

Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

February 18th, 2021 4 pm – Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett
2. Motion to Excuse Absent Members
3. Approval of Agenda - Unanimous
4. Approval of Past Minutes - Unanimous
5. President's Report – Tom Barrett gave an update to the board that included a conversation about a potential new race date start as well as days of the the week pending the Governor's covid-19 limitations and the impact current limitations had on capacity at Northville Downs. There was a discussion about delaying the start of the meet 2 weeks as well as the potential to race either earlier on Fridays and Saturdays or switching days to less peak times. He updated the board on the progress with XpressBet who's third party facilitator licenses is still pending.
6. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Terrell gave an update to the board and highlighted the strong financial position of the MHHA. She noted that the General Fund Balance also currently hold 2020 ADW revenue that is earmarked for purses and programs,
7. MHHA Member Comments: None
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business:
 - a. Colt Stakes Nominations – MWSG gave an update indicating that the MHHA had received over 150 nominations for the 2021 colt stakes program and that the MHHA office would be verifying eligibility over the next week with the USTA.
 - b. Spring Reception/2020 Awards – Claudia Davidson led a discussion about a spring reception to honor our 2020 award winners and state champions. The Covid-19 limitations prevented the MHHA from hosting an annual banquet in January. The Board plans on hosting something late this spring pending the state limits on gatherings.
 - c. Lavern Miller Barn Fire – Thomas Barrett led a discussion about the barn fire at Lavern Millers farm. The board approved a donation of 2500.00 to help with the cost of the incident (Davidson/Pluta/Unanimous)

d. Fair Track Maintenance – Crystal Terrell led a discussion about the fair track upkeep and the plans to send the water truck and a drag to keep the condition of the tracks as good as possible. The MHHA plans to send someone to each track ahead of the races to ensure the best racing surface possible.

e. ADW Update – XpressBet and NYRA – MWSG gave an update about the pending third party facilitator licenses. XpressBet is expected to receive their license in March while NYRA is likely to receive a license in April.

f. Horse Racing Administrative Rules Update – MWSG gave an update on the draft administrative rules which are scheduled to take effect on March 25th. Notable changes were made to the process of claiming races and medicine records, rules were added to govern 3rd party facilitators, and other minor changes were made. The MHHA in conjunction with the MGCB will be posting a summary of these changes on the website.

10. Legislative Policy/Report – Midwest Strategy Group gave an update about HB 4005, HHR as well as options for a potential Video Lottery Terminal legislation. The MHHA expects movement on these pieces of legislation starting in April with the hopes of having continued conversations with the Governor’s office to earn her support.
11. Board of Director Comments: Kim Pluta led a discussion on Track Master Ratings and the potential to use that system at Northville.
12. Next Board Meeting: March 18th (pending); 4pm
13. Meeting Adjourned 5:25PM

