



## **NMHA Annual General Meeting**

Minutes

June 24, 2021

Via Videoconference

**Present:** Brenda Neumann, Wendy Tyman, Helen Tyson, Jodi Parker, Stephen Keiwan, Terry Martin, Arlene Cameron, Greg Clarke, Tim Nolan

**Regrets:** Hart Wolfe (Life Member)

---

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

- a. A point of order was raised by Martin Masse to include a motion to have the NMHA host a second Competitive B team at the U15 level. It was explained to Mr. Masse that the motion was operational in nature and the decision to host a second team is at the discretion of the VP Competitive and the competitive program based on the number and skills of the players who present themselves at tryouts. The motion will not be added to the agenda.
- b. Motion to approve minutes from the May 13, 2019, Annual General Meeting as presented.

Motion by Brenda Neumann and seconded by Tony Farago.

Carried.

### **2. Financial Report**

- a. Martin Payne of MKP Professional Corporation (formerly WGP Professional Corporation) presented an overview of the financial statements for the year ending May 2020.
- b. Motion to accept the financial statements of 2019-2020 as presented.

Motion by Stephen Keiwan and seconded by Terry Martin.

Carried.

### **3. Appointment of Auditor**

- a. Motion to appoint MKP Professional Corporation (formerly WGP Professional Corporation) as the auditor for the NMHA for 2020-2021.

Motion by Greg Clarke seconded by Brenda Neumann.

Carried.

#### **4. President's Address**

Thank you all for being here this evening. It's great to be together again as a group and finally be able to have our AGM.

To say that 2020 and so far into 2021 has been a challenge on so many fronts is a complete understatement.

First, I, along with the Board want to thank and salute you all for your unwavering commitment to minor hockey and truly honouring our over-arching mission statement "for the kids".

While all of you are essential parts of the success of our association, there are a few people who deserve special mention.

- Rebecca Shewfelt and Stephen Keiwan - who created the mandatory safety protocol in partnership with Ottawa Public Health for our safety officers to ensure our teams could play the game we all love so much. A thank you also goes out to all our safety officers, coaches and trainers who made the safety protocol work in real time. Thank you to all our Convenors who created and managed our "bubbles".
- Thank you to Emma Grimes, who scheduled and managed the ice, almost monthly. Our goal from the outset was to keep the kids on the ice and to offer them some kind of programming, all of you gave 100 percent.
- Terry, Arlene, Helen, Wendy, Jodi, Greg and our two newly appointed board members - Tim and Tony, you have served above and beyond the call of duty and been a dedicated and indispensable team and force to ensure we achieved our mandate to administer and provide the best version of minor hockey to kids in Nepean.

During the pandemic, an extraordinary and in many respects surreal 18 months that challenged us all daily as the landscape abruptly changed, your flexibility to adapt and overcome seemingly insurmountable hurdles was exemplary. Thank you for bringing your passion, intellect, insight, experience and resources to the table. Thank you for challenging me and your fellow Board members. If we were a corporation and this was end of year, I can say with great confidence "you all made bank" and will be getting your full bonuses.

I would also like to thank the membership for "sticking with us". It was a pleasure to get the kids back on the ice, which was our goal right from the start of planning. I believe that goal was accomplished.

While things remain uncertain at this time as to how minor hockey will look this upcoming season in Ontario what is certain is we should all be confident in each other and to our collective ability to adapt to change and overcome adversity.

## **5. Correspondence**

None.

## **6. Notice of Motions**

None.

## **7. Directors/Committee Reports**

### **a. Vice President Competitive (Arlene Cameron)**

Let me start by thanking our Competitive Committee for their support in such a crazy year. They are always there ready to jump in and make changes as needed to be done a few times last year. Thanks to Claude Provost, Keith Ellard, Nicole Kingsbury, Kathi Moran, Steve Brush and Bob Byrnes.

Without our volunteers our programs could not run. As been said here before, thank you to Rebecca Shewfelt for all her work during our Covid year. To the coaches, parent volunteers, thank you for a job well done. You stuck with us during a very tough year.

Our intention this year is to hold tryouts and choose teams. I have a request out to pair up with another association so teams can scrimmage with teams at the same level. This year we will have the following coaches at the competitive level:

Kyle Barber – U10A  
Brendan Bell – U11AA  
Keith MacEwen – U11A  
Dale Horch – U11B  
Craig Johnson – U12AA  
Tony Ricciuti – U12A  
PA Bonneau – U12B  
Steve Brush – U13AA  
Colin Snell – U13B  
Jim Goddard – U13B  
Dylan Sharpley – U14AA  
Frank Trudel – U14B  
Chris Landry – U14 B  
Nicola Gargaro – U15 AA  
Chris Emery – U15B  
Dave Appleby – U16AA  
Chris Armstrong – U18B

### **b. Vice President House (Helen Tyson)**

This year was not a normal hockey year in house league, and many of the things I would normally report on in this report, unfortunately were not able to be done this season. '

We unfortunately had to cancel summer camps, conditioning camps, goalie training, coach mentoring, team photos, and sort outs. We could not run proper games, tournaments, team events, year end parties and playoffs. For many, they were not even aware at the time that they were playing their last NMHA Minor hockey game!

This season was anything but normal. In fact, it has been by far the most challenging season in my career here, and we navigated power outages, winter storms and devastating tornados. But the one thing that has remained consistent is the dedication and commitment of the volunteers that support this association.

I wanted to acknowledge all of you. So, to all the coaches that chose to stay and take on a team, the safety officers that took on the challenge of the unknown, and the trainers who did so much to keep everyone safe. Team level volunteers are the backbone of the house league program and despite the uncertainty of what the season might bring – they stepped up and showed up...over and over and worked hard provide the best programming they could.

And none of this could have been pulled together without the incredible house league advisory team that worked countless hours, often with very short notice, to build teams as best they could without any opportunity to evaluate players. The adapted and were always on standby to adjust and reset when the pandemic through us a curve ball.

I have been blessed to work with these amazing volunteers for a few years now, and they deserve more acknowledgement and gratitude than I can every put into a few short paragraphs. I would like to personally thank the following house league directors; Jodi Parker at U7, Jen Emery at U9, Pat Lam U11, Shawn Blank U13, John Mason at U15, Sue Lecour at U18 and Chantal Brule as Manager Liaison. You are some of the most dedicated volunteers I have ever had the pleasure of working alongside, and the NMHA is so incredibly lucky to have you leading the House League Program. I only hope that you will continue in your roles as we hopefully return to some sort of a normal season.

I would also like to acknowledge the parents, guardians, and players for all their patience and understanding as we navigated our way through such uncertain times. A difficult journey was made easier because of that patience.

I look forward to what is to come as we hopefully are seeing a light at the end of this tunnel and that Next year's house league report will be one of tournaments, playoff winners and highlights of a season well played.

**c. Vice President Operations (Terry Martin)**

As I am leaving the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that I have worked with over the years. I wish the NMHA all the best in the future.

**d. Referee in Chief (Nico Bidin)**

No Report.

**e. Member-at-Large (Jodi Parker)**

### U7 Initiation Program:

Once again, I had the privilege to oversee the U7 Initiation Program. The U7 team successfully adapted to all the challenges we faced this season. We had eight teams in the fall session, and nine teams in the winter session – approximately half of our typical registration. The U7 division faced unique challenges, largely due to the age of the players and the format of the program. We did not run our typical two divisions, one for newcomers and one for more experienced players. This season's teams were comprised of a wide range of players – those who may have never skated along with those who were in their second or third year of U7.

Covid capacity regulations forced us to have fewer instructors & volunteers on ice. This posed a challenge with our newer skaters and challenging our more advanced skaters. Our team rose to the challenge, and I would like to specifically thank David Vesey, our head instructor, for his exceptional work overseeing the program content this season. Dave was able to design practice plans and empower our instructors to address the needs of all players on the ice. Our U7 instructors demonstrated significant leadership this season. The capacity rules and bubble concept meant that they were working in pairs with no direct supervision. They flourished in this role, and I credit them, along with Dave Vesey, for the safe, fun, successful, albeit non-traditional, season we had. Thank you to:

Peter Chapman	Oliver Stickle
Alyssa Rafi	Isabella Kane
Joshua Sweet	Luc Viau
Mac Parker	Cal Parker

Thanks also to the parent volunteers in the U7 division. There was a greater need for volunteers this season to manage the changerooms, benches and help with drills. This team of volunteers stepped up and were critical in the execution of a safe fun program for all.

In 2019 the Little Sens Learn to Play program transitioned to the Bauer First Shift. Nepean hosted a First Shift program in winter 2020. We were able to see it through the full ten weeks to its completion before hockey activities were shut down in March. Bauer First Shift is an affordable introductory program, whereby participants receive full hockey equipment and 6-10 hours of instructional time on ice. We declined to host the program in 2020/21, as well as in the upcoming season, 2021/22. Our focus will be on re-establishing our U7 program in the wake of the ups & downs of the past 16 months. Next season we will focus on Dave's now-famous innovations in implementing the Hockey Canada U7 Pathways curriculum. We will continue to invest in and develop young goalies, and we plan to introduce some fun new activities into the rotation.

### Sponsorship Program:

The sponsorship program did well in 2019 under the newer tiered system. The program has been on hold over the past season. We did have one sponsor over the 2020/21 season which was Pro Hockey Life. There will be a review of the program, followed by an aggressive sponsorship drive over the next two months in preparation for September.

### Volunteer Recognition:

We would like to thank the many dedicated volunteers who stepped up this season with all its uncertainties. Many of you gave your time, rolled with the punches as we navigated the ever-changing landscape of minor hockey in a pandemic.

Our last Volunteer Appreciation Night was in February 2020. A different format was used with much success. The Barley Mow Merivale offered their services, which included a band, exclusive use of their party room and our usual complimentary non-alcoholic beverages. The event was well-attended and we hope to use a similar format in 2022 where we can honour our well-deserving volunteers.

**f. Member-at Large - Risk and Safety (Stephen Keiwan)**

To say this past year was a year like no other is an understatement.

With changing health protocols and guidelines happening frequently, I would like to applaud all NMHA volunteers and participants for their support and cooperation to adapt with these changes.

From safety officers, to coaches, to trainers, to managers, to directors, to coordinators, to players, and to parents and if I have missed anyone, I apologize, should all be commended for an A+ job well done, as I received consistent praise from Ottawa Public Health on how we, as an entire association, addressed and dealt with the COVID situation.

I would like to thank Rebecca Shewfelt for her amazing support in the role of NMHA COVID-19 Safety Officer Coordinator. She was instrumental in coordinating communications between our Safety Officers and Ottawa Public Health. She was extremely well organized and was always willing and able to support myself and the NMHA whenever needed. Again, my thanks to you Rebecca.

With that, I will finish off by saying I look forward to next season and seeing lots of smiling and happy faces back on the ice!

**g. Member-at-Large (Tim Nolan)**

I would like to acknowledge the Board and the work that has been done in the past year.

Having joined the Board in September 2020, I was assigned the portfolio relating to the Association's volunteers, namely the reimbursement for courses, coach clinics and the procurement of awards and team plaques,

Although initially delayed, the reimbursement rolled out smoothly and will continue to do so moving forward.

Due to the structure of the 2020-2021 season, it was decided that awards, including team plaques would be placed on pause. We will move forward in the 2021-2022 season.

I look forward to the upcoming season and thank the membership for its patience.

#### **h. Member-at-Large (Tony Farago)**

This was my first year as director with NMHA and to say it was an interesting one, would be an understatement. Most of our efforts were spent navigating the Covid 19 pandemic and making sure we were able to deliver some semblance of a season given all the protocols required to get the kids on the ice. So first and foremost, as a parent, I would like to start by commending the Board and all the volunteers who made the season we were able to have possible. Thank you.

My main responsibility on the Board, guided in no small part by Terry Martin, was to oversee the NMHA's vast inventory of jerseys, most importantly the transition to new jerseys across levels. Some of the important milestones achieved during the year include:

- Formally implementing a policy whereby, to the extent available, funds are set aside on an annual basis to purchase new jerseys.
- As a result of that policy, the Board was able to earmark over \$100,000 to purchase new jerseys.
- This allowed the NMHA to purchase new jerseys for all U15 competitive, U13 House and U13 competitive teams, that is 36 teams and almost 1,800 jerseys. The total cost of the jerseys was \$102,907.90. I hope (barring any delivery delays) to have the jerseys issued to the teams for the start of the upcoming season.
- •Organizing and taking an inventory of the jerseys and socks currently on hand.
- Purchasing new socks for the upcoming season.

Going forward I hope to continue to turnover the jerseys with the goal of having all NMHA teams wearing the new colours as soon as possible. However, replacing the jerseys also presents the challenge, of what to do with the "old" jerseys? So, looking forward I will also be looking at ways to re-use, repurpose or donate the jerseys we are no longer using. As such, if anyone is looking for practice jerseys, please reach out to me.

Lastly, once we have issued the new socks for the upcoming season, we plan to donate any unused or mismatched pairs of socks to Toques from the Heart an organization that repurposes the socks into toques for Canadians experiencing homelessness.

#### **i. District Chair (Greg Clarke)**

Most of my activities this year were directed to several projects at HEO and HEO Minor regarding the implementation of a two major changes in hockey across the Branch.

HEO and HEO Minor were amalgamated into one organization in August 2020 which governs both junior and minor. Minor Council was assigned a new role as an advisory body to HEO and charged with the general management of minor hockey operations. I also assumed the role of Chair of Minor Council with the primary responsibility of organizing and managing Minor Council monthly meetings.

As part of this role, I was part of a Task Team charged with the review of HEO Regulations for minor hockey. The Task Team took the opportunity to eliminate many outdated regulations.

As part of its responsibilities for managing minor hockey operations, HEO has delegated Minor Council to continue operations of its Discipline and Appeals Committee which will focus on discipline and appeals arising from the HEO Code of Discipline for Minor Hockey.

HEO passed a motion authorizing District Chairs to have the discretion to rescind any game-related carry-over suspensions from the 2019-2020 season. I used this discretion to nullify carry-over suspensions for 2 coaches and 8 players.

HEO has initiated a Green Armband program where all officials under the age of 18 are to wear a green armband. Should a player or team official receive a call for abuse or harassment towards these officials, the sanctions normally imposed will be doubled.

I also participated in HEO's Return to Hockey Committee, which developed a framework for minor hockey operations, strategizing communications to the local Public Health Authorities and the Ontario government, as well as monitoring COVID outbreaks and response.

I continued my participation with the U18 Board of Governors where substantial changes in the financial oversight were implemented. Financial reports for the League's operations back to 2015-2016 are now available on the League website. With the status of the League changing from pilot to permanent, work remains on issues like updating of the League Constitution and Playing Rules and the development of the League's Governance structure.

For other HEO initiatives, the NMHA was a model for other Districts.

- The NMHA had 100% of our registered IP and Novice players' parents complete the course.
- The Gender Diversity program required qualifications for coaches and trainers was extended to all bench staff. We achieved 100% coverage of this program.

The new Hockey Canada mandated U11 (Atom) pathway program will be implemented across HEO for 2021-2022.

## **8. General Business**

None.

## **9. Election to the 2021-2022 Board of Directors**

The following members were elected to the Board of Directors to serve a 2-year term.

Vice President (House) – Helen Crawford (acclaimed)

Vice President (Operations) – Pat Lam

Member-at-Large – Jamie Leppard

Member-at-Large – Rebecca Shewfelt

## **10. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Greg Clarke seconded by Stephen Keiwan.



Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.