

Racing Committee Minutes
December 2, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Benny Zlotnick; Committee Members Preston Allen, Ed Kinowski, Dan Pemrick, Sandra Winney; Supervisors Tom Richardson, Matt Veitch and Jean Raymond; Steve Bulger, Ridge Harris, Matt Rose, Audra Hedden, County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, County Attorney; Jeff Cannizzo, NYRA; Skip Carlson, Saratoga Gaming & Raceway.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Pemrick, seconded by Ms. Winney, the minutes of the October 7, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Winney, seconded by Mr. Kinowski, to oppose proposed amendments to the Tax Law to End Racing Subsidies. Unanimous.

Mr. Canizzo said the bill introduced by Assemblywoman Rosenthal would single handedly destroy all of the racing industry, both standardbred and thoroughbred, by defunding VLT legislation and that video lotter terminals bring in over \$200 million annually. That money funds a significant portion of NYRA's purses and those purses drive horses and people here in the summer and impact the economy. Mr. Canizzo said NYRA is opposed to the legislation and they're looking for support in opposition. Mr. Carlson said the video gaming revenue funds 85% of the purses of Saratoga Casino and if that money goes away it would be absolutely catastrophic to the industry. Mr. Carlson said there are a group of organizations working together who are well funded, politically savvy, and passionate about opposing horseracing and we need to be aware of that and develop a plan to show how racing is economically viable and important to our communities. Mr. Cannizzo added that the VLT money is 38% of NYRA's purses which is \$60 million annually and also funds the CAPEX fund for capital improvements to the Saratoga Race Course like the 1863 Club. Mr. Zlotnick asked for statistics to show the economic impacts from the track and Mr. Richardson suggested he might also contact Todd Shimkus to find out the impact this would have on hotels and tourism. Mr. Kinowski asked if Mr. Zlotnick anticipated the committee sending some documentation through Economic Development or to Law & Finance for a resolution and Mr. Zlotnick said he will compile everything, talk to the Attorney and send something up to the committees. Mrs. Raymond said this issue was discussed at the Legislative and Research Committee and has been added to the legislative program.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Rider
Deputy Clerk of the Board

