selected for TB Pre/Post. IHC gets preference over WHA ice, separate practice for IHC hockey club team and Varsity. Practice will not conflict with WHA practice.

- Solution: All eligible players for JV and WHA snowbelt: Need to avoid scheduling conflicts for games, practice with WHA team instead. Michael and Chris to do everything in their power to avoid scheduling conflicts. Club hockey games during the week instead of the weekend.

**16U Pre/Post evaluation vs. Tryout:**

Need policies and procedures in place to follow for evaluations. Coaching committee and ACE coordinator to determine evaluations and tryouts. Verbiage is a tryout for pre/post and not an evaluation because you're making cuts. Vega made a point to say coaches may want to do tryouts at other levels. Pre/post is the justification to say 16U can do a "tryout". **Tabled to see how to structure tryouts and discuss with Coaching committee.**

**Add new Procedure to Evaluations:**

Come up with a rough procedure before new season; next meeting. Head coach gives list to ACE Coordinator and then to Board for approval. Hold final evaluations on a Sunday for all levels. Chris Nethers had last minute issue with evaluators chosen and

not being able to make it. Chris must choose new evaluators last minute, board agreed that he could do the best he could with the last-minute issue to get as close to non-biased evaluators as possible.

**WHA contract Draft review for PPS:**

Chris to send to everyone's email.

- Protect WHA players
- PPS – Chris disgusted with how we currently work with PPS and learn to play. WHA doesn't fund it or support it and our name is on it. Learn to Play is our feeder program that WHA doesn't control. Chris will draft what we want to do to support PPS and managing them. We turned Learn to skate over to PPS and at the end of the season they pulled mites to take them to tournaments.
- Did we have a grant program for former YMCA learn to skate, can we look into the Grant program; Free equipment, donated ice and coaches. WHA paid nothing out of pocket, can we come up with a plan to support learn to play; **tabled for next board meeting.**
- PPS, keep power play academy but a small area of what WHA will allow, will focus on 6U and 8U with Bill Palmer.
- We do not want PPS to conflict with WHA or Unity.

**Turning some 6U/8U practices over to PPS:**

Support 12 players for 6U and 12 players for 8U at PPS. If we can open municipal ice at mite level weekdays by moving to PPS, then ice is opened up for older teams/high school. Email will come with specifics. Ratio of player to coach needs to be tight.

- Redistribution of ice to determine needs for the WHA teams

**16U Pre/Post renting PPS ice:**

Can board approve for ice at PPS, shooting, dryland and ice? How much is 16U getting for additional ice? Will have to rent ice from other locations to take care of pre/post 16U. – Board approved allotment for ice at Cicero prior to ice going in at WHA.

**OPEN AGENDA:**

- Refs Don Horton and Mike Werner want to host a ref clinic at WHA in board meeting room in the back, want to host as soon as they can when ice goes in. They need 1 hour of ice, room rented for a day and a sheet of ice to do ref clinic. Need to be age 14 and working papers.
- Socks have been a pain in years past. Let PPS do socks. Everyone can buy there instead. Vega Nutting motioned to move sock purchasing to PPS, Tom Brown seconded, Chris Nethers thirded, motion carries.
- **Jerseys:**
  - can we add a goalie cut to purchase or have available for WHA: Tom Brown motioned to have goalie cut added as an option, Chris Nethers seconded, Tim Esposito thirded, motion carries.
  - Can we order jerseys with registration; Michelle Rist would have to figure out the number situation.
  - Check mensleaguesweaters.com or other jersey company for new sweaters, order took many months to get in, Vega to look into different jerseys.
- **Thousand Islands Youth Hockey:**

Dan McAloon; TI doesn't have many players, may not be able to field teams. We need more ice; can we buy TI ice? Weekday ice is from 3pm-10pm.

Chris Nethers: potential mergers; let TI do what they will do and see what happens with the season, will need to rebuild eventually.

- Evaluation paperwork goes to Dan McAloon. Board has 24 hours to approve evaluations.
- Next meeting at the rink September 21<sup>st</sup> 2022, 6pm.

***Meeting Adjourned 8:14 PM***

Vega Nutting motioned to adjourn, seconded by Samantha VanBrocklin, all in favor, meeting adjourned.