



**Mission:** The “Upper Valley Hockey Association” mission is to introduce the youth of our area to and promote the game of hockey, so that every child in the program can enjoy a positive experience through encouragement, skill development and character building while creating a passion for the game

## **UVHA MEETING MINUTES April 19th, 2023- 8:00 PM**

### **1. 14U Update**

Jessica from the Woodstock organization was in attendance for this portion of the meeting so out of respect for her time, we began with the 14U update. Brock Barton gave a summary of what’s been going on over the last month. UVHA and Woodstock held joint tryouts over at Campion. We had a great turnout with forty-one kids registered and thirty-nine or forty on the ice every night. The on-ice coaches did a great job moving the large amount of players through drills on the ice and keeping them moving. Brock thought that overall, the tryout went very well. At the end we named 3 teams, which were announced that Friday at noon.

Brock reported that unfortunately, they got the news that Vermont was getting rid of the transfer and release rule and added a residency requirement into the VASHA by-laws. Now the rule states that teams can not have more than 4 players on a team from out of state. The original plan was to have a GSL team and a VASHA team, with the higher Tier team playing in the GSL and the other in the VASHA. However, after tryouts, each team had at least 6 NH players on the team so now all 3 teams are going to be playing in the GSL. The 14U teams will still play exhibition games against VT teams.

Registration for 14U is open with the deadline for registration set for this Friday. All in all the energy has been pretty good from players wanting to play for this partnership. Brock stated that while we don’t have the answers quite yet as to who will ultimately choose to play for the partnership team, both organizations put on a good tryout and showed a good face throughout the process. Jessica reported that overall people from Woodstock are very happy to be placed with appropriately placed teams and with the merger in general. Will thanked Brock and Josh for organizing and leading this new process. Will stated that we need to remind people to register now because it’s a change from the past. Registration requires a \$200 deposit, then the next payment is due in July.

As the group continued to discuss the possible outcomes from tryouts, Cherry Sullivan asked what the advantage was to having 2 vs 3 teams. Brock explained that players don’t get a lot of touches during games if there are too many people on a team. The goal of having fewer players is to keep kids off the bench. He stated that the sweet spots for Bantams are 13-15 because you start to run into injuries in this age group. Having three teams also keeps kids from playing way outside their availability level.

Jessica shared that Woodstock just did sublimated jerseys this past year for the first time. They used Arrow, a company out of Massachusetts, and the jersey’s were reversible. Woodstock has a fund from hosting the Pot of Gold Tournament that they can help offset the cost of jersey’s for the 14U players. Their organization’s stance is that they buy the first jerseys for players and then families are responsible for their own after that.

### **2. Approval of Minutes from March**

- a. Minutes approved

### **3. Treasurer Appointment**

Due to Will Meyer becoming President before his term as Treasurer was over, the Board needed to appoint a new Treasurer. Brock Barton was appointed as treasurer by unanimous vote.

### **4. Board Positions & Responsibilities**

Will went through each board position to talk about roles and responsibilities. He verified that everyone knows their responsibilities for the upcoming season.

- i. President - 10u Group Lead, External communications - **Will**
- ii. Vice President - 14u Group Lead, Internal communications (curriculum, etc) - **Josh**
- iii. Secretary - 8u Group Lead- **Jen**
- iv. Treasurer - 12u Group Lead- **Brock**
- v. At-Large - Scheduler- **Dana**
- vi. At-Large - Registrar/Coaching Coordinator- **Allison**
- vii. At-Large - Fundraising- **Megan**
- viii. At-Large - Community Outreach- **Tom**
- ix. At-Large - Back-up Scheduler and Back-Up Registrar- **Cherry**

## 5. Monthly Reports

- a. Coaching Coordinator/Registrar - No Update
- b. Safesport Coordinator - Terrance O'Neil is willing to be the coordinator again this year. No Update.
- c. NH State Representative - Will and Brock are going to discuss who will attend these meetings this year. No other update.
- d. Girls Development - Amanda and Tom collaborate to run Girls skates this year.
- e. Fundraising - Megan will lead the fundraising for the upcoming season. Jen reported she is still working on getting Thank you notes out for the Skate-a-thon.
- f. Scheduler - The board discussed how to handle the scheduler role for the upcoming season. Dana Wright will be the scheduling lead and was willing to share the responsibility with Sadie should she still want to help. Josh will meet with Dana closer to June or July as NHAHA starts to reach out.
- g. Equipment Manager - Will is taking this on for now until we decide what we are going to do for next year. The traditional responsibilities of this role are going to change with the addition of sublimated jerseys.
- h. Treasurer - Presentation of Cost Analysis summarized below.
- i. Marketing/Social Media Manager - Tom and Denise Hunter will continue to work on this for us.
- j. Safety/Concussion - Heather is still going to take on this role for next year.

## 6. New Business

The first order of new business that was discussed was the proposal of new jerseys for the 2023-24 season from the travel mite level to 14U. 14U teams already have to get new ones due to partnership (discussion above) and will begin the jersey design process in the coming weeks. The Board discussed that the travel mite group is too fluid to go with the sublimated jerseys so they will continue to use the old Storm jerseys. Will outlined some options for jerseys and cost. He will look into the Arrow jersey's that Woodstock used this year. In the past, the socks were a fundraiser that brought in a couple hundred dollars, but this coming season each player would get one pair of (dark) game socks with the jersey as part of registration. Will said he thought it would be good to do a fitting day. Tom agreed, saying that this step is critical due to sizing differences for different brands. The board discussed when sizing would need to take place in order to place the order and have jerseys on time in the fall. They settled on a mid-summer time frame but did not set a date.

Registration costs for the 2023-24 season were discussed. Brock gave a presentation of cost analysis. His current presentation showed us at a deficit for this season. However, if we get the rest of our fundraising money, our total number of revenue/expenses would be favorable. We have \$235,000 in the reserved fund. If we absolutely wanted to, we could keep fees flat because we are able to scrape by this year with the additional fundraising money. As far as ice time for next season, we can make ice work with the current ice time we have. However, if we end up with three 14U and three 10U teams, an 8th team throws a monkey wrench in there. Costs will increase for next year if we have to buy more ice. The fee increase will continue so many felt it's best to slightly raise it this year to avoid a large jump in the future. The fee increase will include jerseys and new socks for next season and then the increase will stay every year, helping to cut the operating deficit. New jerseys and socks will fall under equipment manager and add some additional work to that role during the summer months. Brock's final numbers that were agreed upon by the board are presented below.

	Last Year		Additional Fee	Proposed	
	Early	Regular		Early	Regular
Bantam	\$ 1,025	\$ 1,125	\$ 125	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,250
Pee Wee	\$ 925	\$ 1,025	\$ 100	\$ 1,025	\$ 1,125
Squirt	\$ 875	\$ 975	\$ 75	\$ 950	\$ 1,050

Setting an alternate policy at this meeting was of utmost importance due to the fact that we have had some families that want to be alternates for Storm next season but play primarily elsewhere. This has happened in the past but the Board does not have an official policy. Tom had a really bad experience with a player doing this and shared that he was against alternates due to fairness and inconsistency in attendance. The current NHAHA rules say that if there's a conflict you have to participate in all your primary team's events, which the board believes would lead to a negative impact on our program overall. The Board agreed unanimously to not have alternates play on our teams.

The last order of business was to discuss goalkeeper and skills coach options for next season. Evan Cline (current GK coach) is potentially out for next year due to him co-coaching a 14U team in Hanover. Josh discussed ways to improve or change the goalkeeper coaching experience and proposed a way to give them more time with the GK coach by coming to consult at practice on Monday or Tuesday night. Will reported he has Jay Seals potentially lined up. Someone is going to reach out to John Chamberlain, who was Woodstock's goalie coach, as well. Cherry spoke up and said AJ Sullivan could also possibly be reached out to about helping with the GK's. Allison is going to reach out to someone too.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm**