

WATERTOWN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Location: Maggies on the River, Watertown, NY

Date: 1/24/2024

Time: 6:00 PM

Board of Directors:

Vega Nutting, Board President Michael Ledoux, Board Vice President Board Members Samantha VanBrocklin Chris Nethers Thomas Brown Angela Keegan Anthony Felder (not in attendance) Jordan Reber	Additional Elected Positions *Brian Nutting - WHA Treasurer Angela Keegan - Secretary Michelle Rist - WHA Registrar *Dan McAloon - Ace Coordinator *Lori Felder – Tournament Coordinator *Not in attendance
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Agenda Items

Meeting called to order 6:09 PM

December Meeting Minutes Review: Vega Nutting motioned to approve minutes from 12/20/23 meeting, seconded by Jordan Reber, no one opposed, motion carries.

Northern Section Refs: Concerns with bias and inconsistent reffing in the Northern section from Watertown to Chazy. . Ref selection in the bay is more limited than Watertown. Tough with some controlling the game. Should be an adult ref and a youth ref if there are youth refs on the ice. The way the youth refs are treated some don't want to ref because of it. Maybe Mike Warner (ref) can take the info to the Northern Section. Mike L to email Mike Warner.

Snowbelt Update: Scheduling issues, 14U red team able to get out of snowbelt jam because of their dominance.

IHC times: Vega talked to City with WHA losing Tues/Thurs times. Working with the city to push back times to earlier for teams. Need to allow time for special times too. Teams getting shorted but city has been great to give us a little bit of time so everyone is still getting equal ice time.

Taxes: Vega working with Steve Lambert to get taxes done for the season.

16U registration/costs: 16U costs were considerably higher this season and equal to full season teams, however ice time and the season is shortened considerably. Need to revisit costs for 16U/18U next season to align costs with return on investment. 16U registration in early July to be on the ice in August (Chris & Mike). Consider for other teams as well (Tom). Promote player retention and push for earlier tryouts especially for jerseys.

Open Agenda: Review Bylaws. Pepsi tournament 12U registered as a house team and a complaint from another team was that 12U WHA is a travel team identifying as a house team. Tournament bound teams are considered travel although considered house tier III tournament bound team at WHA, update bylaws to reflect proper classification.

Open agenda cont. Build a program to move to players to WHA. Ledoux and Nethers now involved in every level of hockey in Watertown, including covering learn to play and JCC's team. How to build a tier II and tier III teams through PPS and WHA. PPS took over learn to play and all equipment, learn to play is really seeing growth. Request for WHA funding new equipment to give away the old stuff and replenish. There will be a new learn to skate area. Want all the kids to be in Watertown Wolves jerseys to integrate instead of PPS jerseys. Players graduate to WHA, want to have highly competitive hockey here. Want to offer 6U and 8U level. Take professional staff, looking for WHA investment to pay for the professionals to be there. 3 slots at WHA and the 3 slots at PPS. Cost of coaching from 15K-20K from WHA. Parents still coaches at games. Pros will be at every practice but not games. PPS will do all the scheduling. Goalie clinics have been great, other associations are taking advantage just as much as WHA! Going forward the pros will always have 4 goalies. Would like to offer training as an encouraged practice at PPS with the Watertown Wolves Pro. Half of the team on some days and the other half will be on WHA ice. PPS to do skills specific training, system-based training is WHA coaches. Do we want to allot a certain number of sessions for our players?

Vega Nutting motioned to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41 PM.