



Division of Racing

Massachusetts Horse Racing Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: March 29, 2016 - 1:00 p.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal Street, 12th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts

Present: Stephen M. Reilly, Jr., Chairman
Commissioner Gayle Cameron, Member
Shawn Collins, Member
Frank Frisoli, Member
Peter Goldberg, Member
Catherine Blue, General Counsel
Dr. Alexandra Lightbown, Director of Racing
Cecelia Porché, Paralegal
Ellen Cassidy, Secretary

Call to Order

Chairman Stephen Reilly called to order the meeting at 1:01 p.m. He introduced himself and Shawn Collins as new members.

Approval of Minutes

Frank Frisoli moved for the approval of the September 2, 2014 minutes. Motion seconded by Peter Goldberg. Shawn Collins and Stephen Reilly abstained from the vote because they were not present for the meeting. The motion passed 3-0 with 2 abstentions.

Review of Committee Responsibilities

Members were in agreement that they were comfortable with the responsibilities outlined in the statute and regulations.

Review of 2014 Committee Decision/Pending Request from Harness Horseman's Association of New England (HHANE)

Chairman Reilly stated that the Horse Racing Committee ("HRC") received a request from HHANE to reconsider the split and asked the members for their thoughts.



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Commissioner Gayle Cameron provided a summary of the work that was done for the HRC Decision and Report (“Report”). She stated that it’s been almost two years since the Report was created and she believes that HHANE has a legitimate request to revisit the split. She stated that we need to decide what mechanisms to use.

Peter Goldberg stated that the HRC spent over two years on the Report and we should not try to recreate the wheel. He stated that October was chosen to do the report because it was the end of the racing season and we could look at the data. He also stated that we could look at new data annually.

Frank Frisoli stated that the HRC spent a considerable amount of time looking at the criteria in the statute. He stated that he was the only one who agreed with Dr. Margaret Ray’s report that the thoroughbred industry was the only viable industry. He stated he expects a bill and a study to be completed to build a facility for a racetrack and other horse activities.

Chairman Reilly asked the members how we should procedurally proceed.

Mr. Frisoli recommended a two-step process: we should review what’s changed on the standardbred side and what has changed on the thoroughbred side.

Commissioner Cameron stated we should look at the criteria and that should guide our information gathering. She noted that we have a full committee to go forward and our racing division has the data for criteria #6. She also noted that the data received from the farm survey was exhaustive work and provided limited value. Mr. Goldberg agreed that it was a difficult process to gather information.

Chairman Reilly inquired about the value of having and funding another report. Commissioner Cameron stated that the HRC wouldn’t have the benefit of student labor. Mr. Goldberg inquired about obtaining data for criteria #5. Dr. Alexandra Lightbown suggested looking at the Department of Food and Agriculture data. Chairman Cameron stated that their records were not complete but we could reach back out to them. Mr. Frisoli stated that the number of farms hasn’t changed. Mr. Goldberg stated that the obligation of the Committee is to look at the new numbers and plug into the statute. Commissioner Cameron stated that they could get a report on criteria # 5 (*number of breeding and training farms of each industry in the Commonwealth*) out to committee members to review by the next meeting.

Chairman Reilly suggested receiving position papers from each industry. Commissioner Cameron stated that it was a legitimate request to help understand their perspectives. Mr. Frisoli stated he would be happy to supply one but he would need about six weeks. Mr. Goldberg stated that any decision we make be retroactive to the start of racing – April 11th. He stated that it is not fair if we take six months to make a decision. Commissioner



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Cameron noted that the request from HHANE is over a year old. Mr. Fisoli stated that we don't have the statutory authority to make something retroactive.

Chairman Reilly suggested a framework to get work done. Commissioner Cameron stated that it may be difficult to meet in April and suggested May. Shawn Collins suggested accepting written comments on the split. Chairman Reilly suggested the following schedule: May 3rd - meeting to discuss matters before the legislature and MGC report; May 18th - position papers and written public comments due; and June 7th - meeting to discuss position papers and comments received. General Counsel Catherine Blue explained the process for posting the letter and request for public comments.

Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Gayle Cameron. Motion seconded by Peter Goldberg. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

List of documents and other items used at the meeting:

1. Draft Horse Racing Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 2, 2014
2. M.G.L. 23K § 60 - Race Horse Development Fund
3. 205 CMR 149.00 - Race Horse Development Fund
4. Decision and Report of the Horse Racing Committee, dated October 27, 2014
5. Letter from Michael Perpall (Harness Horseman's Association of New England) to General Counsel Catherine Blue (Massachusetts Gaming Commission), dated February 7, 2015, regarding Horse Racing Committee/Race Horse Development Fund

/s/ Ellen Cassidy _____
Ellen Cassidy
Secretary



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