

MASSACHUSETTS THROUGHbred BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

DATE April 17, 2025

PLACE 3 Allied Dr., Dedham

Chairman Donna Pereira called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Board Members Present

Brown, Arlene
Cramer, David
Rose, Gregg-Co Chair
Spadea, Anthony
Umbrello, Paul
Zagwyn, Marie

Absent

DiRico, Joe (Alternate)
Janjigian, Armand
Benson, Karen-Treasurer

Guests

Hunt, Andy
Keithly, Oliver

1.) Secretary's Report:

The secretaries report from 3/20/2025 _____ was read and approved

Motion to accept report: Anthony Spadea Second: Gregg Rose .

2.) Lobbyist Report – Breeders Bill

Andy brought a letter that had been submitted to the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure by Standardbred breeders. Points of the letter were discussed. In a response, it is to be pointed out that Thoroughbred breeders are bound by the rules of the **National Jockey Club** which are very different from the rules of the Trotters association. One of the biggest is the requirement of live coverage for mares as opposed to artificial insemination that the trotters use. This affects the length of time thoroughbreds must remain on MA farms until the mares are covered. Standardbreds can leave almost immediately after foaling and be bred back at home by artificial insemination. Also, Standardbreds are not allowed to come into state after the Dec 1st deadline so farms lose business almost immediately after the foal is born. Thoroughbreds average 30-45 days longer on the farm than Standardbreds and can come in late if they breed back to a MA stallion. Gregg and Donna will draft a response.

Representative James Hawkins has proposed bringing some of the Joint Committee members to Briar Hill Farm to get a first hand view of the breeding program.

3.) Treasurer's Report:

David reported that he move a CD which had matured from Eastern bank to Citizens for a better rate. He may transition all accounts to Citizens. The Casino postings are erratic so there is no update on them income from them..

Motion to accept report: Anthony Spadea Second: Marie Zagwyn .

4.) Old Business

a. 2025 Breeding update: Arlene reported that we now have 31 foals on the ground with 17 more expected. The fillies are outnumbering the colts 20 to 11. Gregg reported that the postings on Facebook of pictures of the new foals are getting good responses.

b.) Showcasing Massbreds in another career: Melissa Perrin Keithly had offered to help us do a spotlight on Massbreds in new careers after racing. Oliver discussed what he was planning. Arlene Brown has a retired TB who is now barrel racing and some that are becoming dressage horses. Anthony Spadea mentioned two household names in the NE racing area, Dr. Blarney and Mr. Meso who are now ponies at the racetrack. Arlene will contact Melissa to seek her help in showcasing this.

c.) MTBA/MDAR registration forms: Paul will look into consolidating MTBA and MDAR yearling registration forms.

Currently, mare registration forms are being problematic since they come drifting in incomplete rather than a complete packet. They are also being sent by owners to different locations. We have to tighten up this procedure. Paul suggested that owners must send complete packets of paperwork all at once **BEFORE** shipping the mares and in addition to the health certificate, mares must be confirmed IN FOAL.

5.) New Business

a.) Mid-Atlantic/Trainers Magazine: David brought issues of both Trainer Magazine and the Mid Atlantic which is a more regionalized publication. He suggested that we change over. The actual cost would be about the same. Trainer only comes out 4 times a year while Mid Atlantic has 11 issue per year. Trainer magazine is a more professional looking periodical but Mid Atlantic would offer more opportunity to showcase the MTBA program. A motion was made to switch to MidAtlantic.

Motion: Paul Umbrello **Second:** David Cramer.

Motion passed with 1 abstention

b.) Breeder Program 2026: Points for consideration in 2026 program

1. Another trouble spot in the 2025 program concerned the practice of “replacement” which allowed for a mare to replace one that had aborted. Suggestions were made to drop the replacement altogether or maintain that the replacement position can only be used by the owner of the aborting mare and not be given over to a different party. Another suggestion would put a limit on the length of time to bring in a replacement mare.
2. The breed back policy must also be looked at and maybe changed to a “confirmed in foal” award.
3. What qualities should a stallion have to be accepted into the program.
4. Fees for the farms to charge for covering mares.
5. Should incentives be offered to mares that come in after the Dec 15 deadline?
6. Incentive splits re-evaluated
7. Incentives for barren mares to come in to breed to MA stallions.
8. Change the method of payment to farms for standing stallions – Farms increase board on stallions in lieu of award.
9. First preference be given the Massachusetts and/or New England residents.
10. Limit the number of mares per person.

6.) Next Meeting

Date: 5/15/2025 Time: 6:30 PM Place: 3 Allied Dr. Dedham

7.) Adjournment 9:00 PM

Motion to adjourn Anthony Spadea **Second** Marie Zagwyn

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene B. Brown

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