

Hardwick Board of Selectmen

**Gaming Commission Mandated Public Hearing
Hardwick Elementary School
531 Lower Road
Gilbertville, Massachusetts
October 18, 2022**

In Attendance: Julie Quink (JQ), Board of Selectmen Chair; Kelly Kemp (KK), Board of Selectmen Vice Chair; H. Robert Ruggles (HRR), Board of Selectmen Clerk; Cathy Judd-Stein (CJS), Chairman, Massachusetts Gaming Commission; Eileen O'Brien (EO), Commissioner; Nakisha Skinner (NS), Commissioner; Jordan Maynard (JM), Commissioner.

Ms. Judd-Stein introduced her fellow commissioners as noted above. She also offered her thanks for the Town of Hardwick's accommodations etc., and she explained the meeting was to address the application for horse racing.

Ms. Judd-Stein explained the local select board had convened a contemporaneous public meeting, along with the Gaming Commission Public Hearing, as a matter of transparency as well as full compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Julie Quink called the meeting to order at 4:00. She stressed it was not the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

The question was posed if the Board of Selectmen wanted to adjourn the meeting following the Gaming Commission's hearing.

Motion

KK made a motion to adjourn the meeting immediately following.

HRR seconded.

Vote Taken

KK yes

HRR yes

JQ yes

Motion passed (3:0).

Gaming Commission Public Hearing

Ms. Judd-Stein called the public hearing and public meeting to order.

- Formal remarks: This is a public hearing before the Massachusetts Gaming Commission relative to the application for a license to hold or conduct a new racing meeting submitted by the Commonwealth Equine and Agricultural Center LLC also known as CEAC.
- The Commission has the authority to issue a license to uphold or conduct a racing meeting to CEAC.
- Public support for this proposal or lack thereof is a fact that the Commission will evaluate in making the final decision. The public's presence and written comments play an important role in the decision.

Process and Ground Rules

- Hearing provided for by § 3 of Chapter 1328a of Massachusetts General Laws is intended to afford an opportunity to offer input and comment on the application.
- Hearing will begin with a presentation by the applicant. Following the presentation, the floor will be opened to public comments.
- At the conclusion of the public comments, the applicant will be given the opportunity to make any closing comments it would like to make.
- Any Commissioner may at any time ask a question or comment.
- A list was compiled of those people who wished to speak by registering on the Commission's website. People on that list would be given the first opportunity to speak. If time allowed, the floor would be opened for additional comments from residents who signed up in person when they arrived for the meeting.
- Time limit: 2 minutes to speak.
- With regards to written comments, the Commission will review and consider each one.
- Ms. Judd-Stein stated the Gaming Commission would not be making a decision today but has a statutory deadline of November 15th.

Citizen comments and the applicant presentation commenced.

Following the comments and the presentation, JQ expressed her and the Town of Hardwick's Board of Selectmen sincere thanks to the Commissioners and the residents who attended the meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.