



Harsens' Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes February 13, 2016

Directors Present: Todd Brady, Susan Bryson, Barbara Crown, Pat Feighan, Jim Laethem, Melanie Most, Denne Osgood, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Lois Whipple;

Excused: Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Mike Hilla, Carol Johanson, Art Koster, Nancy LaMastus, David Martin, MaryAnn McLane, Kathy O'Connor, Leonard Verlinden, Rosemary Wieczorek;

Guests and Members Present: Artie Bryson, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Steve Gartland, Denise LaValley, Linda Schoonover, Joanne Shirkey.

Denne Osgood brought the meeting to order at the Lion's Hall at 9:32 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The January meeting minutes were presented. **Pat Feighan made the motion to approve the January meeting minutes, Dennis Szymanski seconded; motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber reported the balance in the checkbook for January 31, 2015 was \$8,108.57, with total cash on hand being \$30,855.36.

Pat Feighan made the motion to approve the January treasurer's reports; Lois Whipple seconded to approve; motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Donna Halacoglu was not present today, but Barbara Crown reported that 1,200 membership letters were sent out last week. Some dues have already been received for this year.

OLD BUSINESS

- *The Society:* There has been some confusion between the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Association and the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society. There has been an agreement that going forward the Historical Society will be known as The Harsens Island Historical Society (removing St. Clair Flats from their name).
- *Credit card setup:* Todd Brady is present with the new credit card equipment today, and will show Barbara Crown how to properly use the machine and process payments/dues/donations for the Association.
- *Updating emails:* Todd Brady maintains an email list to update members of Association events and news. If anyone needs to update their email address or add new members, please direct that information to Donna Halacoglu.
- *501(c)(3) update:* Pat Feighan has engaged contact with the lawyer and will update when there is something to report.



Guest Speaker: Artie Bryson

- **PROPOSED BRIDGE:** The Detroit International Bridge Company applied for a permit to build a bridge across the North Channel of the St. Clair River. Previously this company applied for a fixed bridge back in 2007, but these plans were rejected because of interference with riparian rights and wetland issues on the island. This current permit is in response to their rejected permit, but this is being treated as a new (draw) bridge. The public hearing for this proposed project is scheduled for March 9, 2016 at 7pm in the auditorium at Algonquin Elementary School in Algonac. The DEQ has to give the company an answer some time in April, which is why the meeting needs to take place so soon and the date can't be pushed back any farther. Public comments will remain open until March 19 (10 days later). Artie is having someone record the hearing so it can be put on YouTube and people can view if they cannot be present at the meeting. It will likely take longer to get the permits in line than it would actually take to build the bridge.
- **ROAD UPDATE:** the contractors will be returning this spring to fix the roads with the microseal / chip seal, otherwise they won't get paid.
- **WATER:** In light of recent issues with the Flint water crisis, please know that Clay Township water is fine, there is nothing to worry about. Clay Township doesn't have any lead pipes and therefore no lead in the water. The pH is perfect and will not leech any chemicals into the water from the pipes. The water plant supplying Clay Township is state-of-the-art, and our township happens to have the cheapest water in the county. Artie is willing to provide a tour of the plant if there is interest. If anyone wants to set that up they can contact him directly. The city water supply currently ends at McDonald Street in The Flats. Due to water pressure, it will likely be impossible to go any further than just a few more streets beyond McDonald.
- **FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Clay Township received an almost \$700,000 grant to staff the mainland and island fire departments 24/7, including hiring 7 full-time employees. So far it is going great, but the township is currently only ALS-rated (Advanced Life Support). The township can administer medications and radio to the hospital to speak with doctors, but only thing that the township cannot do is transport to the hospital. St. Clair County Medical Control Authority is a board appointed by 3 hospitals, and our ambulance transport services goes through Tri-Hospital. In Clay Township, our EMTs and Paramedics are also firemen. The reason Clay Township can't transport really comes down to a loss of revenue to Tri-Hospital. If residents desire the township to be able to transport directly to the hospital (and not rely on Tri-Hospital's support). The SCC MCA doesn't want Clay Township to take away this ability to transport directly to the hospital due to lack of revenue. Currently the SCC MCA has one ambulance that serves Clay Township, Algonac, part of Ira, part of Cottrellville, and Harsens Island. Their "acceptable" response time is 15 minutes, while the Clay Township "acceptable" response time is 10 minutes. In the month of December, Tri-Hospital on completed an "acceptable" response time on Harsens Island a total of 66% of the time. The other 34% of the time, it took longer than 15 minutes to show up. This is unacceptable to Artie. Clay Township can show up within just a few minutes and can perform essential duties but ultimately cannot transport to the hospital. Artie suggests to send a letter to the SCC MCA (Artie will provide a draft) so that Clay Township can become the primary method of transport. FEMA only funded 20 grants across the United States at 100%, and Clay Township is one of them. Our grant is currently funded for 2 years, and Artie is going to try to get it funded for another 2 years after that, so long as he can show that it is working as intended.
- **GOLF CARTS:** Golf carts, ORVs, and pedal cars are permitted on non-state roadways, and can cross state roads but not drive on them (such as Green Drive). For example, M-154 is a state road and driving any of these vehicles on M-154 is not permitted. Permits are available at the township office and they are free.
- **YARD SALE TRAIL:** This multi-city yard sale will take place the second weekend in August, and starts in Clay Township and goes all the way up into the thumb.
- **WINTERFEST:** This public event is being held next weekend (2/19 – 2/21) in the Clay Township park, which includes a band, deejay, figure skaters, hockey clinic, chili cook-off, wrestling, circus, and kids'



fishing contest. Details can be found here:

http://claytownship.org/docs/Pearl_Beach_Lions_Winterfest_2016_2_.pdf

- **ADDITION / POLICE:** An addition is being put on the police station. This addition will combat security issues and also provide facilities for women. Also, the evidence room is becoming very cluttered, so the room is being renovated to allow for proper storage of evidence. The dispatch center is being updated to beyond the quality seen at the county level. Mobile ID is being test piloted in Clay Township which is a new form of technology for fingerprint identification being used by the police.
- **TOWNSHIP PARK:** Walking path lights are being added to the township park. There is also a possibility that some outdoor exercise equipment may be added at a later date.
- **VOTING:** This year there is a double primary, so when asking for an absentee ballot, you need to specify your party so you can be sent the correct ballot.
- **NEW TOWNSHIP CLERK:** Cindy Valentine is the new township clerk and is doing a great job in her new role.

Pat Feighan made the motion to have the Association draft a letter in support of the ambulance services, Dennis Szymanski seconded; all in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Communications (Donna Halacoglu):* As stated previously, 1,200 membership letters were mailed last week.
- *Government affairs (Pat Feighan):* Artie stated earlier regarding the public notice taking place about the proposed bridge.
- *Browne's Field upkeep and future development (Jim Laethem / Pat Feighan):*
 - Restrooms: Pat Feighan presented an artist's rendering of the proposed facilities as shown in the Appendix of this document. The next steps include taking the rendering to an architect and then ultimately to a contractor for costs. **Dennis Szymanski made the motion to allocate \$2,000 to pursue an architectural drawing, Susan Bryson seconded; all in favor, motion approved.**
 - Pond Treatment: Bob Bryson currently has the necessary permits to handle hazardous chemicals for pond treatment, so Pat Feighan will be getting with Bob to sort out treating the pond.
- *Browne's Field rental (Rosemary Wieczorek):* Rosemary was not present, but Pat Feighan stated the following rates would be in effect for the new contract: \$200 to rent the pavilion only, with a \$100 security deposit. Renting the pavilion plus the kitchen/concession stand is \$250 with a \$150 security deposit. HISCFA members will get a \$50 discount on either of the rental agreements. **Lois Whipple made the motion to approve the rental rates that Pat has established, Dennis Szymanski seconded; all in favor, motion approved.** Pat will follow up with a formal contract next month for everyone to review and finalize.
- *Browne's Field special events (Rosemary Wieczorek):* Barbara Crown reported that the following events need to be scheduled.
 - Trunk-to-Trunk Sales: dates are being evaluated for holding these (at least two) sales.
 - Harsens Island Car Show on July 16, 2016: The website is now updated with information regarding the show, including applications to participate. The link to the site is <http://harsensislandcarshow.weebly.com/>. Barbara Crown and Jerry Thiel are having a meeting Wednesday evening to discuss the trophies and other items for the show.



- Bonfire: a date will need to be set for some time in September, likely the last weekend of the month.
- *Liquor licenses for 2016 events:* A total of three liquor licenses will need to be applied for to support the above events planned. The specifics will be sorted out at the next meeting.
- *Water station roof and paint issues:* John Horvath said he would be willing to part with a bundle of shingles for \$50 to re-roof the water station. **Denne Osgood made the motion for \$50 to be allocated for roofing materials, Dennis Szymanski seconded; all in favor, motion approved.**
- *Advertising sign (Barbara Crown):* Contracts are going out at the end of this month or the beginning of March.
- *Delta News (Barbara Crown):* The advertising letters are going to be sent out at the end of this month or the beginning of March. Barbara Crown stated she needs to get with Art Woodford about the cover art for next year's publishing. Barbara asked the meeting attendees if they had any suggestions for any articles that should be included.
- *Pickleball:* Susan Bryson reported that the CATTAILS voted to discuss what likelihood the Association would be able to form a Pickleball Committee, and that the Association would sponsor a fundraiser for the resurfacing of the courts. Susan will pursue getting a quotation for the complete resurfacing of the courts.
- *Krispin Drain update (Pat Feighan):* The drain project is complete and the contractors have left the island. They have dredged from the North Channel down to the DNR property next to Little Muscamoot Bay. A 100-foot-wide path will be maintained and treated throughout the drain for two years. The crew will be returning in the spring to finish the aquatic planning. The drain goes through the island and all the way up to about 75 yards of marsh before Little Muscamoot Bay. If it is to be completed through to the bay, the DNR would have to finish it.
- *Annual Letter (Barbara Crown):* Additional copies of the annual letter are available at today's meeting. Barbara Crown will have more letters available at the Waterfront Shoppe.
- *Pavilion contract rewrite:* Pat Feighan stated that he would make the rewritten contract available at next month's meeting for discussion.
- *Committee assignments:* Denne Osgood requested that everyone look at their committee assignments in the Delta News and agree that they are still going to continue with that committee.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Arlene Earl is currently located at The Village of East Harbor, 33875 Kiely Drive, Chesterfield, MI 48047, Room 319.
- ✓ Pat Feighan suggested that the Association re-post ice preparation guidelines on Nextdoor and send to the Association members.

Lois Whipple made the motion to adjourn, Jim Laethem seconded. All approved; meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary



APPENDIX:

Water Station / Restrooms Proposal

