



**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  
JANUARY MINUTES  
January 17th 2024 7:30pm  
via Google Meet**

**Attendees:** Will Meyer, Josh Obar, Brock Barton, Tom Daniels, Crystal Piffith, Logan Snyder, Allison Mancuso, Megan O'Neil, Sadie Woods, Jen Callahan, Dana Wright, Patricia Rios, Jess Laperle, and Sebastian Dube.

Will called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes from December: No questions or comments on the December minutes. Brock motioned to approve. Tom Daniels seconded. The minutes were approved.
2. Age Group Reports
  - a. 14u Report
    - i. Josh Obar, vice president and 14U oversight reported that things are going well for both teams. The Green team is having a great season so far. The Blue team is competitive but struggles late in the game to hold on. Both teams are continuing to develop and improve.
  - b. 12u Report
    - i. Brock Barton reported that the 12U's have made it through the mouth guard drama and there has been more clear guidance issued on how officials will handle it. Both teams are middle of the pack in the league standings. The Black team is going to the Waterville Valley Deep Freeze Tourney in February. Brock reminded us that we need to start planning for the 12U state tournament at next month's meeting. Will has put himself in the tournament director role for now with NHAHA. Will reports there is a NHAHA GSL Tournament Director this year that we can go to for guidance.
  - c. 10u Report
    - i. Will Meyer, president and 10U oversight, reported that league play is going well for all teams. Blue just went to CSB's MLK tournament and lost in the finals. It was great competition and they had no easy games. Black just beat the last undefeated team in their division and is looking strong headed into the second half of the season. They are going to play at Tsongas arena before a UMass Lowell game. The 10U Silver team has a full time goalie now that has helped their team continue to improve. They are learning and growing and getting better!
    - ii. Will asked for the board's input about using tournament fees towards the Silver teams Bruins game because this differs from current policy. After a brief discussion, the board voted 7-0-1 (Dana Wright abstained and Cherry Sillivan was not present) for one tournament fee to go towards their Bruins experience. The board wants to encourage them to attend a hockey tournament as well.
  - d. 8u Report
    - i. Jen reported that the [Try Hockey For Free](#) event was a huge success this year. We had 18 kids register. Due to inclement weather, we offered a second make-up session the following weekend for those that couldn't make it. We ended up having 5 kids register for Storm Academy or House mites from this event. Will suggested that in the future we have this event in November due to roster restrictions and not being able to add older kids that may register. There are still no Travel Mite full ice scrimmages scheduled. Jen said that league play is going well for both teams and they are gearing up for the Ike Lee tournament at the end of the month. Lastly, Allison and the mite coaches have been working to reign in some on-ice behavior issues.

**Integrity \* Respect \* Teamwork \* Fun**



3. 14U Collaboration Discussion - Will opened the discussion and Brock presented his slides about the proposal. He did an overview of how it would work and why he believes this is the path forward for the Upper Valley. He reiterated that this is not a testament on how this year's partnership is going but just a hope that we could do something great to help all the kids in the Upper Valley. Jess Laperle from WYH Association spoke about their discussion from their board meeting and they do not feel prepared to move forward at this time with the current partnership being so new. Several other 2010 families were in attendance and spoke or asked questions of the board. Ultimately, the board decided that instead of a vote to move forward, the best next step was to have all three association presidents talk about a path forward if their associations seem on board.
  
4. Upper Valley Beanpot - Will reports that Jeremy from WYHA agreed to move the Upper Valley Beanpot so that it doesn't affect any VT or NH state tournaments. It will be Monday 3/11 and Wednesday 3/13 @ Woodstock. This is an opportunity for kids from the Upper Valley to play together as a town under one coach and build local connections.
  
5. Monthly Reports
  - a. Coaching Coordinator/Registrar - Allison reports there are no red lined coaches. She also registered two more coaches to help with House Mites and Storm Academy
  - b. Safesport Coordinator - No update
  - c. NH State Representative
    - i. Will reports that the monthly NHAHA meeting was quick. We can't have tryouts before April for a national bound team. The NH Futures boys camp was well attended with over 100 players but the girls camp was not well attended. Neck guards are going to be voted on this month by USA Hockey and it sounds like it will pass but Will doesn't know when it will be put into effect.
    - ii. Hosting the GSL State Tournament (12U Tier 3)- Will Meyer notified the referee-in-chief that we will need officials for that tournament. We will begin planning soon and finalize at next month's meeting.
  - d. Girls Development - Tom Daniels reports that they had their first skate last Friday night; seven littles and Sophie. All the girls had a great time. Some of the other older girls were not available because of schedules last week but will be joining in the future. Tom says it sounds like it's going to be pretty well attended this year. He thinks we will be in the 10-12 girls range each skate. The board was enthusiastically pleased with this news.
  - e. Fundraising
    - i. Jen Callahan gave a concession stand update after the inaugural weekend, reporting around \$350 in profit. More exact numbers will be available when we get a spreadsheet going to track it all. Looking to be in good shape for the coming weekend, with a few more volunteer spots empty. Jen will reach out to team parents tomorrow.
    - ii. Skate-a-thon Committee Formation - Cherry did not get any responses from the monthly newsletter announcement. Jen is going to send a separate email asking for volunteers this week.
  - f. Scheduler - Dana reports he still has two games left to reschedule. There's been a problem in Aveiro that Kevin was dealing with and Dana is working with him to fix it. Other than that, everything has gone smoothly.
  - g. Equipment Manager - Will reports that the House Mites have a med kit now. Thank you to Dana for doing all the ordering and getting us set up. Josh needs a refill on supplies. Allison reports the quick change goalie pads have been great so far.
  - h. Treasurer - Brock gave a budget update and the NHAHA Grant money will be spent on new barriers. However, there is a long turnaround time so he is going to order them soon and they will be here for next year.
  - i. Marketing/Social Media Manager - No Update
  - j. Safety/Concussion- We have two concussions currently at 14U with another athlete that is done for the season due to one. Felipe asked about how we will prepare upcoming 14U kids for the hitting. Josh talked about the hitting clinic we ran last summer at Union. Josh is also willing to organize clinics this upcoming summer as well.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm