

Minutes: Conference call Jan 11, 2020

Present: K. Benson, A. Brown, D. Pereira, K. Reagan, W. Robbins, G. Rose, A. Spadea, P. Umbrello, A. Zizza

Because the meeting with Gayle Cameron on Jan 7, brought strong suggestions from them that we are not doing enough to encourage breeding but only promoting the racing part of the program, Alex Lightbown suggested that we pay a \$500 bonus to foals born in MA. Bill Robbins had made this suggestion at a previous meeting but it was not acted upon. Arlene Brown explained that the current statute states mares must be in the state before Oct 15 and remain until foaling or enter after Oct 15 and breed back to a MA stallion in order for the foal to be a Massbred. Since there are only 2 stallions in the state, the breedback rule is too restraining. And since most of the sales where a mare can be purchased in foal are after Oct 15, we are basically shut out from being able to drop foals in MA.

To try to show cooperation with their suggestion and since a \$500 bonus would not be enough of an attraction, Arlene Brown suggested offering a \$5000 bonus for foals dropped in MA for the next 3 years. Foals dropped in 2020 would not have bonuses paid out until 2021. Chances of someone bring a mare in from out of state are extremely small at this point. If the bonus does induce people to drop foals here, those bonuses would not be paid out until 2022 and 2023 giving enough time to put money aside.

Bill Robbins felt that he could get this done within the guidelines of the present statute. Kathy Reagan disagreed. She felt the current statute prevented this. She sent a copy of the statute to the MGC lawyer for his interpretation.

Because of the disagreement on our ability to offer this bonus, a motion was made by Anthony Spadea and seconded by Gregg Rose to wait until we got verification and to send out letters with the starter bonus checks to indicate we are considering this move and possibly including Stallion bonuses, in the hopes it will stimulate dropping foals in MA.

The Board voted unanimously to do this.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene B. Brown