



Mission: The Upper Valley Hockey Association is a volunteer run association whose mission is to introduce the youth of the greater Upper Valley to the game of hockey, so that every child in the program can enjoy a positive experience through sportsmanship, teamwork, integrity, and respect for all individuals, while developing a love for the game.

UVHA BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2023 5:30-7:30 pm
at King Arthur Flour

Meeting Attendees: Brock Barton, Stacy Barton, Lisa Marks, Will Meyer, Dana Wright, Tom Daniels, Josh Obar, Megan O'Neil, Allison Mancuso, Jen Callahan, Cherry Sullivan.

Meeting began at 5:37pm at King Arthur Flour Executive Offices.

Meeting Minutes from November - Motioned to approve by Brock Barton. Motion seconded by Tom Daniels. Minutes were approved.

The meeting then moved on to age group reports from the executive board members.

14u - Josh: Josh shared an overview of the early season family survey results. The feedback was generally positive thus far. Most families are happy with the general structure. The practice travel seemed to be the most unexpected from families within both organizations. The blue team is working on their chemistry as a team and that was a topic that came up in the survey results as well. People said they were generally open to expanding the collaboration with UVHA to include Hanover. Woodstock parent feedback sent in from Jess Laperle reinforced things were going well and their contingent would like to keep the partnership going for the next 2 years.

Josh reported that both teams played in early season tournaments to enhance team bonding, given both groups are a mixture of kids that have and have not played together. The tiering for both teams was deemed appropriate after some discussions about the blue team. Both teams are registered for the Pot O'Gold tournament. The issue of non-sanction play arose this week at the NHAHA meeting and we are scrambling to deal with this before game play this weekend.

12u - Brock: Mouth guard wearing has been the hot button topic. Brock has been giving teams a heads up before coming up to play at WABA. He reports the tiering feels right for both groups. Will reports there still could be some movement here between tiers. The blue team went to a tournament in Springfield and the black team is going to Waterville Valley in February.

10u - Will: Will reports that the tiering is right for all three teams now. NHAHA did the right thing by moving them around. All teams have been competing evenly. Dave's team played in the central VT tournament. Dana's team is attending the Bruins game as their big tournament this season.

8u - Jen: Jen reports that the date for [Try Hockey For Free](#) will be 1/7/24 at 9am. The board decided that we will allow any type of helmet to be worn during Try It Free. Last time we brought some for people to borrow. Brock will fill two bags with helmets, skates, gloves from Kinney Pike and bring them over. Will says that we may or may not get jerseys and swag because we are using an alternate date.

14U Collaboration Discussion - Presentation of proposed plan was given by Brock Barton. The board engaged in lengthy discussion where concerns about ice time and access were raised. The group felt that a collaboration allows athletes to play the appropriate level of hockey with like-skilled teammates and keep more athletes in the upper valley playing. However, before making a decision, we need to know if this is the most important factor for our membership. Will Meyer will create a survey to send

out to our membership so that we can make a more informed decision moving forward.

Monthly Reports-

- a. **Coaching Coordinator/Registrar:** One potential redline coach. Allison reports everyone is all set. The Board Member roster has been submitted and approved.
- b. **Safesport Coordinator:** Terence had received one report and it has been taken care of.
- c. **NH State Representative**
 - i. Monthly NHAHA Meeting Update: Non-sanctioned play is a current issue. Reminded that we need to have paperwork done to be able to play non-USA Hockey teams. Cardigan just registered all their kids with USA Hockey and submitted a roster. You can fill out a form to apply for exception to
 - ii. GSL Tournament (12U)- Hanover wants to switch weekends but we don't have the ice or volunteers to switch. Will Meyer is going to let them know we can't.
 - iii. Travel Mite Full Ice Games- No clarity has been given here. Will is going to talk to Dana and Dan about scheduling moving forward.
 - iv. Grow the game video: Trying to do a Grow the Game campaign. Individual kids can enter a video to compete to win a skate sharpener.
- d. **Girls Development**
 - i. Tom's findings from his girls survey- He asked would your girls skate and how often would they skate? He received a dozen responses, 10 said they would skate. The board agreed that we would allow girls from other organizations to come skate. Woodstock has 10 girls that might be interested.
- e. **Fundraising**
 - i. Concession Stand Update - Jen is trying to get the concession stand off the ground for the weekend after Christmas. Allison is putting together a sign-up genius and Brock is going to create the spreadsheet for tracking inventory and profits.
 - ii. Skate-a-thon Committee Formation - Jen and Cherry have begun to organize for fundraising to start in January. January newsletter will include a call to action to form the fundraising committee.
- f. **Scheduler** - All teams are all set with scheduling from here on out.
- g. **Equipment Manager** - Pictures should be in this week and will be given to head coaches.
- h. **Treasurer**
 - i. Budget Update - Brock is going to reach out to Hartford because we don't have any bills yet. Brock ordered a set of quick change pads and they should be here soon. Brock researched barrier prices and the board discussed options to replace our current barriers.
 - ii. Scheduling Platform Update - Using this new platform was rocky to start but now that the bank is linked, it's going quite well.
- i. **Marketing/Social Media Manager** - Tom is going to create an advertisement for Try It Free. He will share it with everyone to try and push out to different entities in the Upper Valley with the goal being to try and recruit Hartford hard.
- j. **Safety/Concussion** - We have multiple concussions on-going at 12U (x2) and 14U (x1). Josh says we should really be using the Return to Play Form. Will is going to look further into this and the proper procedure and report back.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.