



Division of Racing

## Massachusetts Horse Racing Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** June 20, 2016 – 11:00 a.m.

**Place:** Massachusetts Gaming Commission  
101 Federal Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Present:** Stephen M. Reilly, Jr., Chairman  
Commissioner Gayle Cameron, Member  
Shawn Collins, Member  
Frank Frisoli, Member  
Peter Goldberg, Member

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Catherine Blue, General Counsel  
Dr. Alexandra Lightbown, Director of Racing  
Commissioner Enrique Zuniga  
Cecelia Porché, Paralegal  
Ellen Cassidy, Secretary

### Call to Order

Chairman Stephen Reilly called the Horse Racing Committee {"Committee"} meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

### Approval of Minutes

*Commissioner Gayle Cameron moved for the approval of the May 3, 2016, Horse Racing Committee Meeting minutes, subject to any correction of typographical errors. Motion seconded by Peter Goldberg. Shawn Collins abstained from the vote as he was not present at the meeting. Motion passed 4 to 0 with 1abstention.*

### Review, Discussion, and Vote on the Race Horse Development Fund split at the request of the Harness Horsemen's Association of New England, dated February 7, 2015

Commissioner Cameron noted that Frank Frisoli had a question pertaining to a purse overpayment Claim. Dr. Alexandra Lightbown explained the purse account review.

Commissioner Cameron raised a question about the value of simulcasting. Dr. Alexandra Lightbown explained the value of simulcasting.



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Commissioner Cameron raised the matter of the vote cited in Peter Goldberg's report.

The Committee members discussed the number of racing days.

Frank Frisoli raised the issue about the composition of the track in Brockton and noted a pending lawsuit regarding safety. Dr. Alexandra Lightbown stated that the track is not ready, a safety check is needed, and the application will be postponed until all criteria are met.

Chairman Reilly inquired about the escrow. General Counsel Catherine Blue stated that at this point, no money has been escrowed for either side.

General Counsel Blue explained the five criteria for consideration: purses, employment, relative need for each industry, live racing handle, and number of breeding and training farms.

The Committee members discussed purses. Frank Frisoli stated that the purpose of the fund is to help both industries to thrive. He also stated that the thoroughbred industry is dying and will be dead if the horse park does not go forward. Chairman Reilly noted that the statute does not allow for payment of money to a horse park. Peter Goldberg presented on his analysis of purses and comparison to other tracks.

The Committee members discussed employment. Frank Frisoli stated that there is a possibility of 36 racing days for thoroughbreds this year and that should be taken into consideration. He also discussed claiming races and Peter Goldberg stated that claiming races are only a small portion.

The Committee members discussed the relative needs of each industry and escrow funds. General Counsel Blue explained the 2014 racing split, the allocation of the race horse development fund, and stated that the Massachusetts Gaming Commission created regulations with an option to escrow. She stated that there is no escrow account for each breed, it sits in an account in total. Peter Goldberg suggested that any change to the split should start as of January 1, 2016. Shawn Collins raised concerns about commitment to the 75/25 split and preserving existing funds. Frank Frisoli suggested taking up the distribution of funds that remain in account at a later date. Chairman Reilly stated that he would like to see the committee get back on schedule in October to determine the split.

The Committee members discussed live racing handle, breeding, and training. Commissioner Cameron stated that it is difficult to put a number on the farms. She also noted that it is important for both industries to breed effectively.

The Committee members discussed weight of criteria. Commissioner Cameron and Chairman Reilly stated that the most important criterion for them is the relative needs of the industries.

Chairman Reilly asked what percentage is needed to meet the purses. The Committee members suggested and discussed alternative percentages. Commissioner Cameron stated that she values giving more money to the standardbreds. Peter Goldberg stated that he believes that they are due in excess of 75%, but in fairness to others he is thinking about 60% to the standardbreds and 40%



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to the thoroughbreds. Shawn Collins stated that he would entertain a more equitable split. Frank Frisoli suggested a 65% split to the thoroughbreds and 35% split to the standardbreds. Peter Goldberg noted that they are racing more days this year. Commissioner Cameron stated that she would be more comfortable with a 50/50 split. Chairman Reilly stated that he thought about a 50/50 split, but he can go to 60% for the standardbreds. He also stated that he would like to see the standardbreds continue their conversation with the thoroughbreds with regard to the horse park. Peter Goldberg stated that he was hoping for 60% to the standardbreds and 40% to the thoroughbreds; but maybe 55% for the standardbreds and 45% to the thoroughbreds for this year would give everyone what they need.

*Peter Goldberg moved that the Horse Racing Committee reallocate the split of the Race Horse Development Fund, effective January 1, 2016, with 55% to the standardbred industry and 45% to the thoroughbred industry. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gayle Cameron. Frank Frisoli voted no. Motion passed 4 to 1.*

*Commissioner Gayle Cameron moved that the Horse Racing Committee recommend to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission that any funds remaining in the account prior to January 1, 2016, will remain at the 75% split to the standardbreds and 25% split to the thoroughbreds. Motion seconded by Shawn Collins. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated**

General Counsel Blue noted that the Committee is not obligated to produce a report to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and that Commissioner Cameron can report to the Commission.

The Committee members discussed the next meeting date and scheduled it for October 18, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

#### **List of documents and other items used at the meeting:**

1. Massachusetts Horse Racing Committee, Notice of Meeting and Agenda, dated 6/20/16
2. Massachusetts Horse Racing Committee, Draft Meeting Minutes, dated 5/3/16
3. Standardbred Industry position paper regarding split of the Race Horse Development Fund, dated 5/26/16
4. Thoroughbred Industry position paper regarding split of the Race Horse Development Fund, dated 5/27/16
5. Public Comments regarding the split of the Race Horse Development Fund

/s/ Ellen Cassidy  
Ellen Cassidy, Secretary



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