

## RACING COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 2006 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Lawler, Peck, Yepsen, Grattidge, and Gutheil; David Wickerham, County Administrator; Chris Callaghan, County Treasurer; William B. Wilmot, NYS Thoroughbred Breeding, DFC and Concerned Citizens for Saratoga Racing; Joe Dalton, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Lawler the minutes of the January 17, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.**

Mr. Wood gave a brief update on the Public Hearing conducted by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Future of the Racing in New York State. A public hearing was conducted in Albany on January 24<sup>th</sup> lasting approximately four hours with approximately 25 persons participating.

Mr. Wood said he referenced many of the same points that he referenced at the last meeting including an emphasis and focus on the importance of racing to Saratoga County, and to the City of Saratoga Springs and its impact on tourism. There was a focus on the need to keep the racing dates at the Saratoga racecourse, exclusive, holding it at 36 days and to maintain one franchise. There was emphasis on the impact to the county and that the impacts occur all year long, not just during the course of the 36-day racing meet. Discussion took place on the historical aspect of the racetrack, the fact that it is the “Yankee Stadium” of racing and a national treasure, being the oldest and most historic racecourse.

A packet of many of the comments made at the local public hearing were distributed to all committee members for their review.

A list of the State and area Racing Committee members was distributed to all committee members for review.

Mr. Wood said a group has formed in the area referred to as the “Concerned Citizens of Saratoga Racing”. They have been meeting regularly, trying to identify the areas that are very important and critical to maintaining a strong racing program in Saratoga County.

Mr. Dalton and Mr. Wilmot who are members of the “Concerned Citizens of Saratoga Racing” were introduced, distributing an outline of the resolution that was adopted by the Concerned Citizens of Saratoga Racing at a meeting held at the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce on February 14, 2006.

He said the Concerned Citizens of Saratoga Racing was a committee that was formed last year to ensure that World Class Thoroughbred racing would continue in Saratoga for years to come.

Mr. Dalton encouraged the committee to consider having a uniform voice coming from Saratoga County, both from Saratoga Springs and the County, highlighting the essential points that make the future of Saratoga bright.

**On a motion made by Mr. Peck, seconded by Mr. Lawler the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Sansom