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**PECMHA Annual General Meeting 2015**

May 12, 2015 @ 7:00 pm

Bloomfield United Church

DRAFT MINUTES – will be approved at 2016 AGM (for information only)

**PEC Executive Attendance:** Darren Marshall, (Chair), Scott Lavender, Obie VanVlack, Jefferson Gilbert, Lisa Vincent, Tod Lavender, Steve Prinzen, Heather Zantingh, Terry Jones, Kim Stacey, and John Kelly

**Absent:** Dan Stasko and Chera Kuipers

PEC Membership in Attendance: See Appendix A

Quorum was established at 19. Meeting was called to order @ 7:01 pm.

Opening Remarks - President, Darren Marshall– See Appendix B for his complete report.

Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION 2015-AGM-001**

*To approve the Agenda as printed.*

Moved by Tod Lavender

Seconded by Charlene MacDonald. No objections.

Approval of the 2014 AGM Minutes from May 20, 2014

**MOTION 2015-AGM-002**

*To approve the 2014 AGM Minutes as delivered.*

Moved by John Kelly

Seconded by Shane Nieman

CARRIED. No objections.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer, Tod Lavender

The Treasurer took the membership through the Financial Statements as provided by the Treasurer. At the time of the meeting the revenues exceeded the expenses by more than $10,000. However, additional bills (that were estimated) may change the figures and the Treasurer is estimating a final total closer to a surplus of $1,000. The money, on hand, in GIC and in bank remains comfortable. Costs were contained as much as possible, but the real issue was revenue shortfalls with approximately 30 players fewer registered than in the 2013-2014 year; 4 on 4 numbers were down too. However, MILK Tournament numbers did rise again.

A question came from the Membership about what sort of retention strategy was being considered. The Executive will continue to do what is possible for keeping registration numbers up, but it was noted that there are a lot more 18 year olds ‘leaving the system’ than there are 5 year olds entering the system. Declining enrollment in schools has a direct impact on minor hockey enrollment.

Once the books are reviewed by an Accountant they will be available for further review.

**MOTION 2015-AGM-003**

*To receive the Treasurer’s Report*

Moved by Scott Lavender

Seconded by Kim Stacey

CARRIED. No objections.

Business Arising:

* There was no new business that came forward in advance of the AGM.

By-Law and Constitutional Overhaul.

It was noted that the By-Laws and Constitution were reviewed and updated back in 2012 the last time. A lot has happened on the internal and external front since then including: rise of Local League; Declining Enrollment; OMHA/OHF changes impacting what teams can be offered and skills development mandates; among others. The Executive feels that a full-scale review of the documents is necessary and will be undertaken in advance of the 2016 AGM. Volunteers were sought to participate.

**MOTION 2015-AGM-004**

*To undertake a review of By-Laws and Constitution*

Moved by John Kelly

Seconded by Lisa Vincent

CARRIED. No objections.

**Election of Directors and Officers**

The President conducted the 2015 Executive Elections. The President of the Association (Darren Marshall for this meeting) does not vote unless there is a tie vote.

The Secretary determined that there are 18 eligible votes (not counting President).

The President asked the Secretary for nominations for each position. The President confirmed the willingness of the Nominee to stand, and ask the membership of there were any additional nominations for each position. The Secretary had ballots on hand if a recorded vote was requested or necessary.

**MOTION: 2015 AGM-005 through 2015 AGM-011**

\* Vice President (2 year term)

NOMINEE: Obie VanVlack

NOMINATOR: Kim Stacey SECONDER: Tod Lavender

CARRIED. Unanimously.

\* Treasurer (2 year term)

NOMINEE: Tod Lavender

NOMINATOR: John Kelly SECONDER: Shane Nieman

CARRIED. Unanimously.

\* Secretary (2 year term)

NOMINEE: Jefferson Gilbert

NOMINATOR: Tod Lavender SECONDER: John Kelly

CARRIED. Unanimously.

\* Ice Scheduler (2 year term)

NOMINEE: John Kelly

NOMINATOR: Obie VanVlack SECONDER: Steve Prinzen

CARRIED. Unanimously.

\* Referee in Chief (2 year term)

NOMINEE: Steve Prinzen

NOMINATOR: Jefferson Gilbert SECONDER: John Kelly

CARRIED. Unanimously.

\* Junior House League Co-ordinator (2 year term)

NOMINEE: Steve Payne

NOMINATOR: Chera Kuipers SECONDER: Obie VanVlack

CARRIED. Unanimously.

\* Tournament Co-ordinator  (2 year term)

NOMINEE: Lisa Vincent

NOMINATOR: Jefferson Gilbert SECONDER: Heather Zantingh

CARRIED. Unanimously.

**ONE YEAR TERM – Term ends in May 2016**

\* Senior House League Co-ordinator (1 year term)

No candidates came forward. The Executive will seek and appoint a person to this role as per By-Law/Constitutional conditions.

The President did share some of the details of the envisioned Bay of Quinte Local League and how it would be scheduled to ensure as equitable of play as possible.

**Other Business**

This is the part of the meeting where the Members in attendance can and do ask open questions and/or make comments for the Executive to respond to or consider.

**AE TEAMS AND THE BANTAM AE SITUATION**

An inquiry was made as to whether there would be a Bantam AE Team. It is too early to know, but based on the past numbers it is highly probable. The PECMHA Exec would not want to approve a similar situation as last year where the AE Team played in the BB loop. And for the record the Exec made that decision with the understanding that the team would play more former DivII teams and certainly not our own BB Team. That was not in fact what happened. PECMHA is committed to AE Hockey because our members in a majority way come to tryouts and that is what they wish for. However, it has more to do with the other EOMHL Centres and what teams they are able to ice that determines what is possible. All centres in EOMHL are facing similar declining enrollments as PECMHA.

**NAPANEE**

Napanee Minor Hockey has been granted permission to move back to being a BB Centre for the 2015-2016 season. They will play in the EOMHL and not the Lakeshore League as has been rumoured. Napanee will replace Port Hope as a BB Centre leaving the number at 3 (PEC; Stirling; and Napanee).

**DIVISION I and DIVISION II**

A question was asked about why EOMHL made the decision to merge them last year. Ultimately it was a matter of not enough teams in some divisions. The previous year with the introduction of league playoffs where some Div II teams had considerable success and the move to one division at Midget, both were signs to support it. The EOMHL AGM is soon and there will be some tweaks and suggestions made to improve the competition.

**TYKE – DEVELOPMENT; GAMES AND RULES**

Hockey Canada does not want Tyke aged kids playing games. Reality is families and kids do want to. The onus is on our Jr HL Co-ordinator and Coaches to keep this fun and operate within the mandates of the bodies that sanction PECMHA. There is no question it is challenge with a broad range of skill set. Creativity will be the key. Using dividers and other aids though it should be possible to serve all needs. Development is the key to future success; but fun is the key to current engagement.

**LOCAL LEAGUE**

Darren Marshall went on to further describe the governance model of the Bay of Quinte League. 8 person Board with 4 Exec positions of which one will be occupied by a member from PEC; Stirling; Quinte West; and Napanee. The other four positions will also come from the Founding Associations.

To stay competitive and fun the plan is to play Open Play (everybody plays everybody) in the first three months; followed by seeding into divisions based on first three month records; further play in that division; and then seeding for a Playoff Rounds. The eye is to not have lopsided games and not too much repetition either.

**THANK YOU**

Susan Giroux took an opportunity to thank the entire Executive for their volunteerism and commitment to Prince Edward County Minor Hockey Association.

**JERSEYS**

A follow-up question came about the jersey replacement and the anticipated timeline. Currently it is expected that all Rep jerseys will need to be replaced for the 2017-18 season, and possibly for the 2015-17 seasons certain numbers may be taken out of circulation if the sweaters are not suitable. Other organizations do not provide the jerseys (Napanee; Belleville Jr Bulls; and Quinte Red Devils were all cited). In fact the QRD set of jerseys for the 2015-2016 season are $250. To replace the PECMHA one with a similar jersey what we have now will be about $150 per set, or $25,000 for Rep Teams only. Alternatives will need to be looked at.

**SETTING REGISTRATION FEES**

A question was asked about what they are anticipated to be. It was noted it was too early to predict, but the one known was that the main expense – ice – would again be rising 5%. PECMHA has no desire to turn an annual profit, but needs to be mindful that it covers costs today and has sufficient reserves to cover future obligations as well.

**TRYOUTS 2015**

The Executive has looked at ways to put all tryouts in the first week of September and avoid the traditional final week of summer. However it is being deferred to 2016 when Labour Day is a week earlier. The reasons the timing is what it is has to do with:

* Ice availability with Pirates; Dukes; PEFSC: PECMHA and other ice users all competing for the same pad of ice.
* Needing certainty about AE teams to provide EOMHL and possibly Lakeshore League with options. If we wait the extra week there is a possibility to miss Scheduling for Lakeshore.

**GATE PASSES**

A question came about the ability for PECMHA to sell passes for the entire season rather than on per game basis. This was explored at the Executive level in either 2012 or 2013. The GTHL (Toronto) just did this through tagging on a $600 per player surcharge to registration fees. It is in the pilot phase. Gate is relied upon to cover referee, timekeeper, gatekeeper and travel costs for referees in the Playdowns. Last year this represented over $22,000 in revenue. It was stated that PECMHA does not control the gate fee, it is set by the EOMHL. If a similar pilot was tried with PECMHA to eliminate at Home Games Jefferson Gilbert stated it would be about $180 per player as a surcharge (8 rep teams @ 15 players each = $186 per player). Suffice it to say an almost 50% surcharge would be seen as punitive.

Given no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm. Motion to adjourn made by Kim Stacey.

**Appendix A**

The following members, beyond the Executive cited, signed in and received voting ballots.

Cara Facette-Grondin

Cynthia Knock

Charlene MacDonald

Susan Giroux

Kevin Algar

Steve Payne

Shane Nieman

Dan Kempers

**Appendix B**

President’s Remarks

Good evening everyone, welcome to the 2015 Prince Edward County Minor Hockey Association Annual General meeting. I have been honored to lead this Association for the 2014/15 hockey season and I look forward to continuing my role for next year.

I want to start off by thanking everyone that sits here at this head table for their efforts and dedication to this Association for this past year. The time that these positions take up throughout the hockey season is astounding and not many people have any idea of what it takes, but I am here to say thank you for not only making my role easier, but putting a hockey season together for all the kids in this great community. The work that this Executive does begins well before the first puck is dropped on the season, and this being the completion of my third year on the Executive I’m still trying to figure out when the duties of a season actually end. The message here though is that this Executive cares very much for this association and the kids that participate in the activities that are arranged for them.

I can honestly say that with all the challenges that we have faced this past season, there were many positives that can be taken away from our extra programs/activities that we ran throughout the year. The following is a briefing of a few of them

* It all begins with our Initiation program which again this year was under the guidance and leadership of Darren Yuill. We had 35 very eager kids take to the ice and begin their minor hockey careers. In speaking with Darren, he’s confirmed with me that he will be back again next fall to help develop a whole new group of young aspiring hockey players.
* Our Rep and H/L Hockey Skills program continued this past season under the guidance of Rick Vanvlack and Scott Lavender and many coaches who stepped up to lead these critical development sessions during Rick’s absence. New ideas and suggestions will be looked at to improve this very important 40 mins of ice for next season.
* This past year a partnership was developed with the Wellington Dukes hockey club in which their goalies led to a very successful 8 session program to better develop our goalies of all ages. The feedback was extremely positive and we will most definitely be looking to improve on what was done this year and make it even better for next season.
* The Milk tournament once again this year led by Jefferson Gilbert continued to grow in both teams and profits. 45 teams competed in all divisions and is quickly becoming one of the most popular BB hockey tournaments under the OMHA umbrella. Also, led by Lisa Vincent our McDougall HL tournament again this year ran successfully during the March Break to great reviews from teams as far East as the Ottawa and as far West as Newcastle. This tournament was run in the Novice, Peewee and Midget divisions. We hope to improve on that next year and run a full 5 division tournament.
* Our 3 on 3 and 4 on 4 program which began in April comes to a close this week, with over 100 kids participating in a 10 game schedule. This continues to be a fun and enjoyable experience for the kids to end their hockey season.

So with the activities listed above and one of the lowest registration rates in Ontario, the PECMHA was able to successfully run with close to a balanced budget as Tod will discuss in his report shortly.

Our houseleague program has now completed year 3 of an OMHA pilot project involving Prince Edward County, Stirling, Napanee, and Quinte West. Tonight, I can confidently announce that beginning next year, the inaugural season of the Bay of Quinte Local League will begin. This will be very similar to what our association has been part of the past three years, but this next step is to develop a more formalized league for the kids to play in that will include it’s own Executive, Constitution and set of By- laws, regular season standings and a playoff format that will crown a league champion in each division. I strongly believe that adding these elements to the foundation that we have been experimenting with over the past three years, it will bring a more enjoyable experience for all kids playing at the houseleague level. There continues to be much work behind the scenes in the developing this league for divisions from Novice to the Midget/ Juvenile. Our Tyke program will continue to be a skills development program, following the guidelines laid out by Hockey Canada. Next year we’ll once again have some parents within this age group that are full of hockey knowledge and I’m hopeful that they will step up and under the leadership of the Jr.H/L Coordinator will guide this young group of kids that is the future of PECMH.

I speak of coaches, and the need for them within this organization. Without coaches, there isn’t any hockey for these kids. My other role this year was looking after the Sr H/L divisions (Atom-Midget/Juvenile). This was my third year looking after these groups and it has become more and more difficult to find volunteers to lead these teams. The OMHA lays out a strict mandate to minor hockey associations to follow, to ensure the kids are not only protected but are also taught the game and develop. We need parents and potentially non parents to step up and take responsibility to lead these kids. The Executive here has many tasks to fulfill throughout the year to ensure hockey season runs as smoothly as possible. It’s my belief that it’s not the job of the Executive to go out and recruit coaches. This should be in the hands of the membership. This is at all levels of minor hockey, whether it be at the Initiation level, local league level or even the Rep level, the volunteers are what makes this such a great association and we need to work together to ensure we have more of them.

Moving on to our Rep program, again this year we continue to be one of the strongest associations in the EOMHL. Our BB program was represented in 5 divisions from Novice to Midget. All five teams had very successful regular seasons with two teams finishing 3rd, one 4th and two had 6th place finishes in divisions of 15 teams. We had three teams make the qtr finals on the OMHA playdowns, the County Farm Center Novices, the Essroc Bantams and the Prestige Contractors Midget team who lost to the eventually defending OMHA champion from South Muskoka. Our most successful team was the Kerr Construction Peewee team that made it all the way to the All-Ontario final and losing to Dorchester in three hard fought games. I was extremely proud of all of our players and coaches as to how they represented PEC throughout the season. The question I get asked the most is in reference to the AE program. We continue to run the AE program due to the fact that over 50 % of our kids try out for a rep team. The kids want to be in Rep team atmosphere, they want to play at the more competitive level. This is why we continue to offer the opportunity for these kids to play at this AE level and hopefully develop enough to become BB players the following season or at some point in their hockey careers. With that being said, we do recognize the decline of teams in the AE divisions and possibly in the near future, this Executive will need to make some difficult decisions based on that. There are possibly other avenues to explore, but at this time we want as many teams as possible to play in a competitive regular season, participate and enjoy the tournament atmosphere and then experience the excitement of battling for an OMHA championship in the playdowns.

In conclusion, this has been another good year, however with lots of room for improvement in many areas. My main goal as President is to ensure we’re giving kids a product on the ice that gives them enjoyment and development with hopefully a few life lessons along the way. This executive is always open for suggestions and that’s why we pushed the year end evaluation process so hard. We need your feedback. I will say that if you’re here tonight, you care more than most and chances are you completed our survey. It’s not only about the coaches, it’s also about the entire association and how we can improve it. Thank you very much for supporting me as your President and enjoy your summer break.

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Marshall, President, PECMHA