

Racing and Gaming Committee Minutes
July 14, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Matt Veitch; Supervisors Alan Grattidge, Paul Lent, Peter Martin, and Tom Wood; Chad Cooke, Deputy Administrator.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Wood the minutes of the May 5, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Veitch thanked Mr. Grattidge for running the meeting of May 5, 2016 as he was unable to attend.

NYRA Legislative Update: Mr. Veitch reported that at the last meeting, a letter was approved and sent to the State in support of the privatization of NYRA. State Senator Marchione and Assemblywoman Woerner introduced a bill to re-privatize NYRA. This bill passed with almost unanimous support; however the Governor has not signed or vetoed this bill. At the last minute a second bill was presented that would keep NYRA public for another year. The extension bill passed and the Governor is expected to sign it. The goal for the Saratoga County legislators is to work with the Governor's office ahead of time so that next year a compromise plan can be in place that can be approved by both sides.

As a Committee, no action needs to be taken at this point, the situation will continue to be monitored. Mr. Veitch and Mr. Martin attended a Saratoga Chamber meeting and the Chamber has pledged to keep the Committee informed as to what goes on at their end.

The Local Advisory Board has a meeting scheduled for July 21, 2016.

Mr. Veitch gave a brief overview of the 2016 Saratoga Season Preview. Racing begins on Friday July 22, 2016 and closes on September 5, 2016. Several special days are planned at the racetrack including NY Heritage and Tourism Day, College and Alumni Day, Military Appreciation Day. Giveaways are baseball cap Sunday, July 24, duffle bag Monday, August 1, beach towel Monday, August 15 and long sleeve pullover Sunday, September 4.

Mr. Veitch said that he would like to invite NYRA to a committee meeting after the Saratoga meet to give a rundown on how the meet went.

Mr. Lent reported that the County Fair Board applied for and were granted funding in the amount of \$22,000 from the NYS Breeders association. They have passed this funding onto the Saratoga Harness Horseperson's Association who will hold a Saratoga County Fair night at the Saratoga Harness Track.

Mr. Grattidge reminded the Committee that the Joe Gerrity Jr. Memorial Pace will be held on Saturday July 23, 2016 at the Saratoga Harness Track.

On a motion made by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. Martin the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Legislative Clerk