

Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association
Minutes November 8, 2014

Directors Present: Todd Brady, Barb Crown, Pat Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Carol Johanson, Art Koster, Jim Laethem, Denne Osgood, Rosemary Wieczorek,

Directors absent/excused: Susan Bryson, Mike Hilla, Kathleen O'Connor Donna Halacoglu, Nancy LaMastus, Dave Martin, Mary Ann McLane, Cindy Pilato, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Paul Wargo, Lois Whipple

Guests: Artie Bryson, Chuck Miller, Joanne Shirkey, Sandy Kardynal, Mike Cannon, Nancy Cannon, Lynn Lozon, Marge Platt, Larry Reha, Dan Lamastus

Barbara Crown, President, brought the meeting to order in the Lions Hall at 9:00 am and read minutes from regular Oct meeting and Annual Meeting minutes. **Pat Feighan motioned to approve the October both annual and regular Minutes. Denny Osgood seconded. Motion carried.**

Treasurer Report: Rosemary reported \$7282.56 check book balance in the absence of Lois Whipple. Report status tabled until December meeting, Barb will send out report via email for approval prior to the December meeting.

Secretary report: none

Correspondence: Letter read from Mike Balan, South Channel, Harsens Island, re: Speeding freighters in south channel and damage to his boat and dock. The letter was addressed to the US Coast Gard, Detroit, outlining the three incidents of property destruction. The incidents were 7/10/14; 9/8/14 and 9/24/14. The letter was copied to the Canadian Coast Guard, Artie Bryson, Township Supervisor, Candice Miller, Pavlov, D. Lauwers, and the Association. Balan has asked the US and Canadian Coast Guard to review these incidents and to take action to slow down the freighters. With the higher water, and the freighters carrying additional cargo, their increased speed is pushing walls of water over seawalls, into docks and boats. Barbara urged all residents that live on the South Channel to report these incidents. To the police if damage is done, then to the Coast Guard. It is helpful to get the name of the boat and time, and a photo if possible.

Old business:

Transportation: Pat Feighan reported meeting with road commission and police depts. regarding increased police presence for speeders on Island, **more signage** for speed limits, replaced missing signs. Pat reported, the signs have been put up, new speed limit ones, curves and other traffic alerts, including the "cross traffic does not stop" signs at non 4 way stops, Middle Party Store location. The "**county**" **roads** have been striped. The only thing we are waiting on is the North Channel Drive --> sign that has to be made. It is on order. This is purely thanks to the St. Clair County Road Commissioner and engineering staff, and county commissioner Bill Graytopp, we asked and they delivered in a timely fashion. **The radar sign.** Again this was Sheriff Tim Donnellon, and Commissioner Graytopp. And again, the response was immediate and: "Where do you want it?" It was put in place in 2 days. Right now it is in Pat Feighan's driveway, until we have permission to put it elsewhere on the Island.

Artie Bryson reported that Bates and South Channel, North Channel and Orchid Drive are all now scheduled for repaving in 2015. Previously North Channel, South Channel and Orchid were scheduled in 2016, it has been now moved to 2015. Pat Feighan reported that: **No scheduled rate increases for the ferry are slated now or in the near future.**

LAKE ST. CLAIR CIRCLE TOUR Art Bryson reported Harsen's Island is being considered to be included in the "**Circle tour**" of Michigan. The members present were in favor of the township putting those signs on the Island. Barbara will write a letter to the Township in favor of the Island being part of the Lake St. Clair Circle Tour.

Browne's Field: Pat Feighan reported on a tree to be bought and planted in the field in memory of Don Verslype. Jim will be researching a tree or possible two trees in the next couple weeks. Pat asked for anyone to come and help after the meeting to move the picnic tables into the barn, after the meeting today.

Water Stations: Pat Feighan reported that the outdoor taps have been changed out and shut off for winter. The Bates Cut still has water in the tap.

Directors Christmas party is scheduled: Sans Souci Landing, Sat Dec 13 6pm, light food/drinks Annual letter going out as schedule as per Barb Crown

Advertising Sign: John Horvath and Denny Osgood worked on the sign agreement, John re wrote our letter and wants it signed, states that John receives lifetime membership with HISCFA and he also receives 2 permanent signs on our advertising board at the ferry, in upper left corner for the rest of his natural life. **Barbara Crown motioned for this agreement to be approved as written, Pat Feighan second, one opposed, Jerry Freeman, the rest approved, motion carried.**

New business:

Government committee: Artie Bryson reported on Clay Township clerk situation, the financial audit, \$250,000 lien on township assets, criminal investigation has been turned over to prosecutor this week coming. Checks and balances have been put in place to prevent this in the future, such as division of jobs handling money and secondary reviews of financials. This will be an on-going investigation.

New blight and dangerous building ordinances are in place and being enforced. Besides the roads mentioned above, Monroe, Maple and Cottage Lane paving bids are being collected for consideration.

Krispin drain project has been possibly revived. Representative from Washington DC will be discussing it next week with Artie.

Pat Feighan reported that the Pearl Beach Pier bid is proceeding as planned.

Pat Feighan read a report on **Harsens Island Property Tax Revenues and Distribution**. The Board asked for a breakdown of taxes in the last meeting. Pat read the report at the Township meeting on November 3rd. Barbara Crown, was out of town for this meeting. A copy was handed out at the meeting. Barbara will send this report out to the directors not present. Artie Bryson asked to comment on this report. Discussion was held. This report was done to give our directors a better understanding of how our taxes are distributed.

Artie discussed possibility of a "Corridor Development Authority", as opposed to the "Downtown Development Authority", this money would remain in the community on Harsens, as opposed to reverting back to the township or county.

Community Affairs: Pat Feighan reported on recent renewed interest in a dog park, walking path, etc for the island. These ideas were originally planned by township along the highway, and were not completed. **HISCFA** only has rights to develop these things at Browns Field, costs/bids prohibited the development of paths there. **DOG PARK** Pat presented findings on other East China, who have dog parks similar to the ideas for what we want here on the Island. They have a dedicated staff in charge of the park, and deep pockets. Artie Bryson reported on his

meetings with St Clair County regarding the county funding dog/walking paths on Harsens. Due to Browns field being private, it would need to be opened to the public for this consideration, which it is now. HISCFA would need to present this idea to the Parks and Rec commission of the County and see if there would be any cooperation in helping us fund this for Browne's Field. Barb Crown suggested a committee be formed and dispatched to the parks meetings and investigate other funding at various government levels.

Guest Sandy Kardynal, asked about walking paths as they relate to the Master Plan of the Township. Several pros and cons for walking paths and locations were discussed. Chuck Miller reported on proposals for phragmites controls and plans for all counties in SE Michigan to band together and apply to the federal government for an "evasive species" grant to help improve the waterways and areas to help develop these walkways that are wanted.

Motion made by Denny Osgood appointing Sandy Kardynal, as chair of the new "Island Walking/Bike path" committee, with Jerry Freeman and Pat Feighan, Lynn Lozon and possibly other directors as members, seconded by Pat Feighan, carried. We will discuss this further in future meetings, and wait for feedback from the committee. Lots of work to be done.

Bucket List Artie Bryson asked us to define our "bucket list" for him at the township level. This can be done and presented to Artie at a later date.

Artie also announced that the "Emergency notification system" via text, email, etc, should be coming back online in 2-3 months and people can sign up for being notified of emergencies and events, etc.

Comments From the Floor: Lynn Lozon asked about any public lands available on the Island for a dog park development project, it was determined there is none available. Barbara suggested to Lynn, like the walking path, she find out how much interest there would be on the Island for a dedicated Dog Park, and do some research on the costs. Right now it is out of the question for Browne's Field, due to cost restraints and man power to keep it maintained.

Jerry Freeman motioned to adjourn at 10:53 am. Denne Osgood seconded. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd Brady
Acting Recording Secretary