Adopted
25 August 2025

New York State Gaming Commission
2 June 2025

A meeting of the Commission was conducted in New York, New York.

1. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum

Executive Director Robert Williams called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Establishment of a quorum was noted by Secretary Kristen Buckley. In attendance were Chairman Brian O'Dwyer, and Members John Crotty, Sylvia Hamer, Martin Mack, Peter Moschetti, Marissa Shorenstein, and Jerry Skurnik.

2. Consideration of Minutes for Meeting of 24 March 2025

The Commission considered previously circulated draft minutes of the meeting conducted on 24 March 2025. The minutes were accepted as circulated.

3. Report of the Executive Director

The Executive Director presented a report that included information regarding the status of the Additional Casino License Environmental Review process for which the Commission serves as State Environmental Quality Review Act lead agency, an overview of provisions in the recently passed State Budget that have direct Commission implication, and the recent passing of former Commission Chairman Barry Sample. Commisioners Crotty, Moschetti, and Skurnick also each shared personal tributes regarding the late Chairman.

4. Rulemaking

A. Proposal: Ultimate Texas hold 'em poker and Heads up hold 'em poker amendments

The Commission considered amendments to the rules for two existing commercial casino games: Ultimate Texas hold 'em poker and Heads up hold 'em poker table games. The change to the former regarded the addition of a new optional wager, called an Ultimate Pairs Wager; a change to the latter was for organizational consistency and to make other technical corrections.

ON A MOTION BY: Commissioner Crotty
APPROVED: 7-0

5. New and Old Business

Chairman O'Dwyer addressed the following:

A. **Community Advisory Committee Notice**. The Chairman noted the Commission would be receiving applications to obtain one of the three potential licenses for the operation of a casino in New York. He directed staff to identify public officials who represent sites that have a reasonable expectation of hosting an applicant for a commercial casino and alert them to the provisions of law that will provide them an appointment to a Community Advisory Committee.

B. **Tariffs**. The Chairman raised concern that tariffs imposed on imported products may affect the breeding industry. He advised that he was working with the Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund towards an exception and urged interested parties to educate their elected representatives about the potential impact such tariffs could have on the breeding industry.

C. **Student Internships**. The Chairman was pleased to announce two seasonal college interns are working at the Commission this summer. James Donovan, who recenty graduated from University of Buffalo, is serving in the Buffalo Lottery Customer Service Center to support the office and help prepare for the Lottery's annual presence at the Erie County Fair in August; and Isabella Richards, a Junior at Florida State University, has joined Counsel's Office in Schenectady.

D. **Belmont Stakes Racing Festival**. The Chairman advised that Saturday marked the 157th Belmont Stakes being conducted once again at Saratoga Race Course while Belmont Park is redeveloped. He provided an overview of the the five-day Belmont Stakes Racing Festival.

E. **Whipping Stakes in Races**. The Chairman raised concern that the imposition of minimal fines by the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority for violations of their whipping rule were insufficient to prevent a jockey from violating the rule and suggested lax enforcement would cause great public harm to racing.

6. Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.