

MSBOA MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2024

MHHA Office 185 Main St. Augusta, Maine

Start Time 6:00 pm

Board members present in person: Mel Grant, Josiah Reed and Chris Basford. Absent: Francis Hanley.

Via Zoom: Carolyn Corso, Peggy Tardif, Steven Wilson, Rhoda Underhill and Guest Diann Perkins.

Call to order: President: Carolyn Corso 5:57pm

President's Remarks:

Carolyn Corso thanked Peg, Rhoda and Chris for their work and attendance at the AG Day at the State House.

Motion to accept March 5, 2024 meeting minutes by Mel Grant, 2nd by Peg Tardif: unanimous.

Secretary's report:

Rhoda Underhill is working on contacting the 2023 Mare Incentive Recipients to remind them of the procedure for claiming their incentive. Also, working on getting the membership list completed.

Treasurer's report: Fran is still on vacation and will give a full account at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee: Rhoda had the application updated and posted on social media, also sent it to high school guidance departments that include all tracks, including fairs. Deadline is April 1st.

Fairness Committee: It was explained that since the 2023 minutes of Director's meetings were not received, the current Board had appointed 3 Board members and 5 volunteers to the Committee. Scott indicated he wished to involve more members of the public as well as the MHHA. Since this did not seem to lead to a positive Committee makeup, going forward, the Committee shall consist of those appointed at the March. 2023 Directors meeting.

Promotional Committee: Carolyn Corso tasked them with Chapter 9 as their priority.

2 topics in particular.

1. To show the impact of the Sire Stakes/Harness Racing makes on the State. Show just how important we are. Need to reach out and get figures for; supplies, taxes, equipment, vehicles anything related to the Industry.

2. How do we bring our Association to the People? “Peoples” horse, playing cards, horse for the day?

Coordinating Committee: Meeting has been set for May 7th at 4:30

Old Business:

Website-Webmaster - Bid

Chris Tully submitted his fees for maintaining the current MSBOA website that he started last year, fee was broken down in detail.

Motion to accept Chris Tully’s website bid by Peg Tardif, 2nd Josiah Reed: unanimous.

Chris Tully also submitted his fees for continuing as Webmaster doing all media coverage. Last meeting Steven had asked if he could provide us with a ‘traffic’ report for the website to see how many people we were reaching, are we being effective. Chris responded with: In calendar 2023 the Maine Sire Stakes site had 3,807 views from 1,394 visitors (unique users). He also provided us with a chart showing which months had the heaviest traffic and said that we had already had over 1,100 views in just the first three months of 2024.

Motion to accept Chris Tully’s webmaster bid by Chris Basford, 2nd by Mel Grant: unanimous.

Photographer- update contract?

A few minor changes to the current contract language to clarify expectations. Delivery of photos (jump drive/memory stick), photos for finals need to be delivered at least one week before. Will send to Joe Shaw Photography.

Motion to accept the changes and forward to Joe Shaw by Rhoda Underhill, 2nd Mel Grant: unanimous.

Review of Ag. Day at State House:

Rhoda Underhill and Chris Basford both agreed that it was worth the effort and now that we have been we have a much better idea of how things work and the amount of space we have to work with. Would really like to expand our presence, maybe even get our own table if possible.

Review of MHRC presentation and result- plan for future action:

Carolyn Corso reported her presentation to the Commission and was told that pursuant to Statute the Assistant A.G. said that the overage monies could not be legally distributed to the 2023 Stake participants based on points as had been done in past years. Statute specifically says monies are to be used as purse monies, and in her interpretation what the membership asked for is not considered purse monies. 2023 Finals were increased by \$10,000 last year but expenses paid, and revenue received were not what was expected; therefore, the overage was much

higher than normal. Very little discussion was had by the Commission due to it being deemed not legal to distribute.

Discussion on other options; possible four-year program, maybe we should look at changing OUR calendar year to make projections easier. We are aware that the Fairs changed their calendar year, Steven will reach out to Barry Norris. Carolyn will reach out to Don Morean for clarification of statutes.

Base purse meeting will be held in May.

Mare Incentive Program:

Carolyn Corso said monies for the program were approved. The check from the State was in our mail so we can start paying out to Stallion owners upon receipt of the fee invoices, according to the Program criteria. Discussion on whether we should continue the program in 2024.

Motion to continue Mare Incentive Program in 2024 by Rhoda Underhill, 2nd Josiah Reed: unanimous.

New Business:

Newsletter:

Discussion on creating, printing, distributing newsletters. Decided we would like to have members of the Board of Directors handle the information included and the mailing/distribution. Continuing with The Inkwell as the printer. Rhoda Underhill agreed to be the point, with input from everyone.

Discussed offering ads to help cover our costs.

2024 Promotions:

This is the 50th year of the Sire Stakes so promotional ideas were discussed, updated banners for use at both tracks and the fairs was brought up. Steven Wilson has a connection and Rhoda Underhill had a name from the Fair Committee, both will get pricing and report back at the next meeting.

Adjourn: at 8:27pm a Motion to adjourn by Rhoda Underhill, 2nd Mel Grant: unanimous.