



**Speed Skate Nova Scotia
Annual General Meeting
June 6th, 2015
9:00 am**

**Sport Nova Scotia Classroom
Conference Line: 1-866-886-0869 Code: 2767432357**

Meeting called to order by Troy Myers at 9:15am

Present: Sheila McGinn, Lainie Smith, Troy Myers, Joy Hillier, Bert Losier, Mike Sullivan, Brad Holwell, Jing Zhang, Maartje Stroink, Laura Channon, Lisa Gannett, David MacDonald, Steve MacMurray, Jonathan McNeil, Doug Lio, Ying Wan, Jason Ren.

Present Via Conference Call: Kevin Goswell, Steve Raftery, Darlene Petite, Bev Ratchford.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the proposed Agenda

Moved by: Brad Holwell

Seconded by: Lisa Gannett

Motion Carried

It was noted that the AGM was being carried out under the direction of the previous bylaws due to miscommunications with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks.

2. Roll call

Roll Call was completed when meeting was called to order.

3. Tributes and introductions of Guests

None to be discussed.

4. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

Motion: To approve the circulated minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

Moved by: David MacDonald

Seconded by: Steve MacMurray

Motion Carried

5. Business arising from minutes

None

6. Treasurer's Report

I. 2014-2015 Financial Statements

Sheila McGinn presented the Treasurer's Report, 2014-2015 Financial Statements, and 2015-2016 Budget. It was noted that this was a good year financially for SSNS with a growth in both special events and club membership. The total membership count for the 2014-2015 season was approximately 350. It was noted by Sheila and Lisa that Speed Skate Canada should not increase

their fees, especially at the introductory level, if they would like to grow the sport at a grassroots level. It will be a point brought forward by Sheila as the NS rep at the upcoming SSC AGM.

It was stated that SSNS will no longer receive Canada Games Funding as this process is being realigned to fit a “performance pathway” structure set by the Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic, Sport Nova Scotia, Department of Health and Wellness, and Support4Sport. We will have a committee that will be a part of the new funding process.

The switching of banking to Scotiabank was highlighted. The switch was primarily due to the electronic and mobile banking options but also the opportunity of fund matching by Scotiabank and the ability to recruit volunteers for SSNS events.

Talks about padding for the Oval arose, and it was mentioned that although there is not a solution now for what type of padding we would need to use, we should start thinking about fundraising this season as the cost will be extremely high.

Motion: To create a fundraising committee to be included in the SSNS structure.

Moved by: Sheila McGinn

Seconded By: Steven MacMurray

Motion Carried

Motion: To make Lainie Smith an ex-officio member of the SSNS Financial Committee.

Moved by: Sheila McGinn

Seconded by: Steven MacMurray

Motion Carried

“Note 7” in the budget was questioned and it was explained that this \$1,091.88 was used for team uniforms, coaching expenses, travel to competition and training expenses for athletes. It was asked that in the future these plans be discussed with the Speedy Kids organization as they hope to eventually have youth that will compete at the level where this is relevant soon.

Motion: To approve the circulated financial statements

Moved by: Lisa Gannet

Seconded by: Brad Holwell

Motion Carried

II. 2015-2016 Budget

Sheila explained that it appears on the budget that we are spending more than we are receiving. This is because there is some unexpended funding carried over from last year.

Steve Raftery asked if clubs need to register participants in introductory programs with SSC and if so, what the benefits are. Sheila explained that it is important to register these skaters as it brings them in under the insurance policy and helps with the infrastructure of the organization. It is important that all skaters, officials, and coaches are registered for the same purpose of liability/insurance as well as for SSNS funding which is partially reliant on participation numbers. The Oval also requires our proof of insurance to maintain our ice time with the city. It was agreed by all that we keep the registration fees low to encourage participation.

Motion: To approve the budget for this fiscal year

Moved by: Steve MacMurray
Seconded by: Laura Channon
Motion Carried

7. Committee Reports

I. Finance Committee

The finance committee is possibly losing a member as Andy Tiffin may not be on the SSNS Board this year.

Action: Speak with Andy Tiffin to see if he will remain on the SSNS Board and Finance Committee

Troy

II. Coaching Committee

It was noted that the coaching committee does not currently have a chair and will be losing two members. Lisa Gannett highlighted the increase in coaches which included 21 individuals attending a FUNdamentals clinic in December for Speedy Kids resulting in 6 additional trained coaches. Lisa was also certified as a Learning Facilitator which is beneficial to the entire organization. Brent Thompson's resignation was discussed and it was noted that Jonathan McNeil and Carolyn Jarock will replace him as the Halifax club's head coach.

There was discussion of a coaching clinic in fall for the Valley club which could aid other clubs. A clinic also needs to be arranged in Sydney for Special Olympics coaches and coaches for the Sydney club that will be hopefully starting again this season. It was noted that many clubs could also benefit from on-ice leaders, like a parent, who does not necessarily have to be in speed skates.

Action: New members of coaching committee from the Valley Club and Halifax Club

Brad and Steve R.

III. Officials Committee

David MacDonald and Steve MacMurray presented the Officials Report stating that there was great participation this year, even including parents whose children left the sport years ago. Difficulty recruiting officials has been in part due to a lack of competitions in the province to keep volunteers engaged and trained. David extended his thanks to Steve as he was grateful for all the help and organization he provided this season.

Steve MacMurray explained that they are trying to professionalize the officials program by providing officials with appropriate training and development, and clothing items that will make them identifiable as officials on the field of play. The Official's Log Card from paddling was used as an example of what we may be able to do as an organization to keep track of officials and the events they participate in. Each competition that an official is a part of is recorded in order to keep track of their progress.

There was a discussion of the SSC requirements for certifying officials. Level 1 officials can be certified by a Level 2 official, and Level 2 officials can be certified by a Level 3 official.

Referees can certify any officials in any discipline, officials from other disciplines can only certify officials within their own discipline.

It was concluded that SSNS will need to work toward having a referee certified at level 3, so that we can get officials certified up to Level 2 in all disciplines. This will cut costs of bringing in a ref from other provinces to certify officials. Brent Thompson has put his name forward and we will work with SSC to see if we can proceed with this certification in a timely manner.

For some Level 2 and Level 3 positions, experience working or assisting at an SSC sanctioned event is required. Hosting SSC sanctioned events in the province will be essential to ensuring that our officials can be certified without having to travel out of province for that purpose. A discussion around meeting the requirements for hosting SSC sanctioned events occurred. We may be able to host SSC sanctioned events more easily. There may be some additional equipment requirements for short track meets. Brad Holwell will look into what would be required for HRSSC to be able to meet the requirements for having its short track meets sanctioned by SSC.

Action: Identify what would be required for HRSSC to host SSC sanctioned short track events.

Brad

IV. Competitions Committee

There are currently no members on the Competitions Committee. It was stated that members of this committee should be in contact with Speed Skate NB in order to arrange the competitions schedule in an appropriate manner, ensuring our competitions are not competing with one another.

Action: Reach out to Halifax Club to find members for Competitions Committee

Brad

V. Club and Membership Development Committee

Steve Raftery reported on the Bridgewater open house indicating that Todd followed up the session with a 5 week after school program (not sure this is correct). The rec department is looking for a local instructor, not necessarily a speed skater due to the intro nature of the program, for the fall sessions.

VI. Nova Scotia Performance Pathway Committee

Troy Myers spoke for the committee consisting of himself, Todd Landon and Lainie Smith. The workshop was delayed and will take place June 9th so it was explained that there was not much to report on. Lisa Gannett and Jonathan McNeil expressed interest in being a part of this committee.

Action: Include Lisa Gannett and Jonathan McNeil in Performance Pathway Committee activities

Troy

8. Club Reports

Written reports were submitted by all clubs except Tri-County Speed Skating and Northside Blades who were not in operation this season.

I. Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club **i. HRSSC Head Coach Report**

Brad Holwell presented the report as written and highlighted that the club is in need of both younger athletes and coaches.

II. Northside Blades Speed Skating Club

Sheila McGinn explained what has been going on with the Northside Blades club and Darlene Petite has indicated they want to get the club back up and running this season. The idea presented is to hold a try-it event after Labour Day when kids are back in school so that flyers can be sent home with students in surrounding areas. There is also a need for a FUNdamental Coaching Clinic for Special Olympics coaches in the area so Todd, Sheila, and Lisa have spoken with Ruth MacInnes about the potential to run this in conjunction with Northside. Sheila stated that she and Lainie may head to Cape Breton to meet with Dean Morley, SNS Regional Coordinator, along with the Department of Health and Wellness as well as other contacts that may help with the organization and promotion of the club. Steve R suggested a structure that worked for the Valley club- two 10 week sessions, one in the Fall and one in the Winter, with a workshop before each to draw people in at both times in the year.

III. Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club

Sheila McGinn presented the submitted report.

IV. Speed Kids Oval Program Society

Lisa Gannett presented the submitted report. She highlighted that they had a 30% membership growth as well as elected a full board this season. She thanked Joy Hillier for her work in obtaining funding for the organization and suggested that there be a youth oriented event at the Oval next season to promote the sport.

V. Valley Speed Skating Club

Steve Raftery presented the submitted report. He noted the growth of the club as well as the change from Saturday skating to Mondays which will hopefully aid in more growth. The club is currently coordinating with Yarmouth to transport padding and expect that they will have some left over for another club.

Motion: to approve all presented reports.

Moved by: Brad Holwell

Seconded by: Sheila McGinn

Motion Carried

9. Progress Report on the 2013-2015 Strategic Plan

Sheila McGinn presented the progress report on the 2013-2015 Strategic Plan. She noted that the board will soon have to get in touch to figure out the process of creating a new plan as this one is coming to an end. It was noted that most of the plan was accomplished and the small number of items that were not completed can be moved to next year.

10. Reports from the Long Track Coach and Regional Development Mentor

Todd Landon submitted a written report. Todd was not in attendance so it was advised that all questions about the reports be sent to him directly.

11. Special Resolution to amend the Memorandum of Association of Speed Skate Nova Scotia Association

Motion: That the Memorandum of Association for the Speed Skate Nova Scotia Association, as passed by Special Resolution at the Annual General Meeting of July 24, 2014, be amended as follows:

Amend the opening sentence of the Memorandum of Association, which currently reads "*The name of the Society is Speed Skate Nova Scotia Association, operating under the name Speed Skate Nova Scotia.*", to read "*The name of the Society is Speed Skate Nova Scotia Association.*"

Moved by: Sheila McGinn

Seconded by: Lisa Gannett

Motion Carried

12. Election of Directors and Officers

According to the bylaws, this year the Treasurer, Vice President, and Secretary Positions needed to be elected. Sheila McGinn volunteered to stand for treasurer. Lisa Gannett put forth Laura Channon's name for secretary and Hilary Rankin's name for Vice President. Troy welcomed the new board members.

David MacDonald announced that he was stepping down from the officials committee. He felt it was time as he will be leaving it in good hands with Steve M. Troy Myers extended thanks on behalf of the organization for all the hard work David has put in over the years.

President: Troy Myers

Vice President: Hilary Rankin

Secretary: Laura Channon

Treasurer / Registrar: Sheila McGinn

Director of Athlete Development: Lisa Gannett

Director of Coaching: Vacant

Director of Officials: Steve MacMurray

Director of Competitions: Vacant

Director of Domestic Development: Steve Raftery

Director Representing Skaters – Female: Vacant

Director Representing Skaters – Male: Vacant

Past President: Vacant

Director: Brad Holwell

Director: Dawn Noakes
Director: John Hillis
Director: Darlene Petite
Director: Bev Ratchford

13. New Business

I. Termination of membership, Tri-County Speed Skating Club

As the Tri-County Speed Skating Club has provided notice that they have ceased operations, the club's membership in the Speed Skate Nova Scotia Association is to be cancelled effective the date of the AGM.

Motion: To cancel the membership of the Tri-Country Speed Skating Club
Moved by: Sheila McGinn
Seconded by: David MacDonald
Motion Carried

II. Preparation for the 2015-2016 Season

i. Learn to Speed Skate

The idea of changing the format of the Learn to Speed Skate program was discussed to allow more children to get a chance to try the sport.

ii. Skate Inventory – discussion deferred.

iii. Sunday Racing

The Sunday racing will need a new coordinator with Brent stepping down. This can be discussed later in the year.

iv. Dry-Land Training – discussion deferred.

v. Long Track Camp – discussion deferred.

vi. Dartmouth Crossing Four-Pad

The idea was presented that a new club should be started at the new 4-pad in Dartmouth and a club shall remain at St. Margaret's. We will need to look into fundraising for the arena as well as for the necessities to start a new club, as the potential for a central club is enormous.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn
Motioned by: Sheila McGinn
Seconded by: Brad Holwell
Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am