

Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – April 18, 2012 – Laurel Park

Members present: Richard J. Hoffberger, president, Richard J. Meyer, vice-president, W. Robert Bailes, Christine E. Bricker, Dale Capuano, Linda S. Gaudet, Christopher W. Grove, Michael F. Horning, R. Larry Johnson, Timothy L. Keefe, Lawrence E. Murray, Katharine M. Voss.

Members absent: Howard M. Bender, H. Neil Glasser and Arnold A. Heft.

Special Meeting

The Board was notified that the date of the Special Membership Meeting was set in accordance with the bylaws for Monday, April 30, 2012, at 11 a.m. in the Ruffian Room at Laurel Park.

Mr. Capuano made the following motion: “The MTHA Board opposes, as detrimental to and contrary to the best interests of the MTHA and its membership, the proposed by-law amendments that will be the subject of the Special MTHA Membership Meeting; and the Board’s opposition to the proposed bylaw amendments be openly communicated to the membership.” Seconded by Mr. Keefe.

The motion carried 10 for 2 against.

Voting in favor were Mr. Bailes, Ms. Bricker, Mr. Capuano, Mrs. Gaudet, Mr. Grove, Mr. Hoffberger, Mr. Keefe, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Murray and Ms. Voss.

Voting against were Mr. Horning and Mr. Johnson.

Other Board Items

MTHA counsel Alan M. Foreman gave a brief synopsis of the 2012 Legislative Session and discussed the distinct possibility for a Special Legislative Session in the near future where Purse Dedication Funds may be in jeopardy of being reduced.

Maryland Horse Breeders Association’s lobbyist and counsel Dennis C. McCoy presented the Board a letter from MHBA President R. Thomas Bowman that communicated the MHBA Board voted earlier in the day to make “a one-time, voluntary contribution of \$440,000 towards expenses necessary to ensure 146 days of racing in 2012.”

President Hoffberger publicly thanked the Maryland Horse Breeders Association for agreeing to reimburse the Purse Account for their share of the 2012 expense sharing agreement with The Stronach Group for 2012 race dates, and acknowledged that this is a major step towards improved relations between the MTHA and MHBA. He also made note that this contribution did not address two outstanding issues that were negotiated and agreed to between the MTHA Purse Committee and a similar committee attended by MHBA Board members.

He explained that these outstanding issues include MHBA Board support toward future racing date schedules and the MHBA agreeing to a pro-rata share of future expense sharing agreements beginning in 2013 toward future Maryland racing dates prior to the MTHA entering into discussions for the purpose of funding Maryland-bred programs from the Thoroughbred Purse Account.