

1 THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
2 MASSACHUSETTS GAMING COMMISSION

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING #83

5
6 CHAIRMAN

7 Stephen P. Crosby

8
9 COMMISSIONERS

10 Gayle Cameron

11 Bruce W. Stebbins

12 Enrique Zuniga

13 -----
14 RE: PUBLIC INPUT PENN NATIONAL GAMING PROPOSAL

15
16 October 22, 2013, 4:00 p.m.

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18 100 Randall Road

19 Wrentham, Massachusetts
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S :

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3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I don't mean to
4 make like of your time. A lot of people here
5 have gone out of their way to come and talk. We
6 take it seriously. I apologize for being late.
7 Our other Commissioner will be here in just a
8 minute.

9 Let me just do a few introductory
10 comments. First of all, I'm Steve Crosby. I'm
11 the Chair of the Mass. Gaming Commission. I
12 know you can all read, but just in case. We are
13 joined by Bruce Stebbins and Gayle Cameron who
14 are two of the other three. And Enrique Zuniga
15 will be here shortly. Commissioner Jim McHugh
16 is in Philadelphia at a conference.

17 We will have a transcript taken
18 today of all of our remarks, every word that is
19 spoken. That will be available publicly. In
20 addition, our consultants are here doing sort of
21 highlight notes so that the one Commissioner who
22 is not here will be able to get the highlights
23 of what is said without having to go through the
24 entire transcript.

1 This meeting is one of two meetings
2 that we'll be having, public meetings, about the
3 proposal for Plainville. The Legislature in the
4 law calls for a meeting that will be held in the
5 host community in Plainville. I don't think we
6 have formally scheduled that, but it will be
7 sometime in the next couple of weeks, couple or
8 three weeks. That one will also be open to the
9 public. That is mandated by law.

10 But we thought there's enough
11 controversy about all of these issues, pro and
12 con, all of these proposals, that we wanted as
13 much opportunity for people to speak as we could
14 possibly get. So, we decided to have this
15 additional meeting held in one of the
16 surrounding or potential surrounding
17 communities.

18 We also have a website in which we
19 invite comments. I have brought with me all of
20 the comments that you all sent to. Bob Cutler,
21 Erin Earnest, Joe Fernandes, Charles Woodhams,
22 Wendy Chermesio, we've read all of this. All of
23 us read all of these comments. And we take it
24 seriously. So, we hope you will feel free to

1 use the website as a further means of
2 communicating with us. This one is obviously
3 because it's live is particularly important.

4 We are limiting this. We are
5 limiting comments from people to just this
6 proposal in Plainville. There's an opportunity
7 for the Raynham proposal and all of the other
8 proposals that have come before us. And people
9 who want to speak to other proposals can speak
10 in those environments. But these comments are
11 limited to just the Plainville proposal.

12 We are hoping that we will be able
13 to keep -- I am not sure how many speakers.
14 There is a sign-up sheet, which is coming. Is
15 this the total so far? Okay.

16 So, at the moment, we've only got
17 about 10 or 15. Last night we had 40 or 50.
18 So, this might go all right. Nevertheless, I
19 hope we would be able to have individuals keep
20 your remarks to three or four minutes. And
21 people who represent organizations maybe another
22 couple of minutes past that.

23 We have told everybody however, that
24 because we want people who got out of work at

1 5:00 or 5:30 that they have an opportunity to
2 comment. So, even if you are done talking, we
3 will wait until 6:00 and make sure that they
4 aren't people who are at work who want to have
5 an opportunity to speak.

6 The only other sort of ground rule
7 is we'd ask you to give your name and your
8 address when you speak. We would like to have
9 people speak only who are here coming from
10 either the host community or one of the arguably
11 surrounding communities. If you are from
12 another place outside of the surrounding
13 community area, there are other opportunities to
14 speak. But this is for the people who are
15 arguably the most affected and who really most
16 of all need the opportunity to speak.

17 Other than that we are here
18 obviously you'll hopefully be respectful. These
19 are some important big issues. People have
20 strong opinions one way or the other. And
21 hopefully everybody will be respectful of
22 everybody else's opinion.

23 With that said, I think we are ready
24 to start. And we usually ask our distinguished

1 elected officials to go first. And I do believe
2 we have Representative Poirier here. And we
3 would welcome your comments

4 MS. POIRIER: Thank you very much.
5 It's a pleasure to be here. Thank you for being
6 here in Wrentham Chairman Crosby, Commissioners.
7 My name is Betty Poirier. I'm a State
8 Representative from the 14th Bristol district,
9 which includes all of North Attleboro and parts
10 of Mansfield and Attleboro. And I have to say
11 that previously I have also represented
12 Plainville. So, I'm very familiar with the area
13 and the people.

14 I want to start on a very positive
15 note and tell you how happy I am that you are
16 here and you are listening to all of those who
17 are coming to express their feelings. I want
18 you to know that Plainridge Racetrack is
19 located, I like to say, in the center of the
20 universe. There is no other place quite like
21 it. It is at the intersection of several of our
22 major highways. So, it's very accessible.

23 It also has several major venues in
24 the area. We have Comcast. We have TPC Golf

1 Course. We have Gillette Stadium, of course.
2 We have the Wrentham Outlets, Emerald Square
3 Mall. And of course, Plainridge Racetrack, soon
4 to be a wonderful slot parlor for all to come
5 and enjoy.

6 And it seems to make a great deal of
7 sense that this becomes and is a destination
8 area. So that people would come and take
9 advantage of all of the venues that exist in
10 this area and have very easy access and egress
11 without a great deal of need to go through the
12 various communities. So, I can't imagine in my
13 wildest dreams that you would choose anything
14 else but this area for this one application.

15 Beyond that, I have had the
16 opportunity to meet the individuals from Penn
17 National who are going to be running the
18 facility. And I have found them to be very
19 professional, to have a tremendous background,
20 not only in the casino end, but in the racing
21 end, which is extremely important to our area.

22 We have many more horse breeding
23 farms in the area. We have so many people
24 engaged in the economy of racing, whether it's

1 the horse breeders, the hay farms, the vets, the
2 tack shops. They are extended over the area
3 into Rehoboth and Seekonk and the immediate
4 surrounds. And to lose that racetrack would be
5 a tremendous hit to the economy in our area and
6 would put hundreds of people out of work. So, I
7 have great concerns about.

8 To get back to the folks who would
9 run it. I am very impressed with how they have
10 reached out to every group in the entire area,
11 the business community, the YMCAs, to us, to
12 elected officials. They have made it a point to
13 speak with everyone and anyone who will listen
14 to them. To explain what it is they're planning
15 on doing, to explain their background, and how
16 they have been involved in the past.

17 And I find them to be very
18 respectful and to listen and quite opposite to
19 what you would think people involved in the
20 casino industry would be like.

21 So, I did want to come and tell you
22 that I am very much in favor of this facility
23 locating at Plainridge for many reasons. But
24 one of the reasons mainly is the town of

1 Plainville can certainly use the income that
2 they will derive from this endeavor, and for all
3 of the people who depend upon it for their
4 livelihood.

5 It will be very disastrous if that
6 racetrack closes. It's the only one left in our
7 state. I think it is very important that we
8 keep it active and properly run. And I believe
9 the background that these folks have in that
10 area will be very important to keeping it
11 running as a wonderful facility, safe. And the
12 planning for the building there is amazing. So,
13 it will add tremendously to our area.

14 So, I encourage you in your
15 deliberations to think of all of these aspects,
16 and how the public is here and more will come.
17 And how we have provided for so many of their
18 needs in this area, hotels, restaurants as well
19 as all of the entertainment facilities.

20 So, I thank you for listening. I
21 hope you have a very nice evening here. And if
22 you want some recommendations about where to eat
23 afterwards, I would happy to provide them.
24 Thank you for your work. I know it's difficult.

1 Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you, I
3 appreciate you coming. Thank you. I believe we
4 also have Representative Howitt.

5 MR. HOWITT: Good afternoon. Thank
6 you for allowing me to come out of turn. Last
7 time I was before you was in Lakeville at a
8 library as well. I am here to speak --

9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: I got lost that
10 night too.

11 MR. HOWITT: I think you need some
12 GPS in your car. I am here to -- Unfortunately,
13 I follow Betty at most events. And she usually
14 covers everything and does it so eloquently.

15 So, I'll speak a little bit from my
16 district. I represent the fourth Bristol, which
17 is Seekonk, Rehoboth, Norton and Swansea. And
18 Representative Poirier just alluded to Seekonk
19 and Rehoboth.

20 Rehoboth is 48 square miles, In
21 fact, Seekonk and parts of Swansea were part of
22 Rehoboth. It was incorporated in about 1645.
23 It's the birthplace of public education. But
24 it's also a place where there's a vast majority

1 of horses. I've been told over 2000 horses. We
2 have breeding farms. Some are thoroughbred and
3 some trotters as well, a lot of open space.

4 We have a lot of farms. It's a
5 right to farm community. We have a lot of
6 businesses that are dependent on the horse
7 industry in Rehoboth, not only the farmers who
8 farm hay and other foods that are used for
9 horses, the woodchips and the clay that are used
10 in the stables. The fuel for the trucks that
11 carry the trailers that carry the horses. It
12 just goes on and on and on with the number of
13 businesses, ancillary businesses that are
14 affected by having horses.

15 And these horses, many of them are
16 used for racing. And they are bred in
17 Massachusetts in Rehoboth, close by to
18 Plainridge, which is an advantage for them
19 because they don't have to travel too far to
20 bring their horses to race.

21 Now I have gone to Plainridge. I
22 have walked inside the paddocks. I've seen the
23 horses. I've been in the building. I don't
24 know about you, but if I go to a restaurant

1 sometimes I go to the men's room or a lot of
2 times to wash my hands before I eat. You can
3 tell a lot about a place by just the quality and
4 the cleanliness of their restrooms. And I have
5 to say that Plainridge has some very clean
6 restrooms. And you walk into the paddock,
7 there's no smell whatsoever.

8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: We've been hearing
9 people speaking for a long, long time, pros and
10 cons. And this is a new one on us.
11 Commissioners, don't forget this one.

12 MR. HOWITT: Well, you should have
13 heard my speech on Title V when I had that
14 before the Legislature, which has to do with
15 septic systems.

16 But I was recently at a Chamber of
17 Commerce day in Taunton. Plainridge, they were
18 already supporting the Chamber of Commerce, the
19 Tri-County Chamber of Commerce, I believe it
20 was. They had a booth there. They're a quality
21 operation. First of all, they're from
22 Pennsylvania and I believe an American company.
23 A lot of these gambling companies, if you look
24 at where they are from, it seems Macau or

1 someplace offshore. So, I think it's very
2 important that we take that into account.

3 Secondly, it is economics. We do
4 need this in our area. The Southcoast right now
5 is going with the compact. As you are aware,
6 that may take years because of the Carcieri
7 legislation or the Carcieri ruling, which has
8 made it very difficult for the Indians to be
9 recognized on a national level.

10 So, while we have other casinos in
11 other parts of the state that are already going
12 through the process, your process, the Indians
13 in the Southcoast, it may take years before we
14 see something.

15 The other issue is Twin River. With
16 Massachusetts speaking about gaming that was the
17 best thing that happened to Twin River because
18 they were able to push through table games
19 because they were so afraid of losing
20 Massachusetts. Over 50 percent of the cars
21 are Massachusetts cars.

22 Plainridge is in the perfect
23 location to siphon back our Massachusetts
24 residents who prefer to stay in Massachusetts

1 instead of going over the border into Rhode
2 Island.

3 That being said, I think we have a
4 perfect match here. We have a company that is
5 the largest horseracing company, I believe, in
6 the United States. I hate to use the expression
7 but it's a win-win situation for not only
8 Plainridge and the communities but also for
9 Massachusetts as a whole and the industry.

10 So, I hope you will take that into
11 consideration that there are many families that
12 are dependent just alone on the horseracing
13 aside from the ancillary businesses that this
14 would provide. So, I'd appreciate your
15 consideration and thank you again for taking me
16 out of turn.

17 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Are there any
22 other elected officials here, state or local?
23 We do have some town managers, town
24 administrators. Mark Fisher for North

1 Attleboro.

2 MR. FISHER: Thank you very much,
3 Chairman. My name is Mark Fisher. I am a
4 resident of North Attleboro and I am the town
5 administrator in the town.

6 First of all, let me start off
7 saying I have with us this evening Joan
8 Marchitto of the board of selectmen North
9 Attleboro is with us. Obviously, we are here in
10 support of Plainville. North Attleboro has and
11 will continue to do everything we possibly can
12 do to assist them in this endeavor. We work
13 very closely with the town of Plainville. We
14 share a lot of resources, sewer systems, water,
15 even fire services and so forth.

16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: How are your
17 bathrooms?

18 MR. FISHER: About the same. Health
19 insurance, for example, a joint purchase group
20 together. So, we understand what Plainville's
21 needs are. And if there is ever a town that
22 this would be a tremendous benefit to them,
23 there's no doubt about it this would be a
24 tremendous boost to them. And also to the area.

1 North Attleboro's concern in all of
2 this is traffic. Basically, mainly it's the 152
3 corridor. It is an area that has a lot of
4 economic areas building up in it, restaurants,
5 stores and so forth. And we see issues that are
6 developing now.

7 We have a plan. We've spent a lot
8 of time and effort along with Southeastern
9 Regional Planning and Economic Development
10 District in helping us develop a build out plan
11 for 152. And we have a lot of great plans for
12 it. We've applied for various grants and so
13 forth for that.

14 Unfortunately, we don't know what
15 the effect of this is going to be. It's kind of
16 like Route 28 down at the Cape. Sometimes a lot
17 of traffic is good for business and sometimes it
18 isn't. People stay away because of it. So,
19 that's of concern. What is going to happen to
20 that whole area which abuts Plainville?

21 We also have probably around 500
22 homes that are developments that come onto Route
23 152 in that immediate area. And we are
24 concerned about their ability to be able to

1 traverse. So, that and Route 1 but 152 is a
2 bigger problem or concern for us.

3 Unfortunately, because of the timing
4 of things, we met with representatives of your
5 Commission and with Plainridge and with
6 Southeastern Regional Planning Economic
7 Development District quite a few months ago.
8 And what we thought was going to be available to
9 us for assistance in the way of planning and so
10 forth and did not come to be.

11 We are under a very tight schedule
12 with this new application. And I will tell you
13 that getting past that and working with Penn
14 National has been in a very positive experience.
15 They have been very cooperative with us. We
16 have had several negotiations back and forth and
17 working on an agreement. And I think we are
18 very close to having that come to a completion.
19 We think we can address the things that are
20 important to try to deal with the outcome in the
21 future.

22 So, with that I try to lay out to
23 you where we're at. We support Plainville and
24 are willing to do anything to assist them. We

1 think it's a tremendous place for it. We have a
2 lot of residents who work up at the racecourse
3 now. And it's a source of revenue, their main
4 source of income.

5 We look forward to that happening,
6 but at the same time we are very concerned about
7 the traffic impact on Route 152. Thank you very
8 much for your time.

9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Bob Cutler acting
14 town manager for Foxboro.

15 MR. CUTLER: Mr. Chairman,
16 Commissioners, thank you for your time. My name
17 is Bob Cutler. I'm acting town manager in
18 Foxboro, also the town clerk. I want to take a
19 moment and recognize one of the best town clerks
20 in the area, Ellen Robertson from Plainville.
21 Also want to thank Mr. Ziemba. He was very
22 instrumental and came out and met with our Board
23 of Selectmen a couple of times. We appreciate
24 the time.

1 We've had an opportunity to meet
2 with Penn National and Plainridge. And we're in
3 the process of developing a plan with them.
4 Hopefully, we'll be successful in completing a
5 surrounding community agreement. Some of the
6 concerns that we have, there are three mainly.
7 Traffic, we don't have as much of a traffic
8 issue as North Attleboro but we do have some
9 side streets that would be cut offs, West Street
10 and Spring Street. We've got some concerns
11 about that.

12 Also, we share an aquifer with
13 Plainville, Witch Pond, the 10-mile aquifer.
14 And we have some concerns about development in
15 the area that would lead to some issues for the
16 water problems for the town.

17 But mostly, it's the social impacts.
18 We feel that based upon the work that's done on
19 behalf of the town of Plainville that shows that
20 in the first two years there will be a five
21 percent increase in problem gambling that will
22 level out to three percent over the years. That
23 includes a 10-mile radius.

24 Foxboro as an abutting community

1 would be well within that 10-mile radius. We've
2 got some concerns about any social service needs
3 that result from problem gambling, alcoholism,
4 bankruptcies, things like that. So, we'd like
5 to make sure that things are addressed.

6 I understand that the Commission has
7 set up a fund for some problem gambling, but
8 don't know that that would be sufficient to
9 cover the area communities as well. So, those
10 are the concerns that the town is looking to
11 address. We would appreciate any assistance
12 from the Commission.

13 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you very
14 much. The Commission will eventually when
15 things are up and running have \$15-\$20 million a
16 year to deal with the issue principally of
17 problem gambling.

18 In the United States, up to this
19 last year in 2012 there was a total of \$58
20 million spent on problem gambling all across the
21 United States. We will have \$15-\$20 million for
22 our one state. So, there certainly is a mandate
23 from the Legislature to pay real attention to
24 this. And we are investing very heavily in

1 that.

2 Jeff Nutting, I think, is also here,
3 another town manager.

4 MR. NUTTING: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman, members of the Commission. I'm Jeff
6 Nutting, Town Administrator in Franklin. I
7 think this is a wonderful proposal. However, I
8 am seeking a surrounding community status with
9 the proponent. To date that hasn't happened.
10 I'm hopeful it will. But if it doesn't, I'll be
11 looking to the Commission only to protect our
12 revenues.

13 We are the closest community, six
14 miles up the road. We have three hotels that
15 produce a half-million dollars in tax revenue.
16 We want to make sure that doesn't decline.
17 Hopefully, it will improve. We also collect
18 over \$450,000 in meal tax. Again, I would hope
19 to get a hold harmless community agreement to
20 insure that the benefits that come to the
21 Commonwealth and to the surrounding communities
22 isn't at the detriment of the town of Franklin
23 and its taxpayers.

24 Hopefully, I can work out something

1 with the developer in the next month. If not, I
2 will be petitioning you folks for consideration.
3 We all need to do well in this. We just don't
4 want to be hurt. Hopefully, it will go forward.

5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Okay,
6 Erin Earnst Woodside Park Neighborhood
7 Association.

8 MS. EARNST: Good afternoon, I'm
9 Erin Earnst. I live in Foxboro, Massachusetts.
10 Actually just a neighborhood that is about three
11 miles from here. It's a neighborhood of about
12 25 residential homes. We are two miles from the
13 proposed Plainridge Park Casino. It's actually
14 one mile as the crow flies. So, we are right in
15 the thick of things.

16 Thank you so much for coming out or
17 neck of the woods. Sorry that you got lost. I
18 have been following your work and your mission.
19 And that participatory part of your mission is
20 here embodied right now. So, thank you very
21 much for that.

22 I am bringing a different
23 perspective as a resident, as someone whose
24 daily life and the lives of the neighborhoods

1 that people are raising children and living day
2 to day will be impacted by the proposed
3 Plainridge Park Casino. That's the perspective
4 I'm bringing here.

5 You are faced with three different
6 applications for this Category 2 license.
7 Something that stood out to me as I started to
8 sort through the pages and pages of especially
9 the attachments to what Penn National has
10 proposed is the vicinity report. And I have the
11 exact number. I think it was a section two. I
12 pulled it up on my iPad here.

13 Just the image where it's the five-
14 mile radius -- I'll show everyone that one. --
15 What is it labeled as? Anyway, I invite you to
16 really look at that. Because for me that is the
17 heart of what we're talking about.

18 I know we can't go back in time. I
19 know the legislators considered this model and
20 considered thinking okay, let's have this five-
21 mile radius of people vote and decide if they
22 want to bring this into their area. And that
23 didn't happen. So, I know we can't go back in
24 time.

1 But what we can do is really look at
2 the three different proposals that you have in
3 front of you and take into account the
4 population density, the ages of the populations
5 in these areas, really take that into
6 consideration. So, I invite you to look at that
7 vicinity map.

8 That also brings me to the point of
9 as we are starting to for the very first time
10 look at what Penn National has proposed. It
11 seems like -- I don't need to tell you that the
12 process has played out here differently than in
13 other areas. The elected officials and the
14 lawyers from the town can tell you I've been
15 going to the meetings. I have been asking
16 questions.

17 Unfortunately, those meetings were
18 with representatives from Ourway Realty. There
19 was one meeting, it was the Thursday before the
20 Tuesday vote where Penn National came and they
21 said that they were keeping -- the proposal was
22 exactly the same as Ourway Realty. The one
23 change they did say was that they were going
24 switch things around a little bit on the floor

1 of the facility because they do things a little
2 bit differently. And that's what was presented
3 to the voters in Plainville and the people like
4 me who live in the surrounding towns and are
5 concerned.

6 When they presented to you I think
7 it was October 4 when they presented to you in
8 their presentation, they presented things that
9 were never presented to the voters of Plainville
10 and to the people in the surrounding towns. One
11 of the things that they presented that wasn't
12 part of anything, it seems like a small thing,
13 but the name of the facility. It went from
14 being Plainridge Park to being Plainridge Park
15 Casino.

16 I went back to my notes and what had
17 come out on the website that was never what the
18 facility was called. And in fact, I didn't pull
19 the notes but the planning board meetings that I
20 attended in Plainville, I was actually
21 emphatically told by the representatives from
22 the applicant at the time that it was not a
23 casino. And so, I think it's important to note
24 that change.

1 Another significant change is that
2 Penn National has a database of 4.3 million
3 active users of their product, active customers.
4 And that's something that is a significant
5 difference from Ourway Realty and something that
6 was never presented to the people making up
7 their mind, the people that live in Plainville.
8 And actually, I looked up Plainville and it's
9 just a little over 11 square miles.

10 In terms of who was making the
11 decision, the people that live in those 11
12 square miles were not told that 4.3 million
13 people would be invited into their community
14 through direct mailings and through whatever
15 marketing things that Penn National has. And
16 that seems very significant to me.

17 All of the studies funded by the
18 town of Plainville were not based on that volume
19 of people being attracted to the facility. And
20 so, I invite you to consider and the surrounding
21 communities as people are looking at what was --
22 research that was done to study the impact of
23 the casino, in particular the research done by
24 Covington Associates on the impact, never took

1 into account the 4.3 million people who were
2 going to be marketed to. So, that is something
3 that really stood out to me in the proposal.

4 The third thing that stood out to me
5 is that the goal to become, I think, the quote
6 is entertainment hub. Again, at the meetings
7 that we attended that was something of great
8 concern, especially of public safety concerns.

9 All of us that live here within the
10 vicinity know what it's like when there's a
11 large event at Gillette Stadium, when it's
12 midnight shopping at the Wrentham Outlets. We
13 live here. We know that traffic patterns. We
14 know what happens. That was a concern that I
15 had raised and other people that live within the
16 vicinity had raised during the process where the
17 applicant was taking questions.

18 And the applicant at the time was
19 Ourway Realty. And they said they would not be
20 -- They actually considered game days, Patriot
21 game days to be days when they actually wouldn't
22 have a lot of activity.

23 Then for the very first time, voters
24 never heard this information and the first time

1 concerned people heard it was in the
2 presentation to you when Penn National presented
3 their play and stay packages, their partnerships
4 that they're building with Gillette Stadium,
5 with TPC, with Wrentham Outlets. That was the
6 very first time that this concept of
7 entertainment hub was ever presented.

8 The idea of setting up a tent in the
9 middle of the grounds at the track and having
10 ticketed events, in their proposal they were
11 showing that as being a positive. But to the
12 people who were asked to vote and we know the
13 way the legislation was written, that was the
14 first time it was brought into our state without
15 people voting, they were never given that
16 information.

17 So, I think it's significant to note
18 that because of the way the process played out
19 that 60 to 90 days wasn't given to the people
20 like me, like the other concerned citizens. So,
21 I think that that's significant to note.

22 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Excuse me. This
23 is interesting stuff, but you are taking a
24 pretty long time.

1 MS. EARNST: Sure. I'm at my very
2 final point here. Actually, my final point is
3 something I'm very respectful of your time and
4 the role, but Chairman Crosby you said something
5 recently on TV that really struck home with me.
6 It was on the NECN interview. I don't know if
7 you remember it, but you said that you wouldn't
8 want a casino close to where you live. I invite
9 you to think about people that also feel the
10 same way that you do. So, thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you,
12 Marianne Grenier? Is she here? Collin Earnst.

13 MS. EARNST: He's coming from work.

14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: All right. Arthur
15 Roy.

16 MR. ROY: Good afternoon, Arthur
17 Roy, 74 Warren Street, Plainville. Thank you
18 Commissioners for having this form. I'm a 36-
19 year resident of Plainville, 33 years in the
20 Plainville Lions Club.

21 I want to speak today, first of all,
22 Lions and what Plainridge and Penn National has
23 meant to us. We've been meeting there for quite
24 a few years but for the 15 years that they've

1 been in existence, they've been a major
2 contributing supporter to Plainville Lions. A
3 lot of those funds that they donate to the club
4 goes to many different areas of the town. To
5 community groups, I should say, things like the
6 Boy Scouts, DECCA at the high school. We give
7 out Christmas and Thanksgiving food baskets for
8 the needy, Christmas gifts and senior citizens
9 dinner, on and on and on.

10 And a lot of those things that we do
11 scholarships and a lot of those things we do
12 wouldn't take place unless we had the great
13 support of Plainridge.

14 On another note, back in '05, I was
15 the chairman of Plainville Centennial
16 Commission, the committee. And we had a
17 tremendous celebration. It was in great effort
18 in working with Plainridge over those years, and
19 with their support towards our Centennial.

20 We've also at Plainridge, not only
21 like I said there's a local Lions Club meeting
22 there but they have also hosted many wide area
23 district meetings. So, yes, it is strategically
24 located. So Lions Clubs can go there. So,

1 they've had positive impact.

2 Another thing I want to mention is
3 that -- to get off Lions for a minute and just
4 as a resident, I guess Penn National would like
5 to -- has an agreement to fund the impact study
6 one year after opening to the area communities
7 to actually see what the real impact is, not
8 supposedly responding to these what-if scenario
9 that's happening right now. So, I like that
10 process.

11 And since you'll be coming to
12 Plainville in a few weeks, I'll hold more
13 comments. But one final comment I want to
14 mention that is if I'm correct there are 351
15 cities and towns in Massachusetts. I believe
16 they all have lottery, they all have gambling
17 now. There's only three that have simulcasting.
18 There's only two that have live racing.

19 So, Plainville has had a 15-year
20 history of success without any major issues that
21 I know. So, we've already had the gambling.
22 There's already gamblers in the area because of
23 its location. I think they've done a very good
24 job. Like I said, I haven't heard of any major

1 incidents with gambling or any residual effect
2 of having those 15 years of simulcast as well
3 live racing. Thanks for listening. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you for
5 coming. Jack Lank.

6 MR. LANK: Good afternoon, my name
7 is Jack Lank. I am the president of the United
8 Regional Chamber of Commerce that covers 16
9 communities from Seekonk to Franklin. We cover
10 all of the communities that surround Plainville.

11 And one of the things that has
12 impressed us the most -- I am here representing
13 my Board of Directors who has given 100 percent
14 support to this effort. One of the things that
15 has impressed us the most is they have reached
16 out to all concerned individuals, towns,
17 organizations. They've made themselves
18 available to answer any questions, any concerns
19 that we have had.

20 We have about 650 members, business
21 members. The biggest things that we are looking
22 at is we are looking at 500 jobs coming to this
23 area. Everybody in this room sitting behind me
24 knows somebody who is unemployed. Bringing 500

1 jobs to the area plus the ripple effect that it
2 will have with all of our small businesses in
3 the area.

4 When they come here for
5 entertainment, they come here for gambling,
6 whatever it is, they need to buy coffee, they
7 need to buy lunch. They need to buy dinner.
8 They need to buy milk and bread when they go
9 home. That means that they are going to stop at
10 all of my small businesses that surround this
11 area.

12 One of the things that Penn National
13 has agreed to do is they are going to use 40
14 percent of all local vendors. They've actually
15 set up with us for a reverse vendor fair so that
16 they can come and interview most of my members
17 to use all of the services that they are going
18 to need from graphic artists to signs to
19 catering. All of that is going to be used here
20 in the local area.

21 For every dollar that is spent in
22 this area, \$.68 goes back into that community.
23 So, they are going to give the opportunity for
24 not only Plainville but all of the surrounding

1 communities, an economic opportunities to
2 enhance themselves and to enhance all of the
3 communities around.

4 So, we strongly recommend that you
5 look at this proposal and we hope that you will
6 approve this one. Thank you very much for your
7 time.

8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Chris Murphy.

13 MR. MURPHY: Good afternoon, my name
14 is Chris Murphy. I live in Plainville at 18
15 Bacon Square. I am the chairman for the People
16 for Plainridge committee. We are a grassroots
17 committee of Plainville citizens set up to
18 promote the interests in the Plainridge Racing
19 facility and the proposal put forward by Penn
20 National.

21 We right now as a town and
22 Plainridge literally are at a crossroads.
23 Plainridge at a very, very ideal crossroads
24 regarding their location and us as a town

1 citizenry at a crossroads with which way we want
2 to go.

3 We have a great opportunity in my
4 opinion and the opinions of hundreds if not
5 thousands of people that I have spoken to over
6 the past eight to six months feel that this
7 opportunity is one we cannot let go.

8 Those opposed feel that there are
9 significant problems. Are the problems as bad
10 as they say, probably not. Are things going to
11 be as phenomenal and great as we say, the
12 proponents, probably not. There's got to be
13 some middle ground there.

14 And with regard to the challenges
15 that we undoubtedly will face, we as a
16 grassroots community and a grassroots group are
17 significantly and very much dedicated to
18 addressing those challenges be they traffic or
19 social ills or the aquifer. That was a new one
20 on me. These things come with the growth. We
21 are one of, if not one of the busiest corridors
22 in our country. This is a phenomenal place to
23 live. It is not a secret. People want to come
24 here.

1 How we handle that growth as a group
2 of citizens will depend directly on our
3 involvement. And we as a citizen group are
4 committed to involving ourselves in meeting the
5 challenges that this growth will bring. And I
6 can't stress enough how important it is for the
7 economic side of our town as well, which some
8 have already said and others will say after me
9 undoubtedly.

10 So, with the known growth that is
11 going to come anyway, if we control it, we are
12 better off for it. If we embrace it and
13 prudently address it, we're going to be in a
14 good place when this comes our way. Thank you
15 very much.

16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. Dale
17 Bergevine.

18 MR. BERGEVINE: Thank you for coming
19 out to the community. I appreciate it. I am a
20 55-year resident. Plainville is 108 and I am 55
21 years old. I know I don't look it, but I am 55.

22 As Arthur made a point, the track's
23 been there 15 years. Gambling has been there 15
24 years. There has been nobody coming forward for

1 the last 15 years complaining about gambling at
2 the track. Obviously, Chris mentioned or
3 someone mentioned about the lottery. I'll be
4 very short and brief. Taking consideration we
5 were dead in the water. Penn stepped in within
6 eight days, eight days. We got 76 percent of
7 the vote.

8 I am a member of the People for
9 Plainridge, People for Plainville. We worked
10 hard. The people came out. The people of
11 Plainville spoke. They want this. We need
12 this. This will be a death sentence if we don't
13 get it. We are going to lose the track. We are
14 going to lose the horse farms. We are going to
15 lose everything in our community and
16 surrounding.

17 Like I said, I love Plainville. I'm
18 a townie. I'll be proud to admit it. It's a
19 great community to live in. Plainridge has been
20 great to our town and our people.

21 The traffic, I'm going to be very
22 professional and try. It's amusing to me that
23 Foxboro is here complaining about traffic. We
24 are a postage stamp between North Attleboro,

1 Wrentham and Foxboro. On game day, I will not
2 go on the other side of town because I know.
3 And I hear about drinking, 80,000 people getting
4 looped up there on all of these events and
5 getting drunk. I don't hear any Foxboro
6 residents talking about that because that's
7 their moneymaker for their community. This is
8 the moneymaker and it's in our community now.
9 And I really respect and hope you say yes to
10 Plainridge, because it's our future. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Debbie Stewart.

13 MS. STEWART: Hi. In all fairness,
14 thank you for allowing me to speak. In all
15 fairness, I have to say I am Dale's sister.

16 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Whose sister?

17 MS. STEWART: Dale, he just spoke.
18 That's why I just put Stewart. And I'm sorry,
19 but you do look 55.

20 I live at 44 Neponset Heights Avenue
21 in Foxboro. Plainville is my hometown. I spent
22 the first 19 years of my life here. Plainville
23 will always have my heart. I wasn't going to
24 come up and speak after I wrote my name down

1 because Mrs. Poirier, Representative Poirier
2 said everything that I had that I wanted to
3 speak on.

4 However, after hearing another
5 Foxboro resident speak, I felt as though you
6 should hear the opposite side of it. Not
7 everyone in Foxboro is against this. In fact, I
8 think if you were to take a poll and people were
9 honest and didn't have to let their neighbors
10 know what they thought, you would find out that
11 Foxboro is probably 70 percent for this.

12 Because my heart is with Plainville
13 I know the infrastructure. I know the problems
14 that are in the town. The police department,
15 the fire department, the town hall, they all
16 work in very tight close quarters. So, this
17 money that they are going to get, this revenue
18 is going to go far for those particular issues
19 as well as the schools.

20 I just think that as many people
21 have said before me, you couldn't find a better
22 more central location. I do not believe that
23 the back roads in Foxboro are going to be
24 impacted from this. You came here in a GPS

1 system. Did it send you down a back road?

2 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Not until I got
3 out here, no.

4 MS. STEWART: But anybody coming out
5 to Plainridge is going to go north or south on
6 Route 1 to get where you want to go. You're
7 going to go either 495 to 95 or 495 north.

8 That's just my personal opinion. I
9 don't even go on my own back roads because they
10 are horrendous.

11 I was a little disappointed to hear
12 our acting town manager and we have two
13 selectmen here not standing up and saying that
14 they're for this. I'm concerned that they are
15 more concerned more about money aspect and
16 mitigation.

17 I've heard several others, town
18 managers come in and say they want to look at
19 the mitigation but they said that they thought
20 it would be for the area. It think it's going
21 to be good for the horsemen and it's going to be
22 very economically good for this area.

23 So, I ask you to please, please
24 seriously consider this. And consider the fact

1 that not everyone in Foxboro is against it.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Jennifer Keene.

6 MS. KEENE: Hi, I'm Jennifer Keene
7 of 17 Windsor Drive in Foxboro. Up until about
8 five months ago, I lived in Plainville. I was
9 lucky enough to be able to move out of our
10 house. We took a hit, but we needed to get out.
11 I lived on Route 152. It's about a half a mile
12 from Plainridge Park.

13 I have two young children and I was
14 worried about the drunk driving 18 hours a day
15 of free alcohol and people driving down Route
16 152. Traffic studies can say whatever they want
17 people drive down 152 all of the time. People
18 going to Attleboro, Mansfield, North Attleboro
19 are always driving down that road.

20 When Target and Lowe's went in,
21 traffic increased about ninefold. So, adding
22 Plainridge -- adding a casino into Plainridge
23 Park would be kind of detrimental to Route 152.

24 And I'll just keep it brief. I'm

1 really worried -- I've read a lot of studies
2 that say housing prices decrease about 20
3 percent within a couple mile radius of a casino.
4 I was lucky enough to be able to sell. I know
5 neighbors are really worried about this. If
6 this goes in, they're worried they won't be able
7 to get out in time to not take a huge hit on
8 their house. Thank you for letting us speak.

9 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Larry Tilton.

13 MR. TILTON: Larry Tilton, Tilton
14 Associates. Members of the board --

15 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: You are from
16 where?

17 MR. TILTON: I'm actually wearing
18 four hats today. One and foremost, I'm a
19 resident of North Attleboro. I have been here
20 since 1970. I came here go to school in '65. I
21 went on to develop the house. So, I'm a
22 resident of North Attleboro.

23 My second hat is I am also a horse
24 owner. I actually raise and breed Morgan

1 horses, the predecessor to your breed. Mine
2 happen to be shown in a show ring but instead of
3 on the track. But we share the same feed
4 suppliers, the horseshoe people, the vets. So,
5 it's very important for me to maintain the
6 facilities and the suppliers to our breed.

7 My third hat is I own and operate
8 Tilton Associates. Tilton and my predecessor
9 company S and R Surveying has been involved in
10 this site since 1970. The original owners, the
11 Purcellas, it was a gravel pit.

12 Then Plainridge came along in the
13 90s, '96 area and transformed the existing
14 gravel pit into the racetrack that is there
15 today. When I stood before the Racing
16 Commission then and the place was nothing but a
17 mined out gravel pit and we had a mountain of
18 rock, the Commissioner at that time asked me
19 Larry, why do you think that moving Foxboro from
20 its present location to Plainville would be a
21 good move? And could you build it in six
22 months?

23 The answer to the Commissioner then
24 was because this area is known as the golden

1 triangle where 495, 95 295 and 146, it's
2 location, location and location.

3 How could I build it, because it's
4 rock. It's the middle of the winter and we're
5 going to blow it out and we're going to build
6 the track. We did it and we opened in '99.

7 Since that time, Plainridge has
8 worked with the town, the boards, every single
9 department through every single year. Any time
10 any change any alteration has to come before a
11 board, I have taken it before the boards. And I
12 have permitted it.

13 In 2010, we went for an expansion.
14 We permitted through all of the boards and we
15 achieved the permits. And we've been building
16 and that's where the garage is today of that
17 permit.

18 We are presently permitted for the
19 2012 permit for the expansion. We just
20 completed that. We're in the process of doing
21 the filing with your agency and all of the other
22 departments, all of the other notices of
23 intents, all of the conservation, all of the
24 environmental end of it.

1 Working with Plainridge has been an
2 absolute pleasure. It couldn't be better.
3 They've reached out to all of the other
4 agencies. We're heavily in the process right
5 now. My business is in North Attleboro. I
6 employ North Attleboro residents. I'm not as
7 large as I used to be, but I'm almost half as
8 large as I was before the crash. So, I'm in
9 good shape that way.

10 My last hat is I am also involved in
11 the Plainville North Attleboro Rotary Club. I'm
12 one of the major fundraisers. Plainridge has
13 always stepped to the plate. The last one is we
14 raffled off Corvettes. We've held it at
15 Gillette. We've held showings at the track.
16 We've held showings everywhere. The fundraiser
17 in Plainville has always been right there
18 waiting for us.

19 Penn has stepped in and no sign of
20 any change. The horse is the same. It is still
21 going. The provider is a little different.
22 Same type of attitude and manner. They're
23 involved in the Rotary. They've met with us at
24 Luciano's more than once where they've got an

1 open invitation. And they have all indications
2 that they are going to step right up, become
3 members which we are looking for and support
4 Rotary.

5 Again, it's location. location,
6 location. And that's just what Plainridge is.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Has Mr. Earnst
11 arrived? Marianne Grenier, has she arrived? I
12 have heard from her before. Joe Fernandes.

13 MR. FERNANDES: Good afternoon, Mr.
14 Chairman and fellow Commissioners. Thank you
15 again for visiting the region. I'm encouraged to
16 hear that you will have \$15-\$20 million to deal
17 with some of the social and psychological costs
18 because what this process has put me through,
19 I'll probably be one of the first customers.

20 This is a classic example of making
21 lemonade out of lemons. As you well know, a
22 very brief time ago we had another applicant.
23 It was a pretty disappointing period in our
24 history.

1 Instead today, we are, speaking for
2 myself and I think many of the people who have
3 already spoken, are just exuberant about the
4 additional promise that Penn shows. So, that
5 there is no misunderstanding, I had hoped to
6 attend the October 7 presentation, instead I was
7 tied up with a civil service hearing that took
8 much longer than it should have. But I had the
9 opportunity to watch it.

10 And I was just -- Thank you. She's
11 our treasurer. She's not keeping it. I was
12 just impressed with the cross marketing. To
13 Jeff Nutting's point from Franklin, I noted the
14 fact that they already have cross agreements
15 with the Hampton Inn in Franklin.

16 There is a concerted effort to
17 market the area, utilize the strengths in terms
18 of Gillette, Patriot Place, Wrentham Village
19 Outlet, Emerald Square Mall, the region in
20 general. This is light-years ahead of where
21 Ourway was in terms of their attempts to market
22 the area. So, I think that speaks well for the
23 applicant.

24 However, I am somewhat amused that

1 that is being used to their detriment. Let me
2 make one point clear. The town of Plainville
3 and the folks that voted on September 10 knew
4 full well what they were getting. We had a
5 process that was in place that talked about the
6 site, talked about what was anticipated at the
7 site in terms of expanded gaming. Yes, there
8 was no mention of Penn prior to seven or eight
9 days prior to the election, but nothing has
10 changed.

11 The concept of a casino, you know
12 better than I, there are no table games allowed
13 at a slot facility. I don't know what the
14 impact is of changing the term to casino but I
15 understand that the other two applicants have
16 done the same. Again, that's not my area of
17 expertise.

18 But the host community agreement
19 hasn't changed. The permitting at the planning
20 board has not changed. There's been some
21 mention, there's some shock that there may be
22 some outside activities. That was anticipated
23 in the special permit that the planning board
24 issued.

1 Clearly, within that special permit
2 there is stipulation that only those things that
3 are permitted through the board of selectmen who
4 is the licensing authority for outside
5 activities will be allowed. Nothing has changed
6 other than frankly for the better as I've
7 already mentioned.

8 Beyond that, the whole concept of
9 what surrounding communities are going to get or
10 not get is beyond my wheelhouse. I will leave
11 that to Penn and the respective communities.
12 Here again, we are thrilled that the change of
13 events. We hope that this thing is favorably
14 viewed by you folks as opposed to the two
15 competing applicants. And I hope that we will
16 see you in early December for the host community
17 agreement.

18 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you.

20 Anybody else sitting out there to speak? It's
21 just a little past five. I just wanted to read
22 off. We got a bunch of emails up until this
23 morning. There may have been others, but I just
24 wanted to read so people know. I'm not going to

1 read the emails, but just their names so people
2 know that we did pay attention. Jessica McHale
3 of North Attleboro, Nancy and Joe Crosby, no
4 relation Foxboro, Charles Woodhams in Wrentham,
5 Paul Tracey in North Attleboro, Deborah Stewart
6 from Foxboro, Philip Elliott, Cindy Treannie
7 from Foxboro, Jan Donaway, I'm sorry I'm not
8 sure where she's from, from Foxboro. Pamela
9 Hurley Foxboro, Patricia Caron Foxboro, Luke
10 Donaway Foxboro, Wendy Chermesio Foxboro, Austin
11 Joan not sure of the town, Denise McGovern North
12 Attleboro, Janet Kennedy Foxboro, Pam Onorato
13 North Attleboro, Wayne Perry I'm not sure where,
14 and Carl Bush from Plainville. So, I just
15 wanted everybody to know as I said, that we have
16 got them. We read them and we appreciate them.

17 We are going to wait for a while,
18 because as I said, there are may be people who
19 can't get here. And since we said we'll be
20 here, we'll be here. If anybody else wants to
21 speak, you're welcome. Otherwise, we'll just
22 take a brief -- Is that raising a hand? Come
23 right up.

24 MR. SHEPARDSON: Hi, Commissioners.

1 Welcome to the hood. Glad to have you here.

2 I want to represent the senior
3 citizens of Plainville.

4 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Name?

5 MR. SHEPARDSON, JR.: John J
6 Shepardson, Jr. better known as Jack, 7 Branch
7 Avenue, Plainville.

8 Just like my friend who can't write
9 right, I also live in Plainville and this is my
10 51st year. So, I'm familiar with what
11 everybody's talking about in relation to back
12 roads because I lived in Foxboro for 15, in
13 south Foxboro where these roads are.

14 To me they're a nonissue. But maybe
15 there'll be a one percent dip in there until
16 that happens. But anyway, I am interested in
17 seeing this going through from the seniors
18 perspective of it, because needless to say we
19 have a restricted cash flow problem. And to not
20 have this take place in our town would be, I
21 don't want to say catastrophic, but it would
22 mean that some of the seniors would have to go
23 from tuna fish to cat food. And that is
24 something we don't want to see in Plainville

1 specially me.

2 I certainly would hope that it would
3 stabilize the tax base that we have in
4 Plainville, because the last thing a senior
5 wants to do is die in a home with strangers.
6 Everybody would rather be at home when this
7 happens. As morbid as it may seem, yes, that
8 part of it.

9 The other part I'd like to talk
10 about is the horse people. I was fortunate to
11 win one of the championships in the community
12 race that we have at Plainridge. So, I got
13 involved with that. I met a lot of real nice
14 people that raise horses all the way through the
15 spectrum whether they're shoeing them or
16 whatever you do groom them and whatnot.

17 And I'm not going to tell them they
18 can't pursue their life's work. It's like
19 telling you, Commissioner Cameron, that you
20 can't play golf anymore because you've got
21 dangerous clubs. That's basically what it is
22 when you talk to a senior in that form. I just
23 want you to know that senior people are very
24 important not only just at voting time but

1 through the whole year and through the whole
2 process.

3 When it comes to devaluing homes,
4 all I can say is we've got the biggest landfill
5 in Massachusetts that could be like a volcano.
6 So, it's a matter of which one, horseracing or
7 the landfill in relation to devaluing the area
8 when it comes to that.

9 Anyway, those are my thoughts. I am
10 sharing them with you. A nice birthday present
11 December 15 would be that you say yes,
12 Plainville, go forward. Because that would make
13 a lot of happy people. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. All
15 right. We are going to sit tight. Oh, there's
16 another speaker.

17 MR. YARWORTH: Hi, my name is Chris
18 Yarworth. I work for the town of Plainville.

19 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: What is your last
20 name?

21 MR. YARWORTH: Chris Yarworth, Y-A-
22 R-W-O-R-T-H. I work for the town of Plainville
23 in the planning department. And I had the
24 pleasure of working with Plainridge when they

1 were going for the local permitting.

2 I wasn't going to speak, but since I
3 heard a lot of people talking about impacts, I
4 thought I'd kind of tell you how it went down.
5 Again, the site is somewhat isolated. It's got
6 Route 1, 495 on two sides, wetlands in the rear
7 and there's a residential neighborhood, which is
8 relatively close and a lot of those people are
9 the people who have been upset. Which I can
10 understand that is the most likely place for
11 impacts.

12 Plainridge during the process
13 listened to all of the concerns. We tried to
14 address them as best we could. They were very
15 helpful in adding sound fencing along the
16 boundaries. They added temporary walls with
17 double trees, landscaping. They've shielded
18 with interior walls the HVAC units. They did
19 everything that we asked for.

20 The whole back of the unit next to
21 the residents is lowered down. So, there's
22 about a 15-foot earth wall there. I understand
23 people are concerned. We tried to do everything
24 we could. It's really an ideal location. It's

1 been zoned for this kind of use for a while.
2 And they are very, very helpful in addressing
3 all of the concerns we had. They tried to help
4 the neighbors.

5 We've got the entrance just a few
6 hundred feet off 495. There's a new turning
7 lane going in, a new signal going in. We had
8 Plainridge traffic engineers were reviewed by
9 the planning board's engineers. They provided
10 their own traffic specialists. They gave us
11 these computer models of impacts on the roads.

12 Mass. Highway is going to be
13 involved. And the conditions that we've
14 written, we've got follow-up studies so when it
15 is open, there's opportunity for the board to
16 get involved. If there's unanticipated
17 consequences for traffic, for noise, for
18 lighting, for other things, those are all
19 getting written into the decision. We tried to
20 anticipate and give us the ability to address
21 concerns as they come forward. We are hoping
22 that we have addressed them all now.

23 In case we haven't, it's not a shut
24 door. The planning board obviously, wants to

1 protect its citizens. We are hoping that we
2 have a good decision here that will protect the
3 citizens and allow the project to go forward in
4 a profitable manner.

5 That's all sort of what we went
6 through. I'll just throw that out there so you
7 are aware. As a planning board, we spent
8 considerable time reviewing everything and
9 trying to make sure that everybody's needs were
10 taken care of. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Great, thank you.
12 Yes, Ma'am.

13 MS. PARKER: My name is Kathleen
14 Parker and 7 Pleasant Street in Plainville. I'm
15 also the elected treasurer collector currently.
16 I had three or four things on my mind, three of
17 them were addressed beautifully by prior
18 speakers so I won't take the time.

19 Just something else that was on my
20 mind and was recently brought up was something
21 that I would like to address. That is the
22 notion of the increase of drunk drivers on the
23 roads.

24 We have had as a few people have

1 mentioned, a 14- or 15-year history with
2 Plainridge. I don't ever recall, again a 33-
3 year resident, 36 I guess. I don't remember
4 ever hearing of a drunk driving accident coming
5 out of Plainridge. I know we have our current
6 Chief here, Police Chief as well as our current
7 Fire Chief and our prior Police Chief. They
8 would correct me if I am wrong. We have a very
9 well-trained professional police department. We
10 have people in the facility and we will continue
11 to have more people in the facility if we are
12 lucky enough to be granted this license.

13 They are not going to let drunk
14 drivers out onto our streets, their streets.
15 Because not only are they our police officers,
16 they are also our residents, if not within the
17 town, in the neighboring towns. Their children,
18 their neighbors are on the same streets that
19 we'll all be using and that we have been using.

20 Again, I think I'm very glad to talk
21 about social ills. I think that is an important
22 part of your jobs to take a look at all of that.
23 Thrilled to hear about the amount of money
24 that's available for problem gambling. Of

1 course, we're all concerned about that.

2 All of these things are addressed in
3 the right and proper ways. We're not
4 irresponsible in Plainville that we're going to
5 allow any of the things to all of a sudden erupt
6 like a volcano in our community and not have
7 them addressed.

8 So, some of the criticisms that we
9 are getting from the neighboring communities I
10 think can quite simply be dismissed because we
11 will handle them both with the state mitigations
12 and then with the mitigations that Penn National
13 are going to be offered to the communities.

14 That follow-up study in a year to
15 take a look again, these are the what-if
16 scenarios now that we are addressing. These are
17 the real numbers of real incidents that we have
18 seen in the year. That is a brilliant piece of
19 thinking. That's what we should be doing here.
20 That's what we should be embracing. And that's
21 the kind of company Penn National has been
22 showing us right along of who they are. So, I
23 ask you to keep all of those things in mind.

24 Again, our horse community and how

1 important it is to us. The fact that we've had
2 this long-standing relationship that has been
3 positive for our community and can only help us
4 even further. So, I hope when we are talking
5 again in January we are all with big smiles in
6 the town of Plainville. I know I will be.

7 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Thank you. We are
8 going to adjourn for a few minutes. The sign-up
9 sheet I assume is still out there. When we get
10 a few more names, we will reconvene.

11
12 (A recess was taken)

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: Okay. It is now
15 6:00. I'm sure that when we began this meeting
16 since I was running in from being late whether I
17 actually formally convened this. This was a
18 formal public meeting. This is the 83rd public
19 meeting of the Mass. Gaming Commission that
20 we've had in our year and a half. I would have
21 said that we were here in Wrentham, Mass. at the
22 Fiske Library on October 22 at 4:00. I'm not
23 sure if I said that.

24 We do not have any more people that

1 have signed up. I heard a bell ringing. So,
2 that means it really is six o'clock. I want to
3 thank folks who are still here especially and
4 the others who came as well.

5 As some speakers noticed that in our
6 website we talk about having a commitment to
7 this process being participatory, transparent
8 and fair. That doesn't mean everybody is going
9 to be happy but at least you'll feel like I hope
10 that it was participatory and transparent and
11 fair. And everybody has a shot to tell us what
12 you think.

13 We take it very seriously. We
14 appreciate your coming out. We will probably
15 see some of you in Plainville when we have our
16 host community meeting probably in the first few
17 days of December. But we will decide that soon
18 and post it and let you know.

19 Any other comments, anybody?

20 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Move to
21 adjourn.

22 COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Second.

23 CHAIRMAN CROSBY: All in favor, aye.

24 COMMISSIONER CAMERON: Aye.

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COMMISSIONER ZUNIGA: Aye.

COMMISSIONER STEBBINS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN CROSBY: The ayes have it
unanimously. Thank you folks.

(Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.)

1 SPEAKERS:

2

3 Betty Poirier, State Representative

4 Steve Howitt, State Representative

5

6 Dale Bergevein, Plainville

7 Bob Cutler, Foxboro

8 Erin Earnst, Foxboro

9 Joseph Fernandes, Plainville

10 Mark Fisher, North Attleboro

11 Jennifer Keene, Foxboro

12 Jack Lank, United Regional Chamber of Commerce

13 Chris Murphy, Plainville

14 Jeff Nutting, Franklin

15 Kathleen Parker, Plainville

16 Arthur Roy, Plainville

17 John J. Shepardson, Jr., Plainville

18 Deborah Stewart, Foxboro

19 Larry Tilton, North Attleboro

20 Chris Yarworth, Plainville

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laurie J. Jordan, an Approved Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript from the record of the proceedings.

I, Laurie J. Jordan, further certify that the foregoing is in compliance with the Administrative Office of the Trial Court Directive on Transcript Format.

I, Laurie J. Jordan, further certify I neither am counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Proceedings recorded by Verbatim means, and transcript produced from computer.

WITNESS MY HAND this 23rd day of October, 2013.



LAURIE J. JORDAN

My Commission expires:

Notary Public

May 11, 2018