

Racing Committee Minutes
October 7, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Benny Zlotnick; Committee Members Ed Kinowski, Bill Peck, Sandra Winney; and Chairman of the Board Todd Kusnierz; Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, Christine Rush, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Jeff Cannizzo, NYRA.

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 May 6, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

Review of 2021 Racing Season

Mr. Cannizzo said 2021 was a record year in which the 416 live races at Saratoga Racecourse generated an all sources wagering handle of more than \$800,000,000 for the first time ever, which is \$100,000,000 more than the record set in 2019. Paid attendance totaled 1,046,478 attendees which marked the sixth consecutive season (excluding 2020 when fans weren't permitted due to COVID) of more than 100,000,000 in attendance. They had more than 220 hours of live programming as part of the Saratoga Live broadcast, debuted new hospitality areas including The Spa Verandas, The Top of the Stretch, and Tailgate at the Turn and honored local health care heroes. 1.1 million viewers tuned in across the Country to watch the Travers on FOX. \$32,350 was collected and donated to charitable organizations for aftercare through NYRA stewardship donations and \$18,690 went to the Thoroughbred Aftercare and Take the Lead program for retired race horses. Mr. Peck commended NYRA for a successful season and asked what NYRA would like to improve on looking forward. Mr. Cannizzo said that NYRA has further capital projects they'd like to undertake to improve the facilities and invest back into Saratoga. Mr. Zlotnick said if the County can do anything to help, let them know. Mr. Kusnierz thanked Mr. Cannizzo and President and CEO, Dave O'Rourke for meeting with them to discuss how best Saratoga County can partner with NYRA and said they're aware of the contributions, the economic engine and the business having a historical track in our back yard generates for the County and if they need assistance from the County please don't hesitate to reach out.

On a motion by Mr. Kinowski, seconded by Mr. Peck, meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Rider
Deputy Clerk of the Board