



**Dartmouth Whalers Minor Hockey Association
Board Minutes**

Date: March 10, 2026
 Time: 6:30 - 8:00 pm
 Location: RBC Multipurpose Room

Peter Dulhanty –President	Present
Vacant - Vice President	
Lisa Bonin – Secretary	Present
Cayla Stryncl – Treasurer	Present
Rob Dunphy – Director of Competitive	Regrets
Brian Bruce – Director of Recreation	Regrets
Chris Prentice – Director of U7/U9	Present
Steve Coleman – Director of Development	Present
Sarah Chiasson – Director of Communications	Present
Jeff Merrick – Risk Management & Discipline	Regrets
Non-Voting Members	
Erin Madden - Registrar	Present
Winnell Jackson - Diversity and Inclusion Officer	Present

	Topic	By
	Meeting Start Time: 6:33 pm	PD
1.	Approval of Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mover: CP ● Second: S. Chiasson 	PD
2.	Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mover: CP ● Seconder: S. Chiasson 	PD
3.	Previous Action Items for Follow Up: Ice Bills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The previous Treasurer, MR, has offered to help prepare final season bills to assist the newly appointed Treasurer. MR has been offered \$500 for her services. The Registrar will be providing the tally of extra coaches to MR to include in end-of-season considerations. Communication will be sent to managers regarding the incoming bills. 	LB

	<p>- Action Item: SC to create communication to send to managers regarding final season bills.</p>	
4.	<p>Financials</p> <p>Treasurer Onboarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MR is helping KS with onboarding; additionally, there were many emails to respond to, which has created a heavy workload for the Treasurer Q1 report is pending MBC Fund email has not been regularly monitored and there are requests pending approval. <p>- Action Item: LB to reset password and address requests</p>	CS
5.	<p>Risk</p> <p>Formation of a Complaints, Discipline & Appeals committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee has now been formed. The successful candidates are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashley MacInnis Travis Jeffrey Jonathan Campbell Shelly Maynard Richard Boyd All members have been assigned @whalers.org email addresses so committee communications and documentation can remain within the Whalers' Google environment. The committee will assist with complaint reviews and investigations as they come in via JM. Since the committee was formed, three members have been actively working on investigations, and they have been doing an excellent job supporting the process. 	LB on behalf of JM
6.	<p>Sponsorship and Community Initiatives Update</p> <p>Sponsorship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are several proposed contract items that were discussed regarding a potential sponsorship partnership. Considerations to ensure transparency for members when placing apparel orders, and to allow for reasonable perks for our members. Current sponsor to be given the opportunity for contract negotiation <p>GrayJay 50/50 Fundraising Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication with GJ is ongoing <p>Apparel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samples from prospective sponsor were reviewed by Board members. 	SC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current jerseys were ordered in 2022, so we can action a new set for the 2026/2027 or 2027/2028 season ● Discussion around jersey and logo design: there have been some mock-ups done by association members and it would be great to have more input from our membership before finalizing designs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: SC to create communication for membership to request input on logo and jersey design 	
7.	<p>Tryouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deferred. In progress. Director of Competitive Hockey and Director of Development have yet to share recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: Plan to be formulated over spring/summer 2026. 	RD
8.	<p>Secretary</p> <p>AGM Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AGM has been set for Tuesday, May 26, at the Findlay Community Center. ● Notification of meeting and nominations to be communicated to membership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: LB to draft meeting and nominations communication and send to SC for distribution ● Board members were asked to review the edits to the policy manual so it can be circulated in advance of the AGM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: Board members to review updates to policy manual and provide feedback prior to next board meeting ● Board members were asked to review their role description for accuracy on the Executive Role document in anticipation of members asking for specifics of roles when nominations are announced. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: Board members to review and revise role specifics in Executive Role document as needed <p>Meeting Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting attendance has been challenging for board members who also take on other team staff roles. Previous strategy has been to poll directors to determine the best day of the week for monthly meetings. Discussion to ensure this process is followed next year, especially once team game and practice schedules have been set. 	LB
9.	<p>Diversity and Inclusion Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The questionnaire that was sent to members generated a variety of responses, mostly positive, with respondents expressing support for the initiative. A theme was identified where 	WJ

	<p>respondents requested increased training and education for volunteers and members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suggestion to allocate Development time to allow for EDI initiatives to be highlighted; ie. opportunities to experience sledge, vision-, and hearing-impaired hockey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: LB to give WJ editor access to the draft version of the policy manual 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Additional business</p> <p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current development team has expressed an interest in providing coaching for spring hockey sessions. Typically, this is held during April, in the form of 6 sessions over 3 or 4 weeks. Details to be finalized and communication to be sent to membership. ● Development team will also be facilitating a spring checking clinic. This will only be offered in the spring, and not additionally in the fall, as in previous years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: SC to finalize details and send to S. Chiasson for distribution to membership. <p>SEDMHA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall, there is a lack of satisfaction with rink locations assigned to Whalers teams during SEDMHA, despite being the host association and providing volunteers to support the tournament. ● In 2027, the event will be commemorating the 50th anniversary. ● In advance of the event, the planning committee would like to meet with the board to discuss potential improvements and elicit support from our organization. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: SEDMHA committee to join a board meeting to discuss challenges and initiatives <p>Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There have been issues with lack of equipment available during practice sessions, particularly when held at ECV. ● The lockers at RBC that were purchased early this season have been assembled, but need to be stocked with equipment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action Item: CP to connect with Equipment Manager to ensure adequate equipment is available during all ice sessions. <p>Of Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leftover ice cannot be sold to any groups (ie. birthday parties and senior leagues) aside from minor hockey associations because the ice has been purchased at a discounted rate intended to support minor hockey. 	<p>SC</p> <p>PD</p> <p>CP</p> <p>PD</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our association has applied for a First Shift grant and has yet to receive a response. ● The Recreation Championship has been organized by the Recreation Director and supporters and is scheduled to take place over one evening. Planned events are 'O Canada' to be played before each game, with medal ceremonies and encouraged crowd attendance. 	BB
11.	<p>Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 pm ● Mover: PD ● Seconder: CP 	
	Next Meeting Date: April 16, 2026, 6:30-8:00 pm, RBC Multipurpose Room	