

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Association
Minutes
October 12, 2013

Directors Present: Todd Brady, Patrick Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Jim Laethem, David Martin, Denne Osgood, Cindy Pilato, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple.

Directors Absent/Excused: Susan Bryson, Barb Crown, Otto Jensen, Carol Johanson, Art Koster, Nancy LaMastus, Mary Ann McLane, Katie Schweikart, Don Verslype.

Members or Guests: Kathy Brady, Becky Bryson, Chuck Miller.

Pat Feighan brought the meeting to order in the H.I. Lion's Hall at 9:05 am. Dave Martin motioned to approve the August* and September minutes. Jerry Freeman seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report:

~Lois Whipple reported \$36,350.58 cash in the account. A discussion was held on various expense items and expenditures, afterward Pat Feighan asked for a motion to file the August* and September treasurer's reports, Dave Martin made the motion, Jerry Freeman seconded. Voted upon, Motion carried.

(*In absence of a quorum at the September board meeting Pat Feighan had requested a motion to file the August minutes to be approved at the October board meeting. Dave Martin made the motion. Donna Halacoglu seconded. Voted upon, Motion carried).

~Lois reported that the Old Club has a new accountant who now requires an invoice for their HISCFA membership dues. This invoice has now gone out. They are 2 years due (\$10,290.00, 2012 for 150 members and 2013 for 144 members). Pat Feighan said he will also follow up with Dale Cooper at the Old Club and add the new invoicing procedure to our business practices.

~ Lois asked if we intended to continue our past practice of donating \$2,000 to the H.I. Lions Club and \$2,000 to The Readers Cove each year. A discussion was held, after which it was agreed to do so. Pat Feighan requested a motion be made supporting that decision. Dave Martin made the motion. Seconded by Todd Brady Voted upon, Motion carried.

~Pat Feighan requested that Lois Whipple be allowed to investigate the purchasing a new lap top computer and accounting soft ware, to be owned by the association, and used by her in her duties as treasurer. A discussion was held. Dennis Szymanski made a motion that HISCFA purchase a new lap top computer for up to \$750.00 for recording the treasurer's information and reports. Cindy Pilato seconded. Voted upon, Motion carried.

Correspondence and Membership: Five (5) of the seven (7) directors whose terms are up this year, have elected not to run for re-election. Four (4) new candidates have announced their intention to run for the five (5) open positions, leaving us one (1) short. We currently have twenty-one (21) directors, serving three (3) year terms, staggered over three (3) years. A lengthy discussion was held on the number of directors, their positions, and what was actually required. After the discussion it was agreed to reduce the total number of directors down to fifteen (15). The reduction would be accomplished by dropping two (2) per year until we get down to fifteen (15). Pat Feighan requested a motion to support that decision. Denne Osgood made a motion to reduce the number of directors to fifteen (15) through the voting process over the next three years. It was seconded by Cindy Pilato. Voted upon, Motion carried.

~Pat Feighan said he would add that to the list of by-law changes he was working on with the association attorney.

~Donna Halacoglu spoke about the membership letter and director candidate ballot in preparation for the Annual meeting. All 765 members will need to be notified. Letters will go out by the end of next week.

~Denne Osgood brought a letter from The Society thanking HISCFA for their help at the Tashmoo Days event.

Government Affairs:

~Chuck Miller gave us an update on the Krispen Drain project. The township will act as project manager to divvy out grant monies to contractors who do the work consisting partly of clearing 100 ft of phagmite on either side of the drain for a 1.95 mile stretch from the North Channel to Krispen Road, being a 4 foot deep middle and 12 foot wide flow of water. MDEQ & DEA eliminated the dykes and the DNR area from the entire project. It is not a dredging project. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18th to discuss HISCFA's role in the project and the amount of money involved. Allocation of the 60-80,000 yards of soil from the project is to take place yet. Specific information is still needed. MDEQ does plan on funding the move of soil but only up to two (2) or (3) places.

~Pat Feighan reported that Clay Township supervisor, Artie Bryson, has been notified that HISCFA / Browns Field would like to be a soil repository for the Krispen Drain project.

~Pat Feighan reported that he was informed that Blue Water Transportation Authority, MDOT, and Champions Auto Ferry are still in negotiations. No decisions have been made as of yet.

Browne's Field:

~Jim Leathem noted that the railings on the gazebo were rotting and in very bad shape. Jim contacted Mr. Leon Beller of Amish Gazebo's the manufacturer, and explained the situation and forwarded him some pictures of the concern. Despite the lengthily time elapsed and long outdoor exposure, Mr. Beller agreed to not only replace all the gazebo's railings but to stain and finish coat the new railings to match. Amish Gazebos also agreed to ship all the materials to the Island at no cost.

~Pat Feighan reported that the south end water station has been repaired, is back on line and working fine. He also said the plan was to leave it operational throughout the winter for those folks who need it. "We paid for an anti freeze pump, lets see if it works."

Field Day:

~Cindy Pilato discussed concerns about volunteer help for next year. Pat Feighan suggested it may need contracted out if help is not available. The committee will need to discuss it early next year.

Community Affairs:

~Discussion was held about the Lions hall usage and expenses. There is a Town Hall meeting scheduled for October 22nd about the existence of the building. Todd Brady asked HISCFA directors to please notify your neighbors to attend the meeting at 7:00pm.

~Pat Feighan reported that our Walpole Island / First Nation neighbors contacted him and asked if they could hold an Environmental Awareness Event at Browne's Field, Saturday October 26, 2013. Artie Bryson said he too was contacted, and he was assured that the meeting will be about environment awareness and the impact of things like the latest chemical spill in the St. Clair River at Sarnia. Cindy Pilato said the field was available at that time. Pat said he would notify them of the approval and get an event schedule for publication to the membership and general public.

Chuck Miller announced how the First Nations got approval from the Canadian government to spray for phragmite. "They are making very positive strides."

Executive Committee:

~Pat Feighan stated he intends on finishing the Bi-Law updates with the lawyers before the Annual Meeting in November.

~Jim Leathem suggested we consider raising the dues since we have so few volunteers and may be faced to contract out much of what HISCFA does for the entire community.

~Denne Osgood asked about becoming a true Home Owners Association with all property owners required to be members, and everyone sharing in the expenses of Browne's Field, the Water Stations, the Park 'n Ride, and alike. A discussion was held. Chuck Miller said it would involve the state, IRS, and more. He said the idea was looked at before but due to the many concerns it was dropped. Denne Osgood said it should be looked at again. Jerry Freeman suggested looking into this idea as an avenue to help HISCFA stay successful as an organization which helps our community. Of major concern was the fate of the Lions Hall. Chuck Miller brought up an idea to review if HISCFA would be a viable candidate to manage the Lions Hall as a community Center. This may help motivate the community for support when discussing a possible dues increase or other actions. Pat Feighan will check with the lawyers to see if this is possible.

New Business:

~Cindy Pilato requested heading up a Welcome Committee for the many new neighbors here on the island. Kathy Brady and Donna Halacoglu volunteered to join as well. Lois Whipple reminded the board that Pat Feighan had created a President's Fund to pay the first years dues of eligible new members and it was available. Additional discussion was held, after which a motion was made by Lois Whipple to spend up to \$100 to create welcome packets to new residents. Dave Martin seconded. Voted upon, Motion Carried

~Pat Feighan announced the November directors meeting to be held at 9:30 next in preparation for the Annual Meeting. **The Annual Meeting will begin promptly at 10am Saturday November 9, 2013.** Donna offered to bring snacks.

Dennis Szymanski motioned to adjourn at 10:44. Todd Brady seconded. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Brady
Recording Secretary
October 28, 2013