

**--Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association
Minutes March 14, 2015**

Directors Present: Barbara Crown, Susan Bryson, Carol Johanson, Jim Laethem Nancy Lamastus, Denne Osgood, Mary Ann McLane, Cindy Pilato, Dennis Szymanski,

Excused: Todd Brady, Pat Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Mike Hilla, Art Koster, David Martin, Kathy O'Connor; Paul Wargo; Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wieczorek

Guests and Members Present: George and Neva Covalle, Pat Lopata, Harry Hines, Dan Lamastus, Mike Balan, Paul Atkinson

Barbara Crown brought the meeting to order at the Lion's Hall, at 9:30 am, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The February minutes were presented, **Dennis Szymanski made a motion to approve, Susan Bryson seconded; motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Rosemary Wieczorek was absent, a full report will be presented at the April meeting. Barbara reported that to date we have \$14767.72 in our checking account. This does not account for what are in the CD account.

Secretary Report – Donna Halacoglu was absent, Barbara Crown reported that we now have 540 paid members, this included the Old Club. Donations over and above the membership donations have reached \$4210.00, this is over all donations last year which were \$4100.00. Our membership drive is not over, so we are pleased with the additional donations of our members.

Old Business:

Assessment Tax for the Krispin Drain – Barbara read a letter from Bob Wiley St. Clair County Drain Commissioner received by Pat Feighan. He questioned the Commission as to the reason the Association is assessed this additional money of \$110.00. This assessment is a onetime payment. As a nonprofit group we can be assessed, and he added this is a special assessment and not a tax. This is to cover the cost of a survey needed for the Krispin Drain. They had hoped that the EPA would include this in the price of dredging the Krispin Drain, but they did not want to fund that survey at this time. The Drain Commission is going to take on the cost of the -survey and pass on the cost through an assessment. If we have additional questions we can call the office at 810-989-6936. Pat Feighan to follow this up and make sure the survey is actually done.

Advertising Sign Digital readout – Norman Rhodes has taken over the digital sign until Todd Brady is able to take on this job again.

Water Station – Barbara Crown will take over the water card electronic reader system until Todd is able to resume this task. The Board of Directors wants to wish Todd a speedy recovery from his accident and we hope to see him back as soon as he is ready.

Recording Secretary Barbara will be searching for a new recording secretary for our monthly meetings. Our current secretary, Kathy Brady, is currently busy with more pressing obligations. We want to thank her for her time and effort. We wish her well in her studies.

Walking Paths Through the DNR Property As was discussed at last month's meeting, the board of directors, with the help of Pat Feighan want to get this project back on "path". Barbara was approached this week by John Darling and he is indeed on board with the project. George and Neva Covalle were present today to discuss this project. Neva spoke regarding a conversation she had with John Darling, about providing maps and signs to be placed in the DNR parking lots to promote walking paths for Island resident. This would help Islanders to know where they are allowed to walk. Residents can access dykes from January to early September. Hunting season limits the rest of the year. Volunteers and promotion of these paths would be beneficial for educational purposes. Grants may be available through the Pittman-Robertson Federal Act. When Pat returns he can get a committee together and bring this idea to fruition this year. This is an area on the Island that is under utilized by our residents. Educational Birding Tour will take place on April 18. John Darling will put out more about this on Next Door.

Advertising Signs Barbara wanted the directors to know that the signs on the advertising board are the property of the Association. Our advertisers pay for the artwork to be done on the substrate, however, this does not give them ownership of the panel. In some cases Norman Rhodes can reuse the sign panels. Recently we removed a sign, and in the process, due to its age, the sign came apart and could not be used again. The advertiser no longer paid for his sign on the board, but he was told he could have it when we took it down. That may have been understood, but Barbara as the new coordinator of the advertising sign had nothing in writing to substantiate this promise. This is why all our dealings with advertisers, vendors, and service people must be spelled out contracted and signed. We can no longer have verbal agreements and handshakes. As we know and have been involved, they tend to always get misconstrued.

NEW BUSINESS

Raffle Ticket Prizes – Cindy Pilato would like to take a little time and get back with us on the prizes for this year’s raffle. We do however need to get this decided in order to obtain our license.

Field Day – Cindy will be reporting back with us at the next meeting. Our field day is August 1st this year. Cindy would like to mimic last year’s program, it seemed to work and was very successful. More to be discussed at our next meeting

Silent Auction – Mary Ann McLane will no longer be our chairperson for the Field Day Silent Auction. We want to commend her for her hard work over the past 14 years. This is a time consuming job as well as a physical job to accomplish. Susan Bryson has stepped up to be the next chairperson, we want to thank her for her support in this important fund raising aspect of our Field Day.

Recycling on the Island – Harsens Island will now have the opportunity to recycle curb side. To get your container, call Clay Township offices for a request. We will be accessed \$35.00 a year for this service, whether we use or not.

Road Pick Up Jim Laethem has set April 11th for our road pick up date. Please be prepared after the meeting to spend an hour to pick up trash on our designated area. We will have a light lunch afterward, at 4075 Green Drive.

I hope to see as many as able to give us a hand. I thank you in advance. Bring boots and a warm jacket. Safety vests will be supplied.

Save The South Channel Lights Barbara announced that Chuck Brockman, keeper of our South Channel Lights passed away in this past month. No funeral was held, but we want to remember him as the force behind the development of our South Channel lighthouses. Barbara suggested a donation be made in his memory to the SOS organization. **Denne Osgood made a motion to approve a donation of \$300 to be given to the SOS organization, Susan Bryson seconded, all approved. Barbara will send a check to the Organization in his memory.**

Denne Osgood: Announced that a lecture will be given by the Historical Society this afternoon at 3 pm at the School House Grill. The speaker is renowned diver, Tony Grammer.

Clay Township Meeting Barbara announced that the Clay Township Trustee meeting will be Monday, March 16, at 7:30. At this meeting they will be announcing the replacement of Lisa White’s position as clerk. Jim Laethem volunteered to attend the meeting.

Additional Comments Susan Bryson announced that the CATTAILS would like to be this year’s recipient to the proceeds from the Old Club Fashion Show. At their last meeting held on March 9th, a discussion was presented by all in attendance that they would like to donate to HISCFA for a Browne’s Field project. Having a pickle ball court was mentioned. Dennis Szymanski said it would be nice to use the funds towards getting water to the pavilion. The Association would like to extend a thank you to the CATTAILS for their offer. Barbara reminded everyone to get their tickets early for the fashion show, they sell out quickly.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn at 10:30 am, Denne Osgood seconded, all adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 10:24 am. The next meeting will be April 11, at 9:30 am at the Lions Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crown
President
Acting Recording Secretary