MHHA Board Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2016

MHHA Office

185 State Street, Augusta, ME 04332

Board members present: Tim Powers, Mike Cushing, Donna DuBois, Aaron Hall, David Crochere, Don Marean, Eric Bickmore, Bill Phipps

Others present: Deb Patterson, Office Manager

Absent: Jim Dunn

Call to Order: 4:00pm President Tim Powers

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the 2/15/16 meeting reviewed and approved. A motion to accept the Secetary's report was made by Aaron Hall, second by Mike Cushing. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Balances as follow: General account $24,012.31; Sulky Reimbursement fund $26,990.46; Scholarship fund $11,157.74. Awaiting payment from Scarborough Downs. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Mike Cushing, second by Dave Crochere. Unanimously approved.

Committees

Scholarship: Balance $11,157.74; $100.00 received from Scott MacKenzie. Looking into fundraising to report on at next meeting.

By-law: Not met

Budget: Reviewed printouts of transaction detail report and budget vs. actual through 3/10/16.

Legislative: Don Marean gave update on LD 1279 internet wagering bill, not yet out of committee, but doing well. LD 1280 awaiting legislative calendar.

Regulatory: MSHRC hearing on 3/17/16 has been cancelled; next hearing 3/23/16 at 9:00am. The Governor's nominations (3) for the MSHRC should be confirmed next week.

Rules: Not met

Joint: Not met

Sulky: Seven bikes insured/$750.00, Deb Patterson added that more forms were received today.

Track: The easy winter has benefitted track conditions at Scarborough Downs per horsemen training there.

Animal Welfare: Not met

Old Business: 2016 racing contracts: "A licensed race track must carry insurance" per statute, amount is not stated. Tim Powers discussed details for 2016 contract for Bangor: 3 year contract; provide $50,000.00 ins. for drivers; no other concerns at this time. Reminder to draft letter to Bangor regarding change in MSBS purse allocation. Call to arrange meeting between Mike Hopkins and Tim Powers and any MHHA board member that may wish to attend. 2016 contract with Scarborough Downs: provide $25,000.00 for driver ins., track condition and maintenance. Other issues are Lasix barn maintenance, which is a safety concern regarding horses; paddock maintenance. Reminder to draft letter to Scarborough Downs regarding change in MSBS purse allocation. Lin Higgins is awaiting a meeting with SD, as Sharon Terry is out of town. Deb Patterson spoke with Gerry Lamarre regarding fairs combining for insurance. Forwarding information. Deb also proposed the purchase of a new computer at $349.00, and two programs at $120-$200 each for MHHA business. A motion was made by Aaron Hall to purchase a computer, and the software (Quickbooks/Microsoft Office). Second by Bill Phipps. Unanimously approved.

New Business: Welcome to our newest MHHA director, Bill Phipps! Harness at Hadlock planning is under way. Tim Powers recapped the HHI meeting in Florida 3/6-3/10/16. Some states are struggling (MI, IL) and some are having success; decoupling issue in FL to remove harness racing from receiving racino revenues. USTA gave $10,000. to aide FL in their efforts. Bangor/Hollywood Slots 2016 revenues are up slightly YTD compared to 2015; Oxford Casino 2016 revenues are up noticeably YTD compared to 2015. Discussion on MHHA membership options, PA offers *only* a three year membership; USTA has one/three year options. Maine Farm Bureau membership of $125.00. A motion was made by Aaron Hall to pay bills presented for the month of March as submitted by Deb Patterson. Second by Mike Cushing. Unanimously approved. HHI payment not due currently. Dave Crochere brought up concerns of purse pay back from the numerous 2015 positive penalties, and other collateral issues, as to how/when the MSHRC plans on implementing it. Don Marean advised that Henry Jennings has assured this will be addressed. He will follow as rules and laws allow and is meeting with the AG. Applications for 2016 MHHA membership were received from Frank and Jennifer Petrelli. It is a matter of record that they have many serious issues at several race tracks out of state, as well as in Maine. MHHA bylaw under Membership Article II Sec IV, allows that "the Board of Directors of the Association may reject the application for membership of any applicant whose membership in the Association would not be in the best interest of the sport of racing or this association". A motion was made by Aaron Hall to deny membership to Frank Petrelli and Jennifer Petrelli. Second by Dave Crochere. Unanimously approved. Debbie Patterson will send a letter to the Petrellis.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 5 at 4pm MHHA office. MSBOA will now meet at the MHHA office, next meeting will be on Monday, April 11 from 6pm-9pm.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Eric Bickmore, second Mike Cushing. Unanimously approved.

2016 Committee Assignments

Scholarship- Donna DuBois, chair; Dave Crochere, Mike Cushing, Aaron Hall, Jim Dunn

Bylaw- Don Marean, chair; Tim Powers, Mike Cushing, Donna DuBois, Bill Phipps

Budget- Aaron Hall, chair; Don Marean, Tim Powers, Lin Higgins

Legislative- Don Marean, Linwood Higgins

Regulatory- Board

Rules- Board

Joint- Tim Powers, chair; Dave Crochere, Mike Cushing

Sulky- Mike Cushing, chair; Eric Bickmore, Dave Crochere, Aaron Hall

Track- Board

Animal Welfare- Don Marean, chair; Donna DuBois

3/14/16