

Eden Youth Sports Committee Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Eden Town Clerk's Office – 71 Old Schoolhouse Road

Eden Mills, VT 05653

Present were Hannah Speer, Dan Lathrop, Bryce Niles, Julie Gates, Trevor Bidwell, Katelyn Locke (by phone), & Kristina Brown

1. Opening Meeting:

- Hannah Speer opened the meeting at 6:33 pm

2. Meeting Purpose:

- A special meeting of the sports committee was called to discuss issues raised by Katelyn and a possible soccer clinic she proposed to the select board.

3. Katelyn Concerns:

- Concerns were raised about non-Eden residents participating in Eden sports, especially if there's an excess of sign-ups.
- We addressed the concern about non-resident children playing for an Eden team, pointing out the change of policy that the selectboard enacted in April 2025
- Another of Katelyn's concerns was that she would like to cap the number of children to be able to sign up for the soccer clinic that she is proposing for this summer.
- We let her know that we needed to speak with the selectboard at their next meeting to find out more about this, and will give her an update as soon as we have one.

4. Soccer Clinic and Select Board

- The committee is not sure about the future and will take each season as it comes.
- A complaint is needed to address any issues with the soccer camp.

- A question was raised about whether the select board would be okay with turning away students.
- Julie will discuss the cutoff policy for the soccer clinic with the select board at their next meeting.

5. Alternative Options and Summer Programs

- If Katelyn doesn't want to run the clinic, the committee could explore ways to create a similar program.
- Dan is working on organizing open basketball gym sessions with skills and drills during the summer.

6. Policy on Open Roster Spots

- The old policy prioritized Eden residents for open roster spots, followed by children from towns without sports programs.
- A concern is raised about how to supply coaches, uniforms, and other resources if a large number of kids from other towns sign up.
- A suggestion is made to change the policies to prioritize ECS students and students from schools without sports programs, like Waterville Belvidere.
- Hannah believes that spots should be reserved for Eden kids, as they are residents and taxpayers. Julie will discuss with the selectboard at their next scheduled meeting

7. Policies and Suggestions

- Hannah wants all kids to play, especially those without a school to play for, but feels that kids should play for their school if they have one.
- The committee can suggest changes to policies, but the select board has to approve them.
- Hannah doesn't think kids should be kicked off teams to play for other towns; instead, space should be made for all players who want to play.
- Trevor was confused about a situation where some girls were allegedly kicked off a team and told to play for another town and believes such decisions should be made by the committee.

8. Meeting Minutes:

- Review of minutes from the last meeting.

- Approval of minutes from 5/8/25.
- Dan motioned to put the minutes as published.
- Julie seconded the motion.
- Approved.

9. Adjourn:

- Hannah motion to close the meeting
- Dan seconded the motion
- Approved
- Meeting closed at 7:45 pm.