

MASSACHUSETTS THROUGHbred BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Board of Director's Business Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2018

Victory Bar & Grill, Dedham, MA

Chairman George Brown called the meeting to order at 6:57 PM.

Board Members Present

Brown, George – Chair
Andrews, Randy
Benson, Karen-Treasurer
Catapano, Frank
Pereira, Donna
Rose, Gregg
Umbrello, Paul
Zizza, Anthony-Treasurer

Absent

Currie, Joyce
Janjigian, Armand
Reagan, Kathleen
Spadea, Anthony
Stone, Ed - alternate

Guests

Brown, Arlene –Recording Secretary
Robbins, Bill - Accountant
DiRico, Joseph
Ryan, Tim
Salim, Adel

1.) Secretary's Report:

The secretaries report from 12/14/2017 was read and accepted as amended.

Motion to accept report: Donna Pereira **Second:** Frank Catapano .

Objection: None **Abstain:** None

The secretaries report from executive session 12/14/2017 was read and accepted.

Motion to accept report: Frank Catapano **Second:** Donna Pereira .

Objection: None **Abstain:** None

2.) Open Session 7:00

Joe DiRico asked about the Finger lakes race schedule. The schedule of races was put in the hands of Fred Hutton, racing secretary at Finger lakes. It was felt that he knows the horse population and would best determine the conditions that would optimize entries.

Adel Salim asked about the Massbreds that are being claimed. He feels that it is not ethical for all these Massbreds to be claimed. He believes it is Board members claiming them but does not have proof. George Brown reminded us that if you put your horse in a claiming race, it is eligible to be claimed and those rules were established by the racetracks not us. Frank Catapano And George recalled that many times there were "gentlemen" agreements between owners or trainers not to claim each other's horses but there is no law prohibiting claiming.

Tim Ryan would like to see all restricted races ended and increase owner and breeder awards for horses running in open company. A discussion about the ability of Massbreds to compete in open company ensued. Under this arrangement only a few Massbred horses would ever earn money.

Tim also asked about increasing awards but again due to decisions by MGC to cut our funds, it is not practical at this time.

Motion to close open session 7:40 PM: Karen Benson **Second:** Gregg Rose .

Objection: None **Abstain:** None

3.) Treasurer's Report:

Bill Robbins reported that the lobbyist disclosure forms have all been filed and the tax reports are completed and will go out as soon as they are signed. The forms to add Karen Benson (treasurer) to checking account are also prepared and awaiting signatures.

Bills for legal services, races at Finger Lakes and Suffolk Downs have all been paid.

We are still awaiting the 2018 split and how it will affect us. This has a big effect on the coming racing season. So Bill advised the Board to be conservative with the upcoming race schedule.

The five races at Finger Lakes this spring should cost about 150,000 including awards. 3 races at Suffolk Downs would be about \$200,000. The remaining 2 weekend meets would have to be worked out.

Motion to accept report: Gregg Rose **Second:** Paul Umbrello .

Objection: None **Abstain:** None

4.) Chairman's notes and comments

a. George Brown mentioned that Speaker DeLeo called him Tuesday and they discussed the possibility of removing breeder funding from the split decision so that MTBA would have a little more consistency and expectations about the money they would be receiving to help plan the years activities.

Speaker DeLeo also told George that he has the support to build a new racetrack but until someone makes a move to put up some money or buy a sit, he can't do anything.

George also talked to Alex Lightbown to try to defuse misinformation that she had been given. Her understanding of the TB business seems limited. George will try to set up an informational meeting with her and another member of the MGC with some reputable owners/trainers of thoroughbreds to help them understand the business.

5.) Old Business

a.) Finger Lakes Races were discussed in open meeting. We are awaiting approval from the MGC which is scheduled for March 29th's agenda. After which we can sign the contract with Finger Lakes.

b.) Race track update: Paul Umbrello said that he would have a report in 2 weeks. He is reluctant to give more specific updates as certain groups use these to sabotage efforts.

6.) New Business

a.) Contracts for Lobbyist, Accountant, Secretary

Contracts were discussed, and signed. They will all be continuations of last year's contracts.

Motion to award contracts: Frank Catapano **Second:** Donna Pereira .

Objection: None **Abstain:** None

b.) Ch 128g must be rewritten and since this section is wholly dealing with MTBA, we will address issues along with lobbyist and lawyer.

7.) Next Meeting

Date: April 12, 2018 Time: 6:30 PM PM Place: TBA

Adjournment 8:39 PM

Motion to adjourn: Gregg Rose **Second:** Randy Andrews