

WATERTOWN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Location: Watertown Municipal Ice Arena, Watertown NY

Date: 10/19/2022

Time: 6:00 PM

Board of Directors:

<p>Vega Nutting, Board President (via zoom) Michael Ledoux, Board Vice President</p> <p>Board Members</p> <p>Samantha VanBrocklin, Ice Coordinator (not in attendance) Chris Nethers, Learn to Play Liaison Tim Esposito Tom Eiss Adam Nyitray Thomas Brown John Terry</p>	<p>Additional Elected Positions</p> <p>*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</p> <p>Public attendees: Anthony Netto, Hannah Sherrill, and Shane Caswell</p>
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Agenda Items

Meeting called to order 6:10 PM

Public Participation: Shane Caswell – Coach 10U group

- What was the decision-making process for moving 10U to the gold division?
 - Daughter is on “white team” – Shane was not involved in the evaluation
 - Were any potential consequences considered?
 - Gold Level introduced – why was the decision made in August without seeing kids
 - Vega: Gold division is a new pilot program for snowbelt, it is to take place of the TB team at 10U. No one was in discussion for the board. Any teams that felt they are above snowbelt red they can choose to be in the gold division. Sept 1st needed declaration for the gold division. Best to declare early and pull out if your team doesn’t meet what you thought when teams are divided.
 - Evaluations for 10U miscommunication and not any more than 2 evaluators for each level
 - Shane looking for consistency with evaluations
 - Board level decision next year to have a minimum number of evaluators for each level.
 - Shane asked why a white team would be playing red teams
 - Vega: Snowbelt is doing another pilot program – there is no separation of red, white and blue right now. First 4 games at 10U to play 1 or 2 below and 1 or 2 above your level you believe you’re at.

Anthony Netto – Power Play Sports

- Conflict with PPS and Chris Nethers relationship since he’s on the WHA board.
 - Chris Nethers: The opportunity arose with PPS after talking with Paul and Anthony between board meetings, saw an opportunity to help grow PPS with Nethers partnership.
 - Chris stated there was not an agenda at the last meeting regarding his wanting a WHA and PPS partnership.
 - Chris will excuse himself from any meeting vote regarding PPS.

- Chris to step down from Learn to Play Liason since it conflicts with WHA and PPS
 - He said he would do what the board decides. Vega also has interest in PPS.
- John Terry, Tom Brown, Tim Esposito: don't see a problem as long as he steps away from PPS votes, whether in favor or against PPS.
- Michael Ledoux: anything regarding PPS, Chris should excuse himself from the room when it takes place. Doesn't think he needs to step down from the board. We are a small community.
- Learn to Play is going great:
 - Starting November; looking to increase times and separate out levels
 - Equipment has been given away
 - Just looking for continued support to have WHA support and send out mailings.
 - Tom Eiss: this year went smoother with the transition to mites, a couple practices and they were up and running.
 - Chris Nethers: Learn to Play is getting flooded. After Chris, Anthony and Paul met, Chris no longer feels that the contract is needed between WHA and PPS. Would like WHA to take back over but utilize PPS. Community support is a value, reaching out to community to help coach Learn to Play, working with 20 somethings to support and really teach real hockey. PPS wants to be recognized as an un-contractual partnership between WHA and PPS. At learn to play, they know the next step is moving to WHA.
 - Hannah Sherrill will support and go to PPS to meet families and introduce herself to see a face with WHA.
 - Socks – a lot available at PPS
- Roch Bailey: goalie training is out for 10/29 and 10/30 and is filling up. WHA supported the 3 to 1 but not the 1 to 1. Could come 10/29 more broad goalie training at WHA if ice available. 1 to 1 would be paid by goalie parents. 16U goalies are covered and are scheduled to work with Roch on 10/29 and 10/30.
- 16U 3v3 going well
- Would like to expand to 8U group for 3v3 on Thursday; Hannah asked who's budget does it come out of, Vega stated mites have their own healthy account. If approved by the board and the budget, would like to pick it up. Would like WHA coaches to oversee it and pay \$75/hour vs. PPS overseeing it and pay \$100/hour. Tabled for board vote until Brian Nutting is present to look at the budget. Not looking for every Thursday, will work out a schedule.
- 8U full ice: PPS is looking at Alex Bay ice, a couple hours Saturday night. AAU registry to do full ice with PPS. Not looking to conflict with 8U WHA. WHA would be the players commitment, not pulling from WHA but working with WHA and players.
 - Hannah concerned with those signing up and then not showing up, how do we approach it. Happened at 12U that players don't show up for practice but come to games. Doesn't want players to go to PPS practice but not show up for Hannah's practice and then show up for Hannah's games. Release mite schedule to PPS so the go around WHA 8U mites.
- Logo update: Vega: Last month we paid a lot of money to get the logo for all items, should have an update soon. Our trademark is Watertown Hockey with the Wolf. Anthony is ready to go when WHA lets him know. Vega will let PPS know when it's released.

Goalie Training:

September Meeting Approval of the meeting minutes: Motion to Approve meeting minutes by Tom Brown, Vega Nutting
Minutes Review: seconded, all approved motion carries.

Treasurer's Update: Bills paid

- \$993.75 – 16U Ice Rental
- \$6,095 – City Ice
- \$2,564 – Willowbrook Golf Club
- \$800 – T-shirts for Golf Tournament

\$57,824 received in registrations
\$6,634 in fundraising
See Profit and Loss 10/19/22 email from Treasurer

Motion to approve budget by Vega Nutting, seconded by Tom Brown, all in favor, motion passes.

Committee Updates:

Bylaw Committee: no changes

Fundraising Committee: Jess Eiss to step up for Fundraising committee director as well as another 10U mom is getting involved. Karen Dalin is no longer the committee director since she's too busy.

- Want to order some things for the kids to sell, hockey mom scarves, balls on strings. Selling tickets for rifle raffle.
- WHA is never in possession of firearm, they would have to go directly to the store promoting and go through appropriate screening process.
- Would have to pay for the gun with funds raised vs. being donated. Usually gun is offered at cost and paid for. John Terry suggested having money in lieu of gun if they win. Would like to add money in lieu of gun as well.
- Does WHA have an expense form for reimbursement, can we do something more than just a receipt? More official like a check request form for reimbursement.

Vega Nutting makes a motion to approve the raffle items and bulk items to sell as well as the proposed firearm. Michael Ledoux motioned; Tom Brown seconded. All present in favor, motion carries.

Coaching Committee: no updates

Robbie Glanz Transportation and Hotel:

Power Skating clinic December 4-6th. 10U tournament is the same weekend at WHA as Robbie Glanz, Adam doesn't think there will be much participation from 10U because of exhaustion of families and players.

- Robbie is all set. He may have a hard time doing 2 sessions for everyone except 12U and 14U.
- Robbie says we would purchase his ticket vs. his reimbursement of his ticket. Car rental, hotel and pay for his flight. WHA would prefer to reimburse. Tom to call Robbie tomorrow and discuss.

Snowbelt update:

New Gold division snowbelt program, 10U will be part of that division. A lot of combinations, Lysander seems about the only comparable program to WHA, many associations are combining.

Logo Update:

Attorney contacted, all paid, check is cashed. Just waiting.

Teams Approved:

- Over the past week we approved the 10U, 12U, and 14U rosters via telephone. Tuesday the 11th via phone Vega motioned to approve both the 14 and 12U rosters, seconded by Samantha. Mike L, John T, Tom Brown all agreed.
- On Thursday October 14th over the phone Vega motioned to approve the 10U roster, seconded by John Terry. All approved by Mike L, Tom Eiss, Tom Brown, and Samantha V.

16U Independent Team:

16U independent: 16U independent team – ice is being used for other teams. We offered a 16U independent team to carry through the season. Vega has already distributed the ice elsewhere because 7 kids can't make a team.

- Under impression that WHA needed the slots to fill the growth at all other levels. So Chris stopped moving forward on 16U independent.

- Mercedes was contacting all 16U teams around to see what is available in order to be brought to this meeting.
- Vega did not know there was potential of another team, offered up ice that 16U does have to others in the last 5 days.
 - Some are asking for refunds for lack a 16U independent team now
- All around miscommunication

IHC Club/JV Team: IHC Club/JV is requesting affiliation with WHA: IHC meeting today with Jared, met with a couple AD's. Putting IHC to vote for their kids to play. After looking at options of teams to play, they learned that there are a number of club teams, that they can play under the HS rules, also a number they can play under USA hockey rules. To do a season, that IHC needs an affiliation with WHA to be able to play USA hockey game and IHC to play a club team. They are different kinds of insurance, so it has to be HS against HS and USA against USA. Basically, similar to the Unity affiliation. Would like to put it to a vote for affiliation with WHA.

- Vega is working on a schedule that mitigates the last year issue where 12U lost so many practices.
- JV would practice/games elsewhere, there is not enough ice here at WHA – Tom Brown concerned about it. Chris/Vega would not cut into ice time here. Just looking for affiliation. Vega is working on schedule so that every level loses practice due to Varsity vs just one team.

Motion to approve for JV/IHC hockey to use USA hockey as an affiliate by Michael Ledoux, seconded by Tim Esposito. All in favor, motion passes.

OPEN AGENDA: **Michael Ledoux:** With some open ice time that Vega sent out. Would like to focus 2 slots on girls' hockey. Would like to talk to Jon Rose and Cory Keegan and Dan James that would help for girls' hockey open ice. Promote advancement of girl's hockey at WHA. Can get sticky if you say any association USA hockey girl can skate on the ice. Girls' registration to see for numbers. Would like to avoid the idea that people think WHA is trying to poach their girls. Only looking to promote girls' hockey alone. Skills drills and maybe a scrimmage. 14-18U and 8-12U slots. 1-hour slots. Michael to draft something to send out to associations and promote.

Chris Nethers: questionnaire that he gave to 16U last night. Gave insight of where the kids are at. Narrowed some questions down as coaches for growth and progression of the team. Would like WHA to endorse some sort of questionnaire for coaches to have universal tool for coaches.

Chris Nethers: Learn to Play, until trademark is done, they have not added WHA logo on the flyer. Is it possible for the board to send out flyer to email list for PPS and WHA to get word out. Can PPS send out instead: per Vega. Chris feels if WHA sends out it shows they are a united program and looks supported by WHA. Vega: for learn to play reaching out to through WHA they are already existing players, won't gain more. Learn to Play would be great to reach out to Fort Drum. Tom Eiss suggests putting it on the Facebook page or website. Once trademark is approved, Tom Brown says reach out to the school districts from Indian River and south jeff, then schools can distribute to elementary schools. Chris says it is in progress, but he wants WHA on the flyer and then tied into WHA Facebook and website. The only association that will be on the flyer is WHA. Tom Eiss, maybe add an initiation program on our website directing them to PPS. Vega comfortable on Facebook page, doesn't think email list is helpful to PPS. All in favor of it posting to Facebook. These things are that would be brought to the board on a case-by-case basis. Chris says it is our program PPS and WHA.

Vega Nutting: Temporarily the ice scheduler while Samantha VanBrocklin is busy with work.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00PM, Michael Ledoux motioned, Tim Esposito seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned.