



## Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

### Minutes October 13, 2018

**Directors Present:** Craig Baloga, Todd Brady, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Patrick Feighan, Donna Halacoglu, Jim Laethem, Harold Stieber, Jerry Thiel;

**Excused:** Jerry Freeman, Mike Hilla, David Martin, Melanie Most, Kathy O'Connor, Paul Stieler, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wieczorek;

**Guests and Members Present:** John Cameron, Fred Cardinali, Jody Crane, Judy Jessup, Michael Joye, Donna Krispin, Bernardo Licata, Kristine Pierce, Linda Schoonover, Joanne Shirkey, Debbie Thiel.

Barbara Crown brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:03 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The September 2018 meeting minutes were presented. **Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the September 2018 meeting minutes, Neva Covalle seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

#### **Executive Committee Reports**

**Treasurer Report:** Harold Stieber presented the treasurer's reports for September 2018. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for September 30, 2018 was \$40,078.24, with total cash on hand being \$63,208.55. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org. Harold went into details about the financial results of the Pig Roast which can be obtained by sending him an email. Net profit for this event was \$1,933 which was nearly double the profit from the previous year.

**Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the September 2018 treasurer's reports, Jerry Thiel seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.**

**Secretary Report:** Neva Covalle stated there was nothing to report at this time.

**Communications:** Neva Covalle stated that there were no communications received this month.

**Government Affairs:** Patrick Feighan reported that there are now 31 people on the Clay Township Fire Department after a recent hiring of 9 people.

**Browne's Field:** Patrick Feighan reported that the Browne's Field Committee would be establishing a date to begin the winterization process of the field and facilities.



## **OLD BUSINESS**

- *Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA)*: The second annual meeting took place on Madeline Island in Wisconsin which Harold Stieber attended. For background purposes, this alliance began as a coalition through the state of Michigan in 2017 and has now grown into an alliance of several bridgeless islands located within the Great Lakes. The first meeting was held on Beaver Island, MI in 2017 and throughout the year representatives have been participating in phone conferences with the purpose of establishing a charter including topics that are relevant to island residents. They have also held a webinar on August 22 regarding the topic of water levels in the Great Lakes.

This year's event took place over September 30, October 1, and October 2, 2018. The focus was the formalization of the charter and the appointment of five volunteers in the formation of a steering committee. The committee's aim was to select a representative from each of the Great Lakes to represent that region. Unfortunately there was no one present from Lake Ontario so they ended up choosing two representatives from the Lake Huron area to be placed into the steering committee. These people are going to be responsible for directing the future progress of the GLIA.

Harold's personal take on the Alliance as a whole is that we do compare ourselves to other islands and there are a few other islands that are similar to Harsen's, but there are also other islands that are much larger and their main focus is mostly on tourism. Hopefully the results of our participation in the GLIA will provide a better community for all to enjoy. A lot of people complain about "what we have" and "what we don't have," but surprisingly enough Harsen's has a lot of good things in place that a lot of other islands are lacking. For example, the representative from Neebish Island (another community-type island like Harsen's) stated that she got stuck off the island for *30 days* last year due to weather (ice) after missing the last ferry by only thirty minutes. All things considered, Harold thinks that Harsen's Island has it pretty good compared to other similar islands in the Great Lakes.

With the assistance of the GLIA, Harold is learning through which avenues grant money is available. The Alliance sends the information to each of the island representatives and it is up to each representative to determine whether the grant is applicable to the island or, in our case, the HISCFA.

- *Pig Roast and Bonfire*: Barbara Crown wanted to say a huge Thank You to Susan Bryson for her efforts in putting on this successful event this year. Having the band perform at this event seemed to make a huge impact in the ticket sales, and although there were some tickets still available at the time the event took place, the rest of the tickets were sold at the door.
- *Clay Township Fire Advisory Board*: Barbara Crown read a prepared statement (on behalf of herself) to the advisory board.

*"I wanted to say thank you to the Clay Township Fire Advisory Committee for their work on this issue since the last time we met on September 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*The committee consists of Patrick Feighan (Chair), George Covalle and Harold Stieber (HISCFA Board), Dave Carruthers, Bernardo Licata, and Mike Joye from our community. According to the Chair of the committee (Pat), 'The Advisory Committee is looking to provide a perspective of relevant information to impart to our residents so they can make an informed decision on just what coverage they want and how much they are willing to pay for it.'*

*Patrick Feighan was asked by the Clay Township Supervisor and Trustees if he would head up a committee to come up with a statement of what the people on Harsen's Island want for EMS and fire coverage. The committee is looking out for the best interests of the Harsen's Island residents, and are working hard to research first the basic facts before they come up with anything that will be a good fit for both Harsen's Island and Clay Township. This statement is broken*



*down into its simplest form, because we all know this is a multi-faceted issue with a great deal of material to digest and assimilate.*

*I can only assume that Clay Township, their Trustees, and their Fire Department are in process of looking at the same issues that the independent Fire Advisory committee is looking into as well.*

*As we all know, there has been a contentious debate between the Islanders and the Township over the issue of EMS and fire coverage on our Island. Supervisor Artie Bryson asked if our community could come together with a plan that the Township may be able to deliver to our Island that would cover our concerns about our EMS and fire coverage on the Island.*

*Supervisor Bryson, Fire Chief George Rose, the Tri-Hospital administration and others have been more than willing to provide the committee, specifically Pat Feighan, with a notebook full of facts and figures. I am pleased that Clay Township employees and others have taken the time from their busy schedules to provide the committee with the information they have requested.*

*The task of the committee at this point is to take all this data and information and put it into a form that will be understandable to the residents of Harsen's Island, with hopes of delivering a product that will give Harsen's Island the coverage they want and need to give them peace of mind.*

*The committee is doing the job of compiling this information at this time. I would ask our directors, members, and other guests to be patient while they attempt to give us a fully accurate report so they can proceed to the next step of advising what they feel could be a viable solution to our EMS and fire protection issues as they pertain to our safety on the Island.*

*With that said, I would like to continue with our meeting and ask that we save questions for the end of the meeting. Thank you."*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- *2019 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:* Barbara Crown introduced a grant that Linda Schoonover has discovered and presented to the HISCFA as a possible source of grant money for the Association. An excerpt of the application states, "We want to hear from communities that have placed a priority on health and are creating powerful partnerships and deep commitments to provide everyone, especially those facing the greatest challenges, with the opportunity to live the healthiest life possible." Linda Schoonover talked briefly about the Foundation and how it relates to our Island community. Unfortunately this deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and does not give the Association much time to prepare the application for this once-yearly \$25,000 grant. After discussion from the Board, it was decided to pass on applying for this grant this year but to prepare it for next year instead.
- *2019 Membership Letter:* Barbara Crown asked for volunteers to write the 2019 Membership Letter. Jerry and Debbie Thiel have stepped up to take on this project. Jerry mentioned he might be interested in setting up a table in Sans Souci to get more people active in the Association next year and to potentially attract new members.
- *Calendar of Events / Duties:* 2019 HISCFA President George Covalle has requested a list of Association duties and events for the calendar year so that he can be aware of what needs to happen and on what sort of timeline(s). Barbara is putting this together to hand off to George when he transitions into that role. Harold Stieber spoke up that one of the things that other islands do is that they have a central community calendar someplace as placeholders so that there are limited conflicts of events. Patrick Feighan mentioned that the



HISCFA events are on the Algonac-Clay community calendar and has been for the past couple of years. However, there continues to be a lack of an Island-specific calendar.

- *Board of Directors Christmas Party:* Barbara Crown asked whether anyone was interested in having a Christmas get-together this year, and whether anyone was willing to participate in planning one. Barbara will send an email to the directors to follow up on this topic.
- *Sportsman's Swap Meet and Duck Calling Competition:* George Covalle reported that this event (in its third year) saw a significant increase in attendance this year at Browne's Field. They netted approximately \$2,100 in proceeds for their organization as opposed to only around \$900 in its first year. A total of \$590 was gained from 50/50 raffle sales. This event is proving to be successful for their organization and they hope to grow year over year going forward.
- *Pickleball Courts:* Harold Stieber reported that the pickleball courts have been extremely active recently, which is a good reason to secure the semi-permanent nets for next season. These nets were discussed at last month's meeting. **Neva Covalle made a motion to approve \$1,500 to acquire semi-permanent pickleball nets for the 2019 season of pickleball and beyond at Browne's Field; Patrick Feighan seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**
- *2019 Car Show:* Jerry Thiel reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Car Show is already in the planning stages. The date is scheduled for July 13, 2019. A total of \$200 of merchandise has already been received.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Barbara Crown added that today at noon at the Harsen's Island Historical Society there is a memorial ceremony for Nancy Boulton. Nancy was the founder of the Historical Society and will be greatly missed.
- ✓ Kristine Pierce introduced Christmas Package for Troops. The Memphis Chapter of Women's Life is collecting items for Christmas care packages to be sent to our troops overseas. She passed out information/instructions and said donations can be dropped off at her home located at 891 North Channel before October 28<sup>th</sup>. A copy of her handout is located in the Appendix of this document.
- ✓ Patrick Feighan reported that he spent most of this past Friday going over a lot of information for the Fire Advisory Committee, and he was very impressed with the procedures and dispatch information he was made aware of. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, the new electronic dispatch service will ping within 50 feet of where the cellular call was placed so there is a pretty accurate GPS system in place. Township personnel are going to be providing the committee with additional information as requested by Pat so he can relay this information to the people of the Island. Overall he was impressed with the status of the Fire Department and dispatch services available (which continue to improve), which happens to be better than some other neighboring communities. A presentation will be put together with the additional information once it becomes available.
- ✓ Jody Crane asked Patrick Feighan whether there was any movement on lifting the gag order with respect to the DuPage lawsuit with the Township. Supervisor Bryson got back to Patrick Feighan regarding this topic, and the fact is that it's not a gag order but rather a confidentiality agreement that Daryl DuPage's attorneys came up with for the Township. That agreement remains in place, and the HISCFA has no further input with this topic at this time as it is between the Township and Mr. DuPage.
- ✓ John Cameron wanted to mention three things: 1. For those people living in The Flats, the HISCFA were the ones who went to the state of Michigan and obtained the deeds for those properties on their behalf. If it weren't for the Association, they would only still have their 99-year lease on their properties. This Association is critical and the people should be more active in the Association because if it weren't for the HISCFA, we wouldn't have a lot of the things we have on this Island today. 2. Regarding the restroom facilities at Browne's Field, John stated his family plumbed the original water station. Over the years it had



been used to clean fish, a garbage facility, and also a restroom (as a result of vandalism). As a result, the building has had to have locks and security measures put in place for an additional cost to keep it safe and well-maintained. John expressed concern over who will be maintaining the facilities while it is available for public use against things like sanitation and theft or vandalism. 3. John would also like to understand the current situation with the Fire Department on the Island as far as equipment, emergency service, etc. Patrick Feighan stated that he would be willing to sit down outside of this meeting with John to discuss his concerns and any questions he may have to the best of Pat's ability. Pat stated that the Island fire station is currently manned approximately 40% of the time. John demanded that we have something now, today, and all day every day on the Island.

- ✓ Neva Covalle mentioned that Joanne Shirkey has brought a sample ballot from the Township if anyone is interested in viewing it after the meeting today.
- ✓ Bernardo Licata wanted to provide photos of an outdoor restroom facility located in Austin, Texas which were nearly indestructible. Bernardo suggested for the Association to look into something like this, and Patrick Feighan stated that plans for similar facilities have been looked over already.

Next meeting will be Saturday, November 10, 2018 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

**George Covalle made the motion to adjourn; Jerry Thiel seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

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## **APPENDIX**



## Christmas Packages for the Troops

The Memphis Chapter of Womens Life is collecting donations to make Christmas Care packages for the men and women serving overseas this year.

The collection sites are: Libraries in: New Baltimore, Chesterfield, Richmond and Memphis, till Nov. 1st. You can take them yourselves, but if you drop items inside my door by Oct 30, I'll take them all to New Baltimore - 891 North Channel.

*Ideas : candy, wipes,snacks, batteries, lotions, toiletries,tube sox, powdered drink mixes,hand warmers, chapstick, protein bars,beef jerky,toothpaste and brushes-anything you think will show our soldiers that we are holding them in our hearts.*

*Kristine Pierce*