

AYHA
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2021

I. Attendees:

Board of Directors (Voting Members):

President: Royce Lawrence - present

Vice-President: John Paro - present

Treasurer: John Kilmer - present, technical difficulties interfered with full participation

Secretary: Heather DiFiore - present

Boys Travel Director: Dennis Linehan - present

Girls Travel Director: Renee Lochner - present

Ways & Means Officer: Justin St. John - present

Concessions: TBD

Committee Members:

Building Operations: Dan DeMarsh - absent

Registrar: Melissa Clifford - present

ACE Coordinator & Safe Sport Coordinator: Tom Pavlick - present

Marketing: Vicki Bushy - present

Scheduler: Mark Cozzens - present

House Committee Director: John Paro - present

House League Committee Members:

Termites- TBD

Mini Mites- Nate Brimmer - absent

Mites- Matt Authier - absent

Squirts- Melissa Clifford - present

House Majors- John Kilmer - present, see above

Boys Tournament Coordinator: Kim Ogden - absent

Girls Tournament Coordinator: Michelle Hunter - absent

Safety & Reopening Committee: Renee Lochner - present

Concessions Coordinator: Liz Austin - absent

Visitors present:

Tom Powers

Michael Rhone

Kris Gibilaro

Maria Hoy

II. Opening:

A regular meeting of the Adirondack Youth Hockey Association (AYHA) was called to order by Royce Lawrence at 7:30pm via *Zoom* on Monday, January 11, 2021. Royce welcomed all in attendance, and asked if anyone had anything they wished to add to tonight's agenda. No additions requested.

III. Minutes:

Royce made a motion to approve December meeting minutes, seconded by Jon Paro, motion passed.

IV. Treasurer's Report:

Tabled until next month. Treasurer intermittently present due to technical difficulties and was unable to report.

V. Visitors Statements:

See new business.

VI. Committee Reports:

Northstars- Renee Lochner

Practices are going well. Girls *Learn to Play Hockey* has entered its fifth week and is going strong. Great support and participation observed and we will look to add this program next year as well. Mites continues to go well and we may have enough participants for two teams next season. Overall, there has been great growth across girls' programs this year at all levels.

Boys Travel Director- Dennis Linehan

We will continue to encourage that all COVID precautions are followed such as mask wearing, following building procedures and following practice protocols. The majority of participants seem happy to have ice time even though they are also wishing they were playing games.

Tournament Committee- Kim Ogden & Michelle Hunter

No Report.

Registrar- Melissa Clifford

Registration for USA Hockey rosters were not submitted in a timely manner. We will be looking to create clear deadlines for next year. Cabin fever promotion appeared thin this year as compared to last year. Nonetheless, a promo code was pushed out and we received approximately the same number of participants

as in the past. An email was also sent out to those who didn't return following last season. A number of said participants decided to return for cabin fever regardless of not registering for this season. The organization should look to target promotion among 6U and 8U as numbers are low in these age groups. We have 500 skaters this year which is incredible considering the challenges brought on by providing programs during the CoronaVirus pandemic. This is an increase in membership over last season.

Marketing- Vicki Bushey

Developed three ads for three age groups for cabin fever. Chronicle ad would cost the association \$148.50 and could run within a week. Considering that we have room to grow in a couple of age groups, a motion was made by Royce to increase promotion via the Chronicle ad, seconded by Jon Paro, motion was passed.

Concessions- TBD - no report.

Concessions temporarily closed due to CoronaVirus pandemic.

Facilities- Dan DeMarsh absent. Royce reporting. Hvac up and bathrooms complete. Heating units in locker rooms replaced. Heating unit repairs completed and heat will be ready to go. Heating units over bleachers are slated for next year. Mechanicals in Zamboni room discussed so that we may improve ice quality. Projects near completion within a couple of weeks. Phase two to be discussed in more detail in the future.

Scheduler- Mark Cozzens

Girls development ends February 11th. *Northern Hockey Academy* skills ends February 9th. Scheduling of *MAC Goaltending* to be determined. More scheduling to fall into place around these anticipated events. On occasion, team schedules shift due to the addition of events at the rinks. Please reach out to Mark if you see a mistake and it will be corrected.

Ways and Means- Justin St. John

A \$1500 sponsorship check was received from *Brookfield Power*. Waiting on sponsorship check from *Ross Chevrolet* in Whitehall. *Hoffman's* car wash fundraiser yielded \$210. Apparel sale numbers are currently coming in and nearing over \$700.

ACE Coordinator / Safe Sport- Tom Pavlick

See new business below.

House Program- John Paro

No issues reported. Committee member suggested that we reimagine the “end of season” celebration in lieu of the Gazilo Cup as COVID guidelines restrict game play. Added to next month’s agenda.

Safety & Reopening Committee- Renee Lochner

Reminders sent out as necessary. Procedures continue to be followed and COVID screenings are completed by all prior to entering the building.

VII. Old Business

Update from USA Hockey & NYSAHA

NYSAHA: is preparing a lawsuit against the governor's office of NYS. Proposal: allow playing hockey as a mid level risk sport. This is separate from HS programs. AYHA is not directly named in the lawsuit. Discussion regarding state and national tournaments: AYHA first priority, as reported back to NYSAHA was the need for our players to compete in games. Additionally, if a state tournament is to be held, it should be held and AYHA would hope to participate. AYHA reported to NYSAHA as noncommittal to nationals at this time due to location and COVID related state travel restrictions, however, we are still open to discussion and solutions regarding nationals. We continue to wait on the governor's office to update their guidelines as they make the ultimate decision.

VIII. New Business:

“Let us play”:

Tom Powers was present to discuss his thoughts on campaigning for youth hockey and share a letter he drafted to send to local state representatives. He stressed the importance of sharing our position on hockey and advocating for our players and programs. The draft letter was submitted for revision and review and shared with board and committee members via email. It was suggested that the letter be shared with AYHA members so that they may send it to our representatives and share with other organizations to do the same. Members and players feel that the season is passing by and now is the time to advocate for our programs. Although many present do not disagree, further discussion

among board members and consultation with lawyers to discuss association participation in a campaign such as proposed is warranted.

As reviewed tonight, NYSAHA proposed a three tiered plan for bringing hockey back, however NYS did not adopt the proposed plan. NYS continues to consider hockey a high risk activity. Waiting for NYS & governors office to shift hockey to a mid level risk sport. Contacting local representatives to support this proposal may help and will be further explored following consultation with lawyers.

Volunteer hours:

Royce proposes rolling over volunteer hours in full, which have not been bought out, to next season. Discussion among members ensued. Royce amended this proposal for further review during the February meeting after the board/committee brainstorms a list for volunteer hour ideas and notifies families that said volunteer hours still need to be completed and what their options are for attaining said hours.

Agenda for next month - Coaching Requirements:

Requirement for all those trying out for 18U (girls or boys) that *Safe Sport* needs to be completed **prior** to tryouts. Certifying teams becomes a problem when *Safe Sport* requirements are incomplete.

Regarding coaching requirements: Tom Pavlick knows the requirements and continually checks in with coaches once they are entered into the system as an AYHA coach, therefore, all concerns should be directed to Tom for assistance. Tom suggested that we put hard deadlines into place. Tom and Melissa have ideas and will begin putting guidelines together for the March meeting. We need a process in place to follow-up and make sure these requirements are met or coaches won't be allowed on ice as per regulation. Tom will develop a proposal for managing these concerns and we will vote.

IX. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Royce at 8:45pm, seconded by Renee Lochner, motion carried.

~ Minutes respectfully submitted by AYHA secretary, *Heather A. DiFiore*, January 11, 2021.