

## RACING COMMITTEE MINUTES

JULY 10, 2008 – 12:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Hunter, Veitch; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Ed Lewi; Charles Hayward, Gavin Landry, NYRA; Press.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. He thanked Mr. Hayward and Mr. Lewi for taking the time to give a tour of the racetrack to the members of the Racing Committee.

Mr. Hayward gave a brief update on the New York Racing Association and the 2008 Saratoga Racing season as follows:

After multiple extensions that expire in the near term the oversight board has announced that they will be meeting to give another extension to the NYRA franchise through August.

Mr. Hayward said that legislation was passed for a New NYRA not-for-profit entity, with a 25-year term, new Board of Trustees and the formation of the Saratoga Community Advisory Board. In April the bankruptcy court approved the NYRA plan of reorganization which was contingent upon economics that were placed in the franchise agreement. Nothing can be finalized until the state selects a firm to run Aqueduct's proposed Racino

NYRA had hoped to get out of bankruptcy before the Saratoga meet. It was thought that NYRA might run out of cash this summer, but revenues for this year's Aqueduct meet, which ended in late April, were up 6 percent over 2007. Mr. Hayward said, the good news is that we are going to get through July. Every day that goes by and the VLT's are not operating costs the State \$1 million. It is hopeful that the VLT operator will be selected by early August.

The following is a recap of the 2007 Saratoga Meet:

	<u>Percentage Increase</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>
Attendance	5.50%	26,627
On-track Handle	8.70%	\$3,417,168
All-source Handle	6.26%	\$16,205,884
Purses	18.11%	\$771,280

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Total Purses	\$27,766,090
Total On-track Handle	\$123,018,041
Total All-source Handle	\$583,411,835

The above purses were a Saratoga record and the highest of any American Thoroughbred meet ever.

NYRA will be offering Saratoga Restaurant Row, which will highlight some of Saratoga Springs favorite restaurants right on the track. Fans will be able to break from the day's betting fun by feasting on special house items, ranging from \$4 to \$7.

The following restaurants will be participating:

- Hattie's
- Brindisi's
- Grey Gelding
- Panza's
- One Caroline Street Bistro/Mouzon House

The following are highlights of the upcoming 2008 Race Meet:

- 32 Graded Stakes races including 13 Grade 1
- 7 Steeplechase races: one every Thursday and the last Wednesday of the meet
- Simulcast wagering from racetracks in the United Kingdom during the mornings including Catterick, Sandown, Thirst, York, Newmarket, Goodwood, Nottingham, Haydock, Redcar, Pontefract, Carlisle, Newbury, Musselburgh, Warwick, Kepton Park, Chester, Hamilton and Salisbury.

The following special events will take place at the Open House:

- National Steeplechase Association presenting five races – four jump races and one training flat race
- Islip Horsemen's Association Long Island Drill Team with more than two dozen horses executing intricate pinwheels, circles, and V formations
- Backyard hosting activities including pony ride, petting zoo, caricatures, backyard circus
- Captain Squeeze and the Zydeco Moshers playing jazz favorites

- Handicapping seminars tailored to enhance the knowledge of both novice and experienced players

Mr. Wood distributed copies of the racing brochure and requested that anyone having any updates to please forward them on to him, so they may be used for updating a revised brochure.

**On a motion made by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Veitch the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom