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## Massachusetts Horse Racing Committee Meeting Minutes

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**Date/Time:** October 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

**Place:** VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1 646 741 5293

**PARTICIPANT CODE:** 112 707 4369

Given the unprecedented circumstances resulting from the global Coronavirus pandemic, Governor Baker issued an order to provide limited relief from certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law to protect the health and safety of individuals interested in attending public meetings. In keeping with the guidance provided, the Horse Race Committee conducted this public meeting utilizing remote collaboration technology.

### Call to Order

The Chair called the Horse Racing Committee (“Committee”) meeting to order and conducted a roll call attendance. The following members were present for the meeting:

Brian Fitzgerald, Chair

Paul Umbrello, Thoroughbred Representative

Peter Goldberg, Standardbred Representative

Commissioner Gayle Cameron, MGC Representative

Emily Kowtoniuk, Treasurer’s Representative

### Approval of Minutes

*Mr. Goldberg moved to approve the minutes from the Committee meeting of July 15, 2020, subject to correction for misspellings or clerical errors. Ms. Kowtoniuk seconded the motion.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Ms. Kowtoniuk: Aye.*

*Commissioner Cameron: Aye.*

*Mr. Umbrello: Aye.*

*Mr. Goldberg: Aye.*

*Chair Fitzgerald: Aye.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Committee member update**

Mr. Umbrello advised that he would be serving as the interim appointed member to the Committee as the thoroughbred representative, but that a process is underway for the review of candidates for the position. He will serve on the committee until a successor is designated.

Liz Zelnick, the deputy director of policy and legislative affairs to the Treasurer, was introduced as the Treasurer's alternate designee to the Committee in the event that Ms. Kowtoniuk is unavailable.

### **Review of Updated 2020 Race Horse Development Fund Revenue**

The Committee was provided with information as to the overall monies in the Fund as of August 31, 2020. It was noted that the gaming establishments were closed through July 2020 due to the pandemic, and accordingly, the total was substantially lower as compared to 2019.

### **Outlook for the Future**

Inquiry was made as to when the final financial numbers from 2020 would be available for review by the Committee. Dr. Alexandra Lightbown, Director of Racing for the MGC, advised that since Plainridge is the only track operating this season and conclude the season the day after Thanksgiving, live handle information should be available by the end of December. As to some of the other handle figures, including simulcasting, the numbers are not available until the end of the year so it would not be until January or February that the final information would be available. It was noted that where there would not be any live thoroughbred racing, the numbers are more limited than in the past. Certain data from the annual report may, however, be available for the Committee to review. There was discussion about the reliability of the unofficial figures and that they may generally be comfortably relied upon by the Committee so that it may get its work done prior to the start of the next racing season.

The Committee agreed unanimously that it would schedule a meeting to take public comment prior to reviewing the split as it was helpful and informative in 2020. This would be scheduled prior to executive summaries being submitted. Extensive discussion as to the best timing of the future meetings transpired during which it was noted that unforeseen circumstances should be factored in to the scheduling to ensure that the Committee's work is timely.

It was agreed that a public meeting for purposes of soliciting public comment would be scheduled for January 27, 2021 at 10 a.m., and that 10 representatives from each industry would be invited to speak for up to 4 minutes each.

It was agreed that executive summaries from the respective industries would be submitted by February 26, 2021.

It was agreed that the Committee would schedule a meeting to review and discuss the executive summaries and consider a change to the distribution percentage for March 10, 2021.

Ms. Kowtoniuk moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

<i>Ms. Kowtoniuk:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Commissioner Cameron:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Mr. Umbrello:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Mr. Goldberg:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Chair Fitzgerald:</i>	<i>Aye.</i>

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

#### **List of Documents and Other Items Used**

1. Meeting minutes from the July 15, 2020 meeting.