

MAINE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 15, 2009
Conference Room, Gambling Control Board
Department of Public Safety Office
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Commission Members Present: James Tracy, Mary-Anne E. Martell and Stanley Kuklinski.

Commission Members Absent: George McHale and S. Todd Bradley.

Staff Members Present: John H. Richards, AAG, Henry Jackson, Ralph Canney and Carol Gauthier.

Commissioner James Tracy called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

On a motion from Commissioner Kuklinski and seconded by Commissioner Martell, the minutes of March 5, 2009 were approved as written. Vote 3-0.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING:

1. None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Pursuant to 8 MRSA Section 272-B, the Commission must notify all live racing licensees the amount to be forwarded to the Maine Harness Horsemen's Association from those funds used for purse supplementation, including the Sire Stakes Funds used for purses, for the operation of the MHHA for calendar year 2009. Chandler Woodcock, representing the Maine Harness Horsemen's Association, gave an overview of the proposed budget for 2009. He stated the request for funds is down from last year. Commissioner Kuklinski made a motion to accept the proposed 1.4017% as requested by the MHHA and the statutes it falls under. Commissioner Martell seconded. Vote 3-0.
2. Pursuant to 8 MRSA Section 264 the Commission must approve a list of Presiding and Associate Judges each year. Commissioner Tracy asked if there were any new judges not on the list that they would like to add. Mr. Canney was told that Shawn Campbell was highly recommended and he would like to add him to the proposed list as an Associate Judge. Commissioner Kuklinski made a motion to accept the list of judges as presented with the addition of Shawn Campbell. Commissioner Martell seconded. Vote 3-0.
3. The Commission met with the following judges to discuss rule enforcement and penalties regarding rule violations. Judges present: Sheridan Smith, Kenneth Ronco, Walter McIntire, Albert Smith, Charles Malia, Frank Hall, Frank Woodbury, Steve Mancine, Pam Merrill and Ronald Merrill.

REPORTS:

1. Henry Jackson informed the Commission on the proposed rules. He stated that he had met with Jack Richards and Chandler Woodcock to put together the language for the proposed rules. It would be advertised for the next three weeks.

2. Commissioner Kuklinski asked where we stood on the backstretch cameras. Mr. Canney stated that Corey Smith wasn't able to attend today's meeting because they were testing the cameras today. Steve Cobbett was able to give information to where Scarborough Downs is heading. They have decided to go with the close circuit TV, like Saratoga Harness has. The work has been delayed because of the wet weather.
3. Kenneth Ronco reported on the starting gate. Mr. Ward would supply the starting gate for the fairs. He also stated that most of the fairs are reluctant to put backstretch cameras in. Some of the fairs cannot afford this added expense.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Jackson stated that going forward the meetings would be the second Wednesday of the month with the exception of the May meeting, it would be on Tuesday, May 12, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Henry W. Jackson
Executive Director