AGENDA
MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MEETING
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
https://zoom.us/j/97490030930?pwd=Q1FzaWtGdlhCK2pteDZQaHR5aGI4QT09
Call in: (929) 205-6099
Meeting ID: 974 9003 0930
Password: 298085
June 25, 2020
Starting Time 9:00 a.m.

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions: Michael Timmons, Chair

2. Review and Approval of Minutes
   Review and Approval of Decision and Orders

3. Update on the Status of Maine Racing for 2020

4. Review/Discussion of 2020 Racing Plans by Each Track

5. Consideration of an Emergency Amendments to Chapter 9. Chapter 9, Section 1.3 states the Commission shall establish a schedule of races annually. The Commission adopted a schedule in February of 2020. However, that schedule is no longer valid due to impacts that the 2020 pandemic is causing, resulting in track cancellations and postponements. Given the usually fluid nature of racing in 2020, there may be very little time to set a schedule if an agreement can be reached for a track to host racing. The Department advocates waiving the requirement for 2020 via an emergency amendment to the rule in order to allow a schedule to come together quickly if necessary.

   In addition, Section 5.2 specifies that the base purse for Maine’s Sire Stakes racing must be determined by the Commission at least 30 days in advance. Given the difficulties presented by the pandemic and its effect on revenues, setting the base purse, or even setting a schedule, has been extremely challenging. The best interest of the breeders is likely better served in 2020 by allowing greater flexibility. The Department proposes waiving the 30-day requirement for 2020 by way of an emergency amendment.

   The Commission will consider whether to approve either or both proposed amendments on a temporary/emergency basis.

6. Consideration of an Emergency Amendment to Chapter 19. Chapter 19, Section 4.10 specifies that a Notice of Hearing must be distributed at least 10 days prior to any reopening of the Race Date Award Hearing. Given the current landscape, it appears clear changes to the 2020 date awards will be a constant need in 2020, and that the 10-day notice requirement may hamper the ability to make quick adjustments. The Department is advocating to waive the 10-day for much of 2020 via an emergency amendment to Chapter 19. The Commission will consider whether to approve the proposed amendment on a temporary/emergency basis.

7. Request to Continue the Temporary Cost Support Assistance to Scarborough Downs through July 10. In collaboration with Maine’s horsemen, Davric Maine Racing LLC agreed to open the 2020 race season without spectators. The main purpose for opening without spectators was to provide a means to disburse purses to the horsemen
who had not received a paycheck since December. Unfortunately, the closing of Scarborough’s simulcast business and the lack of spectators has left the Downs with essentially no revenue stream to offset the steep costs of conducting a race meet. Consequently, the Department proposes to continue the partial cost support through July 10th. At that point, Davric will discontinue racing—at least temporarily—due to a lack of revenue.

8. Other Business

9. Public Comment

10. Schedule of Future Meetings:

11. Adjourn