



## Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes June 8, 2019

**Directors Present:** Craig Baloga, Barbara Crown, Patrick Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Jim Laethem, Melanie Most, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wieczorek;

**Excused:** Todd Brady, Susan Bryson, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Mike Hilla, David Martin, Kathy O'Connor;

**Guests and Members Present:** Christine Baloga, Alfred Cardinali, Dave Carruthers, Dennis Martz, Vicki Martz, George Rose, Joanne Shirkey, Jim Stieber, Skip Tornow, Sue Tornow, Jeff Wade, Sally Wade.

Barbara Crown brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The May 2019 meeting minutes were presented. **Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the May 2019 meeting minutes, Jerry Thiel seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

### Executive Committee Reports

**Treasurer Report:** Harold Stieber presented the May Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for May 31, 2019 was \$61,159.19, with total cash on hand being \$84,426.36. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at [HaroldS@hiscfa.org](mailto:HaroldS@hiscfa.org).

**Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the May treasurer's reports, Lois Whipple seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.**

**Secretary Report:** Barbara Crown reported that there are 550 paid members and approximately 160 members from The Old Club. Membership is down approximately 100 people this year over last year. About 250 reminder postcards were sent out, and 25 have responded with their memberships from that drive.

**Communications:** No communications were received this month.

**Government Affairs:** Patrick Feighan read a statement from the Chief of Emergency Management for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the water levels in our area:

*Our June 6-month forecast is published. As you know it's not a forecast of what will happen along the St. Clair County shoreline specifically, so we can't predict exactly how many inches the lake will rise in that area. Our forecasts are an average of ALL of Lake St Clair, not in specific areas like just St. Clair County.*

*We are forecasting all time high records to be set in June-July. So if the average water level of all of Lake St Clair is to reach a record level, as Emergency Managers charged with protecting the public from disasters, it is safe to assume the St. Clair County shoreline is going to reach record, or higher. Averages are averages.*

*Data for the gauge at Algonac goes back to 1952. Record high for the NOAA gauge at Algonac is 578.50. That record reading was from the top of the hour, at midnight on Oct 04, 1985. Being that the Algonac gauge is in the river, and in April, this could be an ice jam situation. So just below that record is the reading of 578.43 in Oct 1986, the well-known and publicly considered "high", where it stayed at for some time. This is*



*about 7 inches higher than today's highest instantaneous reading at the Algonac gauge.*

*So, here again, if the average level of all of Lake St Clair is forecasted to beat records, serious consideration of the 1986 level, and higher, needs to be considered along the St. Clair County shoreline, as well as considering periodic wind and storm events, that may occur.*

*USACE does forecast any type of "leveling off" of Lake St. Clair water levels. We would be happy to discuss further with your communities in a con-call or in person.*

*Thanks.*

*Patrick A. Kuhne, P.E.*

*Chief, Emergency Management*

*Detroit District*

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

The takeaway here is: plan for the worst; hope for the best.

Sandbags are made available at the Island Fire Hall and *also* on the mainland at that Fire Station. Please take advantage of the donations of sand as it becomes available. You must take every effort to protect your property. If you are coming to the Island from the mainland, please check for sandbag availability at the mainland station before coming to the Island in the event that there are either no sandbags on the Island or no one there to hand them out. Sand bags are limited to 200 bags per residence. You will be asked to sign a slip for receipt of the sandbags.

Fire Chief George Rose was present at this meeting to discuss what happens to the hazardous materials that are removed from the Island during Island Cleanup Day. Chief Rose was discussing the potential to have, once a month, a drop-off point for hazardous materials at the Island Fire Station so that there is not such a large quantity being dropped off once a year. Chief Rose estimated that the first event will be in July, but will communicate the date once it has been established. The process to remove these items is that they take everything over to the mainland, the county dump is called, and a division of the county dump schedules a pickup and hauls it to the appropriate facilities to be disposed responsibly.

Browne's Field: The committee is attempting to get the grass cut, but the rains are proving troublesome for this endeavor. Island Cleanup was another great success this year. The baseball backstop got an upper canopy installed for the safety of players and spectators alike. The pavilion is ready for use, and stocked with tables and chairs to accommodate rentals. The pole barn doors need to be painted, and painting and repair of the water station trim still need to be completed. Volunteers are still needed for this project.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- *4<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Car Show*: All of the prizes have been collected for this event, but there are currently two major issues: field condition (too wet / soft), and ferry negotiation. Due to the conditions at the field and the difficulty with ground clearance on the ferry, the decision has been to unfortunately **cancel** this year's event. It is intended that this show will return in 2020. Signs will be placed at the ferry the day of the event in case anyone misses the messages being placed on the website, Facebook, Nextdoor, and other advertisements and by word of mouth.
- *Baseball backstop*: First game for the Harsen's Island Militia is tomorrow (June 9<sup>th</sup>) benefitting the Algonac Little League program; the second game is on July 21<sup>st</sup>, playing against new bar Off the Rocks (Sunset Bay), benefitting the Browne's Field Permanent Restrooms fund; third game is on September 15<sup>th</sup> against Snoopy's Bar to benefit the Blue Water Humane Society.



- *Pickleball Net*: Harold Stieber is in communication with the builder of the new nets. The proposed shipment of this unit seems to be very costly. The cost of the net is \$1,800 and the cost to freight-ship this 250-lb package from California is around \$1,200. Harold is going to be figuring out how to handle this going forward. Recently there was an “open play” pickleball event to get people interested in the group who already play, and the turnout was outstanding.
- *Field Day*: Cindy Pilato has sent out many requests for sponsorship and has received quite a bit back already: \$250 from Baxter Insurance Agency, \$250 from Joan Emerick, \$100 from DeLude Construction and some other monetary gifts from local people and businesses. These people’s names will be listed as sponsors. The kitchen crew has already been established for this event. If there are any items to be donated for the Silent Auction, please contact Susan Bryson and drop off the item(s) at Tashmoo Marina on South Channel. Jerry Thiel said he is going to go through some of the prizes that were allocated to the Car Show (now cancelled) that may expire this year and turn them over to Cindy to use for Silent Auction items for Field Day.
- *The Delta News*: The annual publication is currently at the printer, in the process of artwork. This year’s theme is “Life on the Water” and highlights duck carving on the Island, by artist George Covalle. It will also cover a variety of subjects, both current and historical. A significant amount of advertisers have come forward this year which really helps offset the cost of publication, which is approximately \$15,000 to print each year.
- *Bates Cut Water Station*: Jerry Freeman and crew recycled wood from the playground to create a new platform for the pump at the Bates Cut Water Station. There was a drain installed and new gravel put down to accommodate the users. Updates (including photos) about this project were communicated to members and Islanders via Nextdoor and the HISCFA Facebook page.
- *Browne’s Field Rentals*: Several rentals have been scheduled for this year. The Association is pleased to be able to provide this wonderful resource to its members (and non-members, too!).
- *Main Water Station repair*: During Memorial Day weekend there was an issue which has since been resolved. Users are reminded to call the phone number on the water station door if there are any issues, in order to get them resolved quickly. If anyone has noticed the activity and heavy equipment near the main water station, an additional power cable and second water line is being installed under the channel at that location.
- *Event license*: Harold Stieber will be applying for the liquor license through the State of Michigan for Field Day and for the Pig Roast, both events to take place at Browne’s Field on Harsen’s Island. **Patrick Feighan made a motion for the Harsen’s Island St. Clair Flats Association’s application for a special license to serve alcohol on the dates of August 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to be located at Browne’s Field. Jerry Thiel seconded. Ayes: 13, Nays: 0. All in favor; motion carried.** A recommendation was made to provide wristbands for liquor checks (persons of drinking age).

## NEW BUSINESS

- *Welcome Committee*: Donna Halacoglu and Cindy Pilato have bags that they are filling with local business freebies. Cindy has a list of the newer people on the Island, and Donna and Cindy will be hand-delivering these bags to new residents which will include a membership form and a copy of The Delta News. There must be a face-to-face interaction; they will not be left on doors or porches.
- *Browne’s Field pond swim platform*: The long-term plan was to install a wharf, but in the meantime the platform is makeshift and is no longer practical. The plan is to remove it upon the first available opportunity. In order to do this, water flow into the pond needs to be blocked. The water in the pond needs



to be lowered about three feet, and once that is accomplished the platform can be removed. Dennis Szymanski has a plan to do this and will be executed soon.

- *Lions Casino Games / Turkey Shoot:* The Harsen's Island Lions would like to know whether the HISCFA would be able to step up to take on the casino games. Approximately 12-15 people are needed to operate it over the course of 3 days. A total of around \$6,000 usually comes in from this event, but the Lions are lacking this manpower. Every dealer has to go through a background check and report out the gaming once the event is over. The group that obtains the license needs to be the ones running it, so it can't be the Lions applying for the license and the HISCFA running the games. It needs to be the same. The time commitment is Saturday and Sunday from approximately 4pm-10pm.
- *Great Lakes Islands Alliance:* Harold Stieber was notified from the GLIA coordinator that there will be a series of workshops on how to train paddlers on how to identify invasive species and report them. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 there is a workshop in Clay Township, funded by the state's invasive species program, and they are hoping to get our help to spread the word. Kayaks, gear, and lunch are all provided for this FREE event. Details are available here: <https://www.michiganseagrant.org/educational-programs/mi-paddle-stewards/>

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ A guest mentioned that there is a large boat trailer that has been parked at the Park-n-Ride for about a week now. Patrick Feighan stated he would get the license plate information and request the owner's information so they can be notified to remove it.
- ✓ Survey Committee: Melanie Most asked if there will be a mini-survey sent out ahead of the Trunk-to-Trunk sale. Christine Baloga champions the survey effort overall, and stated she would be executing the mini-survey in the next couple of days.
- ✓ Melanie Most requested that if anyone has anything to share on social media, to please reach out to Melanie with ideas, and also articles for publication would be helpful.
- ✓ Dennis Szymanski suggested dumping some gravel down in front of the portable toilets at Browne's Field since the area is a little mushy.
- ✓ Trunk-to-Trunk: There will be another Trunk-to-Trunk sale this year, scheduled for June 15, 2019. Cost is \$10 per vehicle and goes towards the Browne's Field Improvement Fund. Sale hours are from 9:00am to 12:00pm. You may arrive as early as 8:00am to begin setting up. Bring your old and new items to sell or trade with others, and have fun with your Island friends and neighbors!
- ✓ July Meeting Reschedule: Due to a conflict with the Car Show in July, the Board of Directors Meeting is being rescheduled for Wednesday July 10, 2019 at 5:00 pm to be held at Browne's Field. Since the Car Show has been cancelled, the meeting will now take place at its normal day and time, second Saturday of the month, Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 9:00 am at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.
- ✓ July 22<sup>nd</sup> is Free Shred Day at Browne's Field sponsored by Dianne Huber of Keller Williams. Please take advantage of this free event.
- ✓ Chief Rose mentioned that they lost a few people to full-time positions in other cities. He is attempting to recruit out of Oakland Community College (OCC) and Macomb Community College (MCC) for membership with our department. There have been 9 people hired since January last year, but lost 6 to full-time positions elsewhere. Construction/remodeling of the Island Fire Station is complete. The system for which the Fire Department obtained a grant has been installed: this is being completed in three phases, and it is in the final phase now. Another CPR/First Aid class is to be scheduled on the Island possibly. Additionally, the Fire Department is looking at replacing the Island mini-pumper next year.



Next meeting will be Saturday, July 13, 2019 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

**Lois Whipple made the motion to adjourn; Patrick Feighan seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:21 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

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