

Goshen Historic Track to get \$250,000 in renovation funds

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GOSHEN — A \$250,000 capital grant will finance much-needed improvements to Goshen Historic Track, state Sen. John Bonacic announced Wednesday.

The money will go primarily toward repairs and upgrades to the track, grandstand and maintenance building, said Steve Jones, president of Historic Track. The grandstand, for example, was donated in 1911 by Mary Harriman in honor of her late husband, “so that has some age on it and some issues that we need to address,” Jones said.

The grant money, too, is “old,” Bonacic said, meaning it was secured before the current prohibition against awarding capital grants to not-for-profits such as Historic Track.

Bonacic, R-C-I-Mount Hope, and other officials touted the track as an important landmark in the region.

“Nothing represents the history, the heritage and the beating heart of the village like the Historic Track,” Goshen Mayor Kyle Roddey said at a news conference held to announce the grant. “... But it’s not just about the past, it’s about the future, and I know that this institution has a bright future.”

The track, founded in 1838, is the oldest active trotting racetrack in the world and one of only two sporting venues on the National Register of Historic Places, Bonacic said.

“They’ve actually been racing horses in Goshen since 1783,” Jones said. “Just after the Revolutionary War, people started racing horses in Goshen from the old courthouse — there was a mile straightaway. So we’ve been here a long time ... We appreciate the support and will work very hard to use the money wisely.”

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