

Watertown Hockey Association
7/16/2025 - 6 PM, Flower Library
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)
Dave Cushman, Jordan Hess, Jeremy Kreigbaum, Shane Caswell, Ginger Sherrill, Michelle Rist

- Call Meeting to Order
-6:05pm
-All participants were informed that the meeting was being recorded, and AI transcription was being used.

- Approve Meeting Minutes from June 18 and 30, 2025
-Jordan motioned to approve meeting minutes from June 18 and 30, 2025
-Shane 2nd motioned to approve meeting minutes from June 18 and 30, 2025
 - Ayes: 6
 - Nays: 0
 - Abstentions: 0

- **Executive Committee Reports**
 - President
 - A warning to attendees about serious challenges facing the WSA was presented followed by areas of concern and investigation. Numerous challenges facing the WSA were presented including financial irregularities, administrative issues, and operational concerns. Discussions covered topics such as budget discrepancies and insurance matters.
 - A review of board minutes from the past two years had been completed and several shortcomings were identified, including incomplete financial discussions and associated missing details, missing meeting minutes, and potential conflicts of interest among previous board members. The poor adherence to WHA bylaws was identified.
 - The ongoing NYSAHA investigations were presented and extreme concern about the implication for players, coaches and the WHA was expressed.
 - Financial issues and concerns were presented, including a potential financial loss of \$15,000 from uncashed checks including tournament fees over the last couple of years. and scholarship checks, and an explanation that checks older than 90 days cannot be cashed. Concerns about transparency and communication were presented, and it was reported that the current president and vice president previously informed the prior WHA president about this upcoming discussion.

-Several administrative and insurance matters of concern were presented. There is a need to catch up on tax returns that have not been filed since 2021 which has resulted in a loss of the non-profit 501, 3, C status of the WHA. and emphasized the importance of reviewing past scholarship recipients. Insurance policies were discussed, including a supplemental policy for equipment and potential liability coverage for board members. Past rule change in U.S.A. Hockey tournaments was touched on including the need to follow U.S.A. Hockey policies to assure tournament USA hockey coverage. The conversation ended with plans to check insurance details and follow up on outstanding issues.

-Concerns about use of a personal post office box in Dexter for WHA business were presented. This has since been rectified and an independent PO box is in use at the Watertown location.

-Additional financial matters of concern were presented, including credit card usage and payments for copyright fees and summer ice payments.

-A call for immediate action was issued to address these problems and ensure the organization's long-term success.

○ Registrar

-Current Registration:

-10U- 2

-14U- 2

-8U- 8

-12U- 6

-16/18U- 19 approved but not registered

-14U AA- 14 registered with one more potential registration

-Current registration numbers were reviewed for various teams and a discussion regarding the process for handling select team registrations and reimbursements ensued.

-Budget clarification was requested on the 14U AA team including jerseys, extra ice time, and tournaments. Concerns were expressed about the team's potential overspending and the discrepancy between their advertised costs and actual expenses. Dave planned to reach out to Jordan Reber to clarify the budget and expectations, as the current situation was causing confusion and potential financial issues for families involved.

○ Secretary

-Report was submitted with the agenda for review by the board and is attached to the meeting minutes.

○ Treasurer

- Report was submitted with the agenda for review by the board and is attached to the meeting minutes.

-The board agreed to include financial matters in regular meeting minutes rather than holding an executive session and discussed the need to carefully determine what financial information should be disclosed to the public.

-Shane motioned for the treasurer's report to be included in the general meeting minutes.

-Jeremy 2nd motion for the treasurer's report to be included in the general meeting minutes.

-Ayes: 6

-Nays: 0

-Abstentions: 0

-Concerns were raised about questionable transactions, including large purchases from Walmart and Target that have no explanation, and it was emphasized the need for detailed receipts and proper accounting moving forward.

• **Directors and Coordinator Reports**

○ Ace Coordinator

-A few individuals have been contacted to gauge interest in the vacant position.

-Directors for level are as follows:

-16/18U: Jon Rose

-14U: Vacant

-12U: Joe Bennet

-10U: Hannah Sherrill

-8U: Chris Nethers

-The group discussed the need to clarify roles and responsibilities, particularly regarding the 14U director position with regards to the 14U AA select team.

-The board discussed issues with ice time allocation and the importance of ensuring proper insurance coverage for all players on the ice.

○ Tournament Coordinator

- A proposal to raise tournament entry fees, suggesting \$1,800 for 18U and above and \$800 for 8U was presented due to rising ice, referee and supply costs. It was emphasized the importance of ensuring tournaments are filled, so implications of raising fees needs to be considered. A vote by the board will need to occur before entry fees are increased.

• **Committee Reports**

○ Coaching Committee

-No Report because it is a vacant position.

-Shane expressed interest in the position if no one was identified.

○ Finance/Budget Committee

-No report. Acknowledged 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

-A proposal was sent via email with details.

-Concerns were expressed about the return on investment of a learn-to-play hockey program with paid coaching, noting a yield of only two players and unclear metrics. It was suggested that the money would be better spent on scholarships or free ice time rather than hiring professional coaches. Questions were raised about the quality of coaching provided by current Wolves' players, emphasizing the need for experienced coaches to teach the program effectively. The Wolves' coaches were in their inaugural coaching year the same as many 8U parental coaches.

-Jordan motioned to accept the current Power Play proposal

-Shane 2nd to accept the current Power Play proposal

-Ayes: 0

-Nays: 5

-Abstentions: 1- Michelle

-The board decided to reject the current proposal from Power Play, instead opting to negotiate a scaled-back version focusing on supplemental ice needs rather than coaching. Jordan is going to reach out to Karen at Power Play about various items including goalie training.

-Supporting proposal documentation was sent via email to the board in advance of the meeting.

- 14U Girls Full Season Team Update

-Discussions with Thousand Islands Youth Hockey Association (TIYHA) have take place regarding continuing and strengthening an all girls' program. They are interested in collaboration and creating opportunities for girls in the region. Most pressing is forming a joint 14U girls' team, submitting for Tier 2 tournament bound classification. Rosters are due to NYSAHA by August 30th for tournament bound teams. Girls could dual roster with TIYHA at the house level and WHA at the tournament bound level. There was confusion about multiple team affiliations; more information will be provided at the next meeting.

- Meat Raffle

-No Report

- iPads, Game Sheets and Procedures for 25/26 season

-A committee is being formed of Amanda, Vega, and looking for another volunteer. Include information about the manager position procedures and policies from the new business below into this committee as well. Report in August meeting about policies and procedures to be implemented.

- City Contract

-The board discussed the city contract which includes a 17% increase in hourly rates. The board agreed to review the new city contract for \$59,000 at \$105 per hour. Scott Weller will propose this to the City on August 8th.

- Ice Schedule

-More information will be presented in the August meeting.

-An ice scheduler needs to be identified for the upcoming season soon.

- **New Business**

- Affiliate Player Registration Fee

-It was proposed that affiliate players would be charged 50% of registration. A future vote needs to occur to confirm.

-A brief discussion about what is considered an affiliate and how to define. It was suggested to continue the discussion at a later meeting for clarity on affiliate status definition.

- Conflict of Interest Forms

-Part of other business discussion below.

- Managers and Position Procedures (*Ginger*)

-These will be developed as part of the I Pad and gamesheets procedures. The committee will address all of these topics as they are manager centric.

- Bylaws Update Committee (*Ginger*)
 - A committee will be formed to address updates and create a template for proposal. The plan is to create a committee by October and have new bylaws ready for association vote by June 2026.
 - Learn to Play Liaison (*Amanda*)
 - Table until August meeting
 - Post Office Box
 - Tabled until August
 - Apparel (*Ginger*)
 - Tabled until August
 - Volunteer Safe Sport Training (*Ginger*)
 - Tabled until August
 - Socks (*Michelle*)
 - Tabled until August
 - Refund/Credit Procedure Review (*Michelle*)
 - Tabled until August
 - Zoom (*Ginger*)
 - Tabled until August
- Other Business:
 - Appointment of New Board Members
 - Recommendations were made to fill the open board seats.
 - The board discussed the potential appointment of presenters to the board. It was decided to table the decision until the NYSAHA investigation of the 18U team is completed. Concerns were raised about conflicts of interest, particularly regarding financial relationships with coaches and organizations, and proposed implementing a formalized disclosure process for both financial and organizational conflicts. The board agreed to hold off on making any decisions about board membership changes while the investigation is ongoing.
 - **Action Items from this meeting**
 - Amanda will send out meeting minutes and agenda requests 1 week before monthly meetings
 - Dave will reach out to Jordan Reber to clarify the budget and expectations of the 14U AA select team.
 - Executive committee, Directors, committee and directors will submit reports with agenda items to create a consent agenda
 - Jordan is going to reach out to Karen at Power Play about various items including goalie training
 - Amanda and Shane will provide updated information about the 14U and supplemental girls program

- Vega and Amanda will meet to start developing procedures for managers including iPad use, Gamesheets and other manager pertinent information.
- Ginger will gather information about ice scheduling
- Ginger will identify individuals to serve on bylaws committee

• **Action Items from July meetings:**

- Vega will ask Jon about new jerseys.
- Sean will begin working on registration costs based on financials
- Ginger will reach out to Jon Rose to get information about their fall tournament
- Michelle will set up Sports Engine Board site as soon as everyone has registered as a volunteer.
- Ginger: Email Scott Weller to decline the additional 30 minutes request on Monday from figure skating and request a one-year trial basis for the Sunday ice time concession
- Board: Find new ACE coordinator replacement for John Rose
- Sean: Complete financial analysis and provide detailed reports after July 14th once bank statements are received
- Michelle: Update registration fees in the system for all levels by July 7th
- Shane & Ginger: Draft communication message about registration fee increases and ice time benefits for the July 7th registration announcement
- Ginger: Contact Mike Warner about setting up a referee clinic and discuss potential subsidies/incentives for young referees
- Michelle: Create and share a roster of 8U parents for feedback collection
- David: Call 8U parents to gather feedback about the program and potential recruitment ideas
- Amanda: Follow up with Power Play for metrics and data about program outcomes and enrollment numbers
- Sean: Analyze financial impact of potential free/discounted registration for first-time 8U players
- Michelle: Investigate registration system options for implementing potential first-time player discounts
- Sean: Prepare detailed financial breakdown of ice time costs and usage for next meeting
- Ginger: Verify ice rental rates for tournament days with the city
- Ginger: Fix and update the coaching/director information on the website
- Ginger: Reply to John Terry approving 3 ice slots in Cicero for 18U team recruitment
- Michelle: Open registration
- Ginger: Follow up with Mike from JCC regarding ice slot requests and clarify timing requirements for college games
- Amanda, Shane, Vega, Tom: Register as volunteers/coaches with Watertown Hockey Association

- Meeting Adjournment 7:45pm

Respectfully submitted by: Amanda Caswell, WHA Secretary