



# Equine Facility and Racetrack Proposal for Sturbridge

Commonwealth Racing

July 2020

# Why this Project

“Sturbridge isn’t just about horse racing. It is also about preserving our rural economy, our farms and a way of life that will disappear forever if we don’t protect it and act now.”

Anthony Spadea, Jr., President  
The New England Horsemen’s  
Benevolent and Protective Assn.



# The Location in Sturbridge

- 223 acre site in Sturbridge in Worcester County
- Site on east side US 84 along the Massachusetts-Connecticut border, with access through last exit in Connecticut
- Sturbridge is home to popular tourist attraction Old Sturbridge Village, restaurants, breweries, hotels, and working farms and recreation trails



# The Vision

- Live thoroughbred racing meets and equestrian center
  - Elegant New England-style architecture in a rural wooded setting
  - Annual festival with racing occurring several weeks out of the year in the spring and fall
  - Show grounds, stables, corrals, and equestrian center
  - Recreation and entertainment facilities for general public
  - One-mile dirt/synthetic racetrack &  $\frac{7}{8}$  mile turf racetrack
  - Host onsite and online sports and horse racing betting





# Benefits for the Community

- New capital investment in Central Massachusetts of \$25 million+
- Construction and permanent jobs
- New tax revenue for Town of Sturbridge and Commonwealth of Massachusetts



# Up to 1,000 fulltime equivalent jobs (FTEs) and \$100 million in economic activity

UMass/Amherst Center for Economic Development study says integrated horse park and racetrack is serious economic business.

The proposed facility is expected to bring approximately **\$53.7 million per year** in new spending to the Massachusetts economy from out-of-state sources. The ripple effects would yield a **total annual impact of \$98.9 million** across the entire economy and generate **another \$5 million per year in new state and local tax revenues...** and support the creation of **958 full-time equivalent (FTE) year-round jobs** in the Commonwealth. thoroughbred breeding and training farms across Massachusetts.  
[https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1166&context=ced\\_tchrpts](https://scholarworks.umass.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1166&context=ced_tchrpts)



*Dr. John R. Mullin is one of the lead authors of a 2016 economic analysis of the impact of a horse park and thoroughbred racetrack in Massachusetts. He is Emeritus Professor of Regional Planning in the Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Department at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Associate Director of the Center for Economic Development, and former Dean of the Graduate School. A Senior Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Mullin is a retired Brigadier General from the United States Army National Guard.*

**There is horse sense and there is common sense. This is both.**

# What's wrong with this picture?

*“Not every job can – or should – be technology driven. Not everyone takes the T to work. Farming in any form is not an easy life, but when you let horse racing wither and die, you are also cutting blacksmiths, veterinarians, feed suppliers, hay farms, bedding companies, and all the jobs directly tied to racing.”*

[WINIFRED SINKIEWICZ](https://commonwealthmagazine.org/opinion/dont-pull-the-plug-on-thoroughbreds/), Jun 19, 2020, commenting in Commonwealth Magazine on *The Doc Is In* thoroughbred she bred and trained before selling to an owner in New York who has won six races with the Massachusetts-bred horse  
<https://commonwealthmagazine.org/opinion/dont-pull-the-plug-on-thoroughbreds/>





# About Commonwealth Racing

- New group led by a local businessman, and horse breeder and owner Armand Janjigian
- Support from New England Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (Anthony Spadea, Jr., President) and Massachusetts Thoroughbred Breeders Association (Donna Pereira, Chair)
- Horse enthusiast and resort developer Richard T. Fields enlisted to solicit investors

