

Racing Committee Minutes
May 6, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Benny Zlotnick; Committee Members Ed Kinowski, Bill Peck, Sandra Winney; Supervisor Tara N. Gaston; Steve Bulger, Audra Hedden, Matt Rose, County Administrator; Mike Hartnett, County Attorney; Andrew Jarosh, County Treasurer.

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

On a motion made by Ms. Winney, seconded by Mr. Peck, the minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Zlotnick introduced Jeff Cannizzo who is the Senior Director of Government Affairs for NYRA. Mr. Cannizzo will be updating the committee on what was happening at the track this summer.

Mr. Cannizzo thanked Mr. Zlotnick and the Committee for the opportunity to speak. He said the parameters change by the day and there is nothing formalized for the Saratoga meet. He went over the vaccination and testing requirements.

Mr. Zlotnick asked about the area where the picnic tables are and what was happening with that. Mr. Cannizzo said that those areas are the ones we are looking for definition on. Because we obviously want to be able to include them in some capacity. Mr. Zlotnick asked how it would affect the picnic table area if they were looking for fully vaccinated attendees. Mr. Cannizzo said what had been announced recently, fully vaccinated can have 100% capacity.

Mr. Peck asked how NYRA was handling the backstretch employees and vaccinations. Mr. Cannizzo said the backstretch community is 100% vaccinated. Mr. Peck asked if there was anything Saratoga County could do to assist in their efforts. Mr. Cannizzo thanked Mr. Peck and the Committee and would reach out if there was anything Saratoga County could do.

Mr. Zlotnick asked Mr. Jarosh if he had an idea what the economic impact was last year not having the track open. Mr. Jarosh said he did not have that data in front of him. He said the sales tax projections were down about 4% yet the internet sales tax was through the roof. He said as soon as he had more information he would share it with the committee.

Mr. Peck suggested a letter from the Chair of the Board to the State encouraging them that it is important for the planning and put some nice language in there planning for not only NYRA but also the greater Saratoga community. Mr. Zlotnick said he would follow up on this.

Mr. Bulger thanked Mr. Cannizzo for coming to the meeting. He said as opening day drew near and it was found a vaccination site needed to be organized, the County would help. Mr. Bulger said the County is experiencing a worker shortage and just wanted it on Mr. Cannizzo's radar for the meet. Mr. Cannizzo thanked Mr. Bulger.

Ms. Gaston said that she and the Public Health Department had reached out to NYRA regarding vaccines. She has who had been providing the vaccines. Mr. Cannizzo said NYRA was not doing the vaccinations but their tracks were used as sites. Ms. Gaston said she knew that they're often individuals who come in and out throughout the season are they're going to be required to be vaccinated prior to returning or prior

to coming onto the site. Mr. Cannizzo said they are going to have the same protocols that have been in place on the backstretch.

Mr. Zlotnick thanked Mr. Cannizzo for taking the time to update the committee. He said if there was anything Saratoga County could do over the course of the next few weeks to reach out and they would do what they could.

On a motion by Ms. Winney, seconded by Mr. Allen, meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Wright
Clerk of the Board