

MSBOA MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2024

MHHA Office 185 Main St. Augusta, Maine

Start Time 6:00 pm

Board members present in person: Carolyn Corso, Francis Hanley, Peggy Tardif, Rhoda Underhill, Mel Grant and Josiah Reed.

Via Zoom: Chris Basford

Absent: Steven Wilson

Guests: Diann and Linwood Perkins

Call to order: President: Carolyn Corso 6:15 pm

President's Remarks: Base purse explanation. Carolyn spoke with Shane regarding Promotional items; Mare Incentive, banners, Stake Day raffle and Legislative days, he said yes to all. He would like to see the Legislative Days held at Fairs instead of the regular commercial tracks.

Secretary's report:

Last meetings minutes were previously emailed to all board members, no questions or concerns.

Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on May 7, 2024 by Fran Hanley, 2nd by Peg Tardiff; unanimous.

Treasurer's report: Fran gave report and provided paper copies to everyone.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Rhoda Underhill, 2nd by Mel Grant; unanimous.

Fran shared a thank you for the donation made to Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Association that was approved at last meeting.

Still no word on our non-profit application, so we are still just waiting for approval from the State, could take a few months.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee: Fran will forward the current criteria to the Board for input on potential changes, in hopes of reaching more applicants.

Fairness Committee: Peggy Tardif said two meetings have been held and had emailed the Board the proposed changes/additions to Chapter 9 to review. The Board will address at next month's meeting. Carolyn explained the process.

Public Relations: Discussion on the survey that was sent out to the membership and the importance of the data it asked for. Hoping to get it out to even more people so that we may get input to show the Legislature when bills for the Industry come up. Rhoda will see if MHHA might send it out to their members also.

Old Business:

Mare Incentive Program- Status 2023- announcement 2024: Rhoda Underhill reported all Stallion Service fees have come in and all have been paid.

2024 applications have been updated and are already available on the website. Carolyn and Rhoda will put copies up in both paddock areas at First Tracks and Bangor, will also post on FB and USTA so people are aware. Deadline for applications is September 1ST.

Motion to post and start accepting applications by Josiah Reed; 2nd Peg Tardif: unanimous

Newsletter: Newsletter is finished and will be sent electronically to all members who provided emails and mailed to the few who did not.

2024 Promotions:

Banners: Design was decided on and a final quote from Caron Signs in Hermon was received. Since Shane approved banners, they will be ordered.

Charlie Horne- media proposal for Fox22 and ABC7 tv stations in Central/Northern Maine. Claire created a 30 second video from clips Rhoda had taken at Bangor. Carolyn created a "notice" to be added with race information (dates, times, etc.) Shane approved so both will be sent so the commercial can start running.

Peg Tardif will try to contact Samantha York from "Maine Things to Do" to see if she will include us in one of her pieces and Rhoda will do the same with the 207.

Winner's Circle: photos to the Stake Winners will be given, Rhoda made up labels for the photographers to apply to the MSBOA sponsored photos.

Live Race Day- public promotion: Rhoda had put together some promotional item ideas, the Board decided to start with four different items. It was also decided that only the first betting Stake race of the day would be done. This will begin as soon as promotional items are received.

New Business:

2 year old race date change(Windsor August 28th). Because there has been no decision made by the Advisory Committee the Board decided that the two-year-old pacing colts should be moved from Wednesday, August 28th to the day before Tuesday, August 27th. That was the easiest solution without using the first day or changing other dates. Rhoda will send an email to Steven Wilson who is the Chair of the Advisory Committee and copy Shane Bacon.

The Stake draws was discussed and how important it is that one of the Board members be in attendance. Rhoda and Carolyn will go to the first one in Bangor and Rhoda agreed to be present at the others or ask someone if she is unavailable. Chris Basford agreed to do the same in Cumberland. The idea of a shared Google calendar for people to sign up was mentioned so Rhoda will create that.

Chapter 9- Fairness Committee; tabled until next meeting.

Public Comment:

Diann Perkins brought up a few concerns; there should be a summer meeting, the tracks should be purchasing the trophies for the finals, there should be more testing for the finals and also a detention barn.

Adjournment: 8:30 pm by a Motion to adjourn by Fran Hanley 2nd by Mel Grant: unanimous.