

MSBOA MEETING MINUTES
March 5, 2024
MHHA Office 185 Main St. Augusta, Maine
Start Time 6:00 pm

Board members present in person: Steven Wilson, Claire Ryder, Chris Basford, Melvin Grant- Josiah Reed at 6:30.
Absent Francis Hanley.

Via Zoom: Carolyn Corso & Peggy Tardif.

Call to order: President: Carolyn Corso

President's Remarks: Carolyn presented Claire's resignation letter to the Board.

Motion to accept by Steven Wilson, 2nd by Rhoda Underhill: unanimous.

Motion to nominate Rhoda Underhill as Secretary by Steven Wilson, 2nd by Chris Basford: unanimous.

How do we decide terms of Directors? Motion to use number of votes from elections at Annual Meeting to determine terms by Claire Ryder, 2nd Rhoda Underhill: unanimous

Chris Basford 41votes- 3 year term 2024-2026

Melvin Grant 39 votes- 3 year term 2024-2026

Steven Wilson 32 votes- 1 year term 2024

Josiah Reed votes – 1 year term 2024

Alternate position: Will check with Dick McKeen because he was the 5th in voting. Will present other names of people interested at April meeting.

Secretary's report: Rhoda Underhill gave an informal account of the February meeting; Banquet finalization, Pacing Broodmare choice, Mare Incentive funding and Stallion Book. (Laurie's project) Discussion on the Stallion Book, the price, role and alternative ways to promote the Stallions- was decided to put on hold for now.

Treasurer's report: Rhoda Underhill shared an email that Fran Hanley had sent and wished to have shared.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee: Rhoda Underhill had notes from last years meeting of March 21, 2023 that the Committee would stay the same as it was at that time except that Rhoda Underhill would be added because Linwood Perkins indicated that he would like to give up his seat. Unanimous it stays the same.

Francis Hanley- Chair, Rhoda Underhill, Sara Fernald, Gloria Cushing, and Christina Holt.

Fairness Committee: Three (3) Board members agreed to join; Carolyn Corso, Melvin Grant and Peggy Tardif- Chair. Christine Ohman and Anita Anastopolous both requested to join so there are a few open spots that need to be filled by members(4), was decided that a Facebook post would be made asking for interested members to contact Rhoda Underhill. Also, Mindy Smith would be contacted to see if she would like to continue, and Gretchen Athearn and Sara Fernald were both suggested up as people who may be interested. Will finalize at April's meeting.

Coordinating Committee: Carolyn Corso and Steven Wilson will be the Board representatives and will contact the MHHA to set a meeting.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting and Banquet

Evaluation of facility: Members that attended agreed the food and staff were both very good and extremely accommodating. The venue itself was outdated and looked as though it were under construction, tape on the walls.

Notes of acknowledgement:

Auction items: Rhoda Underhill to send Thank You letters to the donors of auction items, Diann Perkins to do the ones she personally solicited and also, she will do letters to Peter Connell and Dr. Martha Smith.

Carolyn Corso suggested Rhoda Underhill send a letter of thanks to Scott Pooler and Laurie Harding for their work as Officers.

Because of the amount of correspondence sent it was suggested we look into having our own letterhead and envelopes made to make it a more efficient process. Rhoda Underhill will get pricing on both- Inkwel and a couple others.

Mare Incentive Program: Was discussed how we would collect, keep track and distribute the payments for the 2023 recipients. Was decided that Rhoda Underhill would receive the Stallion bills from the Mare owners and will keep a spreadsheet of recipients, broodmare, stallion bill, and amount paid. Then forward the bills and the Stallion owner information to Fran Hanley to pay.

New Business:

Web Site- Web Master- Chris Tully: Discussion if we are happy with the services Chris has provided and should we continue with them. Directors agreed that he has done an excellent job with both the website and media coverage. Steven asked if we might get a report from Chris showing the traffic on the website and does the media coverage go beyond; Facebook, USTA & HRU. Carolyn is going to ask for a price break down of his services.

Stakes Photographer- Joe Shaw: Was discussed that if we are to continue with Joe that a more specific, concise list of expectations be presented and discussed with him. Carolyn is going to ask for a price break down of his services.

Carry over- Sire Stakes Fund: Board agrees that the Commission needs to be presented the motion by Sara Fernald at the annual meeting; Motion to carry over \$40k and payout the remaining monies by at 60/40 split by points to the 2023 Stake horses. Sara made a spreadsheet that was distributed to outline how it would look. Carolyn has gotten on the Commissions agenda for the March 26th meeting, she will join via zoom to explain, and Steven has agreed to go in person to be present and hand out the spreadsheet to the Commissioners as an example of what we'd like to see. This has been done in 2 other years 2006 & 2010. Rhoda will ask Diann if she might have the minutes from the Commission meetings regarding the payouts from those previous years to help.

LD1777- a Tribal bill regarding online casinos- the Maine Harness Racing Industry has been completely left out of the bill. We should be very concerned and with Peter Connells help keep a close eye on. Was discussed that we do an Economic Impact of the Harness Racing Industry on the State of Maine- to get ahead of any questions and concerns about it. A sub-committee was formed to coordinate the efforts:

Promotional Sub-Committee: Chris Basford- Josiah Reed- Melvin Grant.

Schedule of Future Meetings: was decided for the immediate future meetings would be held at 6:00pm on the first Tuesday of each month; starting April 2, 2024.

Adjourn: at 9:08 a Motion to adjourn by Claire Ryder, 2nd Steven Wilson: unanimous.
