

MAINE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 5, 2009
Conference Room, Gambling Control Board
Department of Public Safety Office
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Commission Members Present: Chairman George McHale, James Tracy and Stanley Kuklinski.

Commission Members Absent: S. Todd Bradley and Mary-Anne E. Martell.

Staff Members Present: John H. Richards, AAG, Henry Jackson and Carol Gauthier

Commission Chair, George McHale, called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m.

On a motion from Commissioner Tracy and seconded by Commissioner Kuklinski, the minutes of November 12, 2008, were approved as written. November 19 and December 23, 2008 were approved as written with a correction on page one to change December 19 to November 19. Vote 3-0.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING:

1. None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. The Commission members reviewed the Written Decision and Order of the License Renewals for the Off-track Betting Facilities. Commissioner Kuklinski made a motion to approve the Written Decision and Order with corrections to page 5; Lewiston Raceways, Inc. should have no Inc. after Raceways. Also #2 after the words Sagtuck, Inc., the word "and" should be inserted. On page 6, after Lewiston Raceways, Inc. the Inc. should be omitted. Commissioner Tracy seconded. Vote 3-0.
2. The Commission members reviewed the Written Decision and Order for the Live Racing License Renewals and Race Date Assignments and the Authorization to Simulcast. Commissioner Tracy made a motion to approve the Written Decision and Order as written. Commissioner Kuklinski seconded. Vote 3-0.
3. Henry Jackson reported on the progress of Midcoast OTB, Inc., d/b/a Winner's OTB. Helena Clifford and Gary Sagris were present. Mr. Sagris addressed the Commission stating that the OTB has seating for 65 to 70 people and the grill has seating for 60 people. Mr. Sagris also said that they plan to expand in the future, but right now is not the time. Pictures of the OTB were available. Mr. Jackson also stated that Mr. Sagris has told the Commission Staff that he plans on a partnership with Larry Crooker. Mr. Jackson said that there would be an investigation on Mr. Crooker before this can happen. The Commission members agreed.
4. Mr. Jackson presented the proposed rules for consideration. The Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association proposed a rule change to Chapter 9, Section 6, subsection 7. After a brief discussion, the Commission agreed to insert after division, in the current calendar year.

Proposed model rule on Androgenic-Anabolic Steroids (AAS) was presented for discussion. Number 7, the date should be changed to July 1, 2009. Number 9, Mr.

Jackson will check on this to which class it should be in. Also the words, extraordinary circumstances Mr. Jackson and Mr. Richards would review.

Proposed rule Chapter 11, Section 6 Out of Competition Testing, number 4, leave in the word "licensed". Number 5-D leave this in and number 8, the words "extraordinary mitigating circumstances" need to be looked at.

Proposed rule Chapter 7, Section 72 #3 the words need to be looked at.

The Commission reviewed the United States Trotting Association (USTA) rule changes for 2009.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.

REPORTS:

1. None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Donald Marean addressed the Commission regarding Jason Bartlett. The Governor presented to Mr. Bartlett the colors he would be wearing to represent the United States in Norway. He said it was an exciting moment for the Maine horsemen to see what an individual can accomplish.
2. Steve Cobbett representing Scarborough Downs addressed the Commission regarding the cameras in the backstretch. He stated that they could not have these cameras in place by opening day. He wanted some direction as to what the Commission was looking for. Mr. Cobbett said that Scarborough Downs could have the cameras in place by July 4, 2009. After a brief discussion, Commission Tracy made a motion to grant an extension to both Commercial Tracks to have the backstretch cameras in place by July 4, 2009. Commissioner Kuklinski seconded. Vote 3-0.

Mr. Jackson asked the Commission to establish a regular meeting schedule for the balance of 2009. Commission Chair McHale said that the second Wednesday of each month would work for him and Commissioners Tracy and Kuklinski agreed. The next meeting date would be April 15, 2009 at the Gambling Control Board's meeting room at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Henry W. Jackson
Executive Director