

**Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Association  
Minutes  
February 8, 2014**

**Directors Present:** Todd Brady, Barb Crown, Patrick Feighan, Donna Halacoglu, Carol Johanson, Jim Laethem, Nancy LaMastus, Mary Ann McLane, Kathy O'Conner, Dennis Szymanski.

**Directors Absent/Excused:** Susan Bryson, Jerry Freeman, Mike Hilla, Art Koster, David Martin, Denne Osgood, Cindy Pilato, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wieczorek.

Barb Crown brought the meeting to order in the Lions Den. Pledge of Allegiance, **Pat Feighan motioned to approve the November minutes. Mary Ann McLane seconded. Motion Carried.** Barbara Crown, welcomed all directors back for a new year. Welcomed Kathy O'Conner as a new director of the Association.

President's Goals for the up coming year: Work out a new plan too off set the growing expenses at the Water Station and the water at Bates Cut. A committee will be set to review this information and getting a plan in place. Set up a workable budget to help us become more fiscally responsible. She would like all directors to recruit new members for this year, hopefully that will tie in to the new welcome packet. Try to recruit volunteers for specific tasks. Especially need help for field day. Look at more than one fund raising event during the year.

**Treasurer Report:** As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013: **\$33,075.88.**

**Dennis Szymanski motioned to approve the January minutes.** Pat Feighan seconded. **Motion Carried.** Lois Whipple will be resigning as Treasurer next year. A replacement is needed to fill her position.

**Correspondence/Membership:** Mary Ann McLane read a thank you letter from the two (2) young college students who were awarded the scholarships. Barb asked all directors present if changes needed made to their correspondence information to please contact Carol Johanson.

**Government Affairs:** Pat Feighan gave an update on the DNR and drainage. Brackish water was dumped into the canals but did not come from the DNR. Artie Bryson asked about the water testing. An update was given by Par Feighan.

**-The Krispen Drain Project** will help the water flow issue through the interior of the Island. Dredging will start at the North Channel and go behind the schoolhouse. Artie Bryson gave a report about the finances and objectives. Options are being considered. Ninety percent of engineering studies should be complete by April 2014. Start date is still up in the air. The monies are delegated fort this projects already. Conversation was held about the algae bloom blockage. The water is currently clearer due to the zebra muscles and the levels are low now but fertilization does happen.

-Artie Bryson gave a report on the **Emergency Alert System.** There is no longer a county wide alert system. The DEQ and SEMCOG are making progress towards the replacement system but it is not yet complete. In December there was a spill in the river from Sarnia, we were notified within an hour and a half after it took place. Last summer it took hours before we were notified. Artie said as of now, our local water reserve would hold us for about two and a half (2 1/2) days with high water usage before it would be shut down, if a spill was not taken care of.

**-Articles of Incorporation** will be done and available by our next meeting. **The By-Laws are complete.**

**-HITA** has a new five (5) person Board in place and intend on proceeding with business as usual.

**-The auxiliary water station** which was rebuilt this past year has no charge for usage. HISCFA reviewed the costs back thru 1999 for the North Channel water station. HISCFA has spent over \$70,000. since 1999. Annual expenses run about \$6,000. per year. The water cost is approximately \$1,000 and the expense cost is approximately \$5,000. Expenses need to be closer to the costs. Although the single tap costs users are charged nothing, while the bulk tap costs only \$0.25 per gallon. Many residents take advantage of this minimal cost by hooking up a hose to the single tap. Dennis Szymanski is researching options for a fiscal solution. He presented two (2) option ideas today but is still investigating more. Discussion was held. More recommendations will come in March.

**Delta News Committee:** Barb Crown requested new ideas and articles or information for the upcoming Delta News be submitted to her as soon as possible. Ideas: Eagle breeding, Water spills, the Walpole Indian involvement, etc.

**Browne's Field Committee:** Jim Laethem notified the committee that Barefoot, TruGreen, and BBC will all keep last years prices. The pond needs an aerator to keep the weeds down. The play area needs more work this summer also. The budget does have money allocated for Browne's Field however new fundraising could be allocated to specific projects with proceeds going to those projects, such as this.

**Other Committees:** Todd Brady offered to head up an IT committee to teach several directors about social media marketing, technical, internet, and email updating knowledge to help modernize and promote HISCFA to gain new members. Barb Crown and Donna Halacoglu showed interest in becoming part of this committee.

**-Community Relations** Committee will become part of the Welcome Committee that is headed by Cindy Pilato. The new "Next Door" email notification has already started throughout the community. Kathy O'Conner and Rosemary Wieczorek showed an interest in this committee.

**-Transportation Committee:** Denne Osgood and Pat Feighan

**-Water Station Committee:** Dennis Szymanski

**-Field Day Committee:** (Special Events) Cindy Pilato

**-Browne's Field Committee:** Jim Laethem

**-Delta News Committee:** Barb Crown and Arthur Woodford

**-Environment Affairs Committee:** Pat Feighan

**New Business:** Discussion was held to increase the dues from \$35. to \$40. or \$50. annually to help cover the rising cost of the Association. It has been many years since we have increased the dues. Discussion of how much was reviewed by the directors present. **Pat Feighan motioned to increase the dues to \$40.00. Dennis Szymanski seconded. Motion Carried.** It is hoped the increase will help offset the rising costs.

**-The Annual Membership letter will be going out next month to our members.**

-Discussion was held about **TEAM FOX**, the Michael J. Fox foundation for Parkinson's Disease. **Pat Feighan made a motion to donate \$1,000. from HISCFA in Jim Laethem's name. Dennis Szymanski seconded. Motion Carried.**

-Barb Crown read a letter from the Lion's Organization which included their new rate schedule for the hall. The new rate is \$100. per use. Barb also requested that HISCFA change the way in which they pay the Lions from once each year (at the end of the season) to a monthly payment and to be specifically marked "for administration fund" to go directly to the hall.

-Nancy Lamastus showed interest on staying on for another three (3) year term. **Pat Feighan motioned to reappoint Nancy Lamastus for another three (3) year term as of January, 2014. Mary Ann McLane seconded. Motion Carried.**

-**The Port-A-John** at the ferry entrance on both sides should have a vinyl removable sign placed on it letting people know that they are provided by HISCFA.

**Comments from the Floor:** Artie Bryson reported that the county will be repaving Bates Road in 2015. He lobbied for this year but funds were not available. Monies will be earmarked for the township budget for 2015.

-The water Bonds from the 1990's were grossly under-budgeted by a \$1.3 million shortage by their expiration date. These Bonds are being refunded now to help cover this debt but \$300,000. will still be in arrears after the refunding is done. Artie Bryson is proposing a quarter increase on the existing water bills community wide until these Bonds expire and are paid off to get us in the clear. At this time the increase would be reversed. It will cost \$12. more each month per resident. Artie reported that Clay Township is still lower than Ira, Marysville, and other local townships. He is still looking for federal monies to help the water situation in the Flats.

**Dennis Szymanski motioned to adjourn at 11:40 am.** Pat Feighan seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Brady  
Recording Secretary  
March 5, 2013