



Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund

MINUTES

Agriculture and NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund
Board of Trustees Meeting
Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame
240 Main Street
Goshen, New York
April 14, 2015

Present: Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball; Trustees: Peter Arrigenna & Mike Kimelman; NYS Gaming Commission Chairman Mark Gearan designee, Ron Ochrym;
Also attending: NYS Gaming Commission Executive Director Rob Williams; Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Executive Assistant Connie Richardson; NYS Gaming Commission Senior Accountant Brian Squadere; Agriculture and Markets Deputy Commissioner Jacqueline Czub; NYS Gaming Inspector General Lisa Lee; NYS Gaming Commission Assistant Counsel Mark Stuart (via Skype); NYS Gaming Commission Internal Auditor Sandy Meadows, NYS Gaming Commission Acting Director of Internal Audits, Walt Lehman, Harness Horse Breeders of New York State - Executive Director Betty Holt.

Agenda Item #1 – Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was present and the meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Item # 2 - Designate a Board Member as Presiding Officer: A motion was made to designate Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball, a Board Member, as Presiding Officer of the meeting by Trustee Ochrym, seconded by Trustee Kimelman. All in favor.

Comments by Presiding Officer and Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets Richard Ball: Presiding Officer Ball provided a few remarks before the Trustees discussed the public agenda. He noted that that in addition to the Trustees present, the following individuals were in attendance: NYS Gaming Commission Executive Director Rob Williams; Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Executive Assistant Connie Richardson; NYS Gaming Commission Senior Accountant Brian Squadere; Agriculture and Markets Deputy Commissioner Jacqueline Czub; NYS Gaming Inspector General Lisa Lee; NYS Gaming Commission Assistant Counsel Mark Stuart (via Skype); NYS Gaming Commission Internal Auditor Sandy Meadows, NYS Gaming Commission Acting Director of Internal Audits Walt Lehman, Harness Horse Breeders of New York State - Executive Director Betty Holt.

He noted that the Fund was pleased to have the meeting in such a historic location. He thanked the Museum's President Lawrence DeVan and its Executive Director Janet Terhune. He noted that the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame is dedicated to comprehensive, active and authoritative support and promotion of the Standardbred industry through documentation and preservation of the history and traditions of this American-born sport. He noted that the Museum maintains and preserves the history of harness racing and serves as a hall of fame for those, both human and Standardbred, whose significant achievements have made a positive impact upon the sport. He added that the Museum's location is also of significance because Orange County is the birthplace of Hambletonian 10, the ancestor of all American Standardbred horses. The Hambletonian Stakes was held at Goshen's Mile Track (known as Good Time Park) from 1930 through 1956. Goshen's half-mile Historic Track, established in 1838, is the oldest horse track still in use in the United States and the first sporting site to be designated a National Historic Landmark. He noted that Standardbreds still train daily at the track and exhibitions and stake races are held there annually. He noted that the Trustees had the opportunity, before the meeting, to view many of the exhibits in the Museum and tour the track. He encouraged everyone to do the same. He then turned to the Agenda.

Agenda Item # 3 - Approval of Minutes of last meeting of January 26, 2015:

Minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2015 were presented for approval. A motion to accept minutes of January 26, 2015 was made by Trustee Ochrym, seconded by Trustee Kimelman. All in favor.

Agenda Item # 4 - Update – Harness Horse Breeders of New York State 2015 Contract:

Presiding Officer Ball noted that at the Fund's December 16 meeting, the Trustees considered a year contract with the HHB. It was decided that the contract would be approved for 6 months with an extender to be considered later in the year since a new Executive Director may be appointed during that time. It was noted that the contract was with the Comptroller Office and the Office of the Attorney General awaiting approval.

The next three Agenda items were discussed before the Trustees took any action.

Agenda Item # 5 - Consideration of The New York State 4-H Grant Request:

Andrew Turner, NYS 4-H State Leader, and Julie Suarez, Assistant Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, provided a discussion of their funding request for the New York State 4-H Horse Foundation. They requested a grant for 2015 of \$79,915.00 to support the statewide 4-H Youth Development Horse Program.

Agenda Item # 6 - Consideration of 2015 Grant Request for Goshen Museum and Hall of Fame Request:

Janet Terhune, Executive Director of the Museum spoke on behalf of the Goshen Museum and Hall of Fame which requested a grant for 2015 of \$50,000. She noted the requested funds would be utilized to continue those programs provided for through Fund grants in the past. In this

regard, the Museum's Education Department has played a significant role in educating, entertaining and promoting harness racing, the Standardbred horse and agriculture in New York State during this time. Funding would continue those pursuits.

Agenda Item # 7 - Consideration of 2015 Goshen Historic Track Grant Request:

Steve Jones, President of the Goshen Historic Track, and George Casale, a Historic Track Board Member, made the request for funding that would support renovation of their judges' stand and bandstand. Mr. Casale estimated that these two structures needed significant repair and estimated the cost would be in excess of \$160,000.

Trustees Discussion: The Trustees noted each project was worthy of funding but noted that the Fund's budget could only support approximately \$120,000 in new projects at this time. As a result, the Trustees decided, after some discussion, to fund all three projects in equal amounts of \$40,000 and took the following actions:

Agenda Item #5 - New York State 4-H Grant Request: Motion to fund the request at \$40,000 was made by Trustee Arrigenna and seconded by Trustee Kimelman. All in favor.

Agenda Item # 6 - Goshen Museum and Hall of Fame Grant Request: Motion to fund the request at \$40,000 was made by Trustee Kimelman and seconded by Trustee Ochrym. All in favor.

Agenda Item # 7 - Goshen Historic Track Grant Request: Motion to fund the request at \$40,000 was made by Trustee Ochrym and seconded by Trustee Kimelman. All in favor.

Agenda Item #8 - Update of the New York Sire Stakes Website: Betty Holt of Harness Horse Breeders of New York State and Connie Richardson of the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund reported that the "new" New York Sire Stakes website was up and running. It was also noted that development of the new website came in under budget. Discussion continued regarding expanding the website capabilities, specifically credit card acceptance for payment of fees. Staff noted that they would look into the cost of providing such applications on the new website.

Agenda Item #9 – Motion to Enter into Executive Session: A motion to convene to Executive Session for the express purpose of considering personnel matters pursuant to New York Public Officers Law Section 105.1.f. was made by Trustee Kimelman and seconded by Trustee Arrigenna. Staff and visitors were asked to leave the room with the exception of the following individuals: Gaming Inspector General Lisa Lee; Gaming Commission Internal Auditor Sandy Meadows, Gaming Commission Acting Director of Internal Audits Walt Lehman, Gaming Commission Assistant Counsel Mark Stuart (Via Skype), and Gaming Commission Executive Director Rob Williams.

Return to Public Meeting from Executive Session: The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 3:16 p.m. Presiding Officer Ball reported that the Fund Trustees discussed personnel matters as provided under Public Officers Law Section 105.1. It was also noted that no votes were taken to expend any public monies. Thereupon, the Trustees returned to the public agenda.

Agenda Item #10 – Other Business. Gaming Commission Senior Accountant Brian Squadere noted some discussion with the Fund's auditors and that the report was not finalized. He also noted that the Fund ended the year, revenue over expenses, with an estimated profit of \$200,000. He stated that within approximately 2 weeks he should receive the completed report from the auditors that would confirm the numbers.

Closing Comments: Presiding Officer Ball provided closing comments thanking the Museum, and its President Larry DeVan and Executive Director Janet Terhune for allowing the Fund to utilize the Museum to conduct its meeting. He re-iterated the Fund's commitment to building long term relationships with both the Track and Museum and their important historical significance not only to harness racing but New York State. He concluded by noting the next meeting should be sometime in July or August. Presiding Officer Ball then requested a motion to Adjourn.

A motion to Adjourn was made by Trustee Kimelman, seconded by Trustee Arrigenna. All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:17 p.m.