



Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association, Inc. Minutes

April 2, 2024

Attended: Lucy Goelet, Ricky Hendriks, Vivien Malloy, Cyril Murphy, Kathy Neilson, Jimmy Sheridan, Larry Smith, Sandra Webb

Guest Caller: Bill Gallo

Unable to attend: Liam Bourke, Danielle Hodsdon, Steve Coxen, Chris LaBerge, Patrick Lewis

I. Guest Caller: Bill Gallo to discuss summer racing.

- Aiken and Carolina Cup were huge successes with great crowds and purses.
- There was a change in management in NY racing. Summer program is very ambitious. The biggest addition is Sun, June 9, Beverly Steinman Stakes. This will be the day following Belmont Stakes. "We committed to stakes only at Saratoga with NYRA."
- Purses: Colonial \$950,000. NY races \$825,000.
- Colonial includes 19 races.
- Colonial will be part of the parimutuel program. We won't run off the backside.
- Summer Schedule - we moved to Thursday to help with traffic. If we have to postpone Saratoga because of weather, we will postpone to the next Wednesday.

II. Approve February Minutes

Kimberly Kapaczewski

Minutes were approved as emailed to the board.

III. Committee Reports

Conditions Committee

- Nothing new to report

Treasurers Report

Kimberly Kapaczewski

Checking \$4,122.84

Savings \$14,605.86

2024 Membership Drive is well underway. There are a handful of board members that have not renewed memberships. Please connect with Kimberly asap to get that done.

IV. President's Report

Ricky Hendriks

Feedback on first four hunt meets of the season:

Aiken and Camden Feedback – foot traffic in the barns

PRO: The southern meets have had tremendous footing thus far.

CON: There was a great deal of foot traffic in the barn areas.

Larry Smith was SOTA Rep Blue Ridge – Larry spoke about an unsanctioned race that was split. This could have impacted the Lasix/sanctioned racers, SOTA was able to assist to make sure this wasn't an issue.

PRO: Footing was good.

Ricky and Larry discussed a barn initiative: SOTA sponsored refreshments

There have been several instances where the horsemen back at the barn have a hard time obtaining food/water while they are running horses. We would like to get a group of owners to help coordinate this.

V. Old Business

We are excited to have had safe footing thus far in the Spring. Historically, southern meets have struggled with hard ground but that has not been the case in 2024.

VI. Adjourn