



## Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes July 8, 2017

**Directors Present:** Todd Brady, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Patrick Feighan, Donna Halacoglu, Mike Hilla, David Martin, Melanie Most, Kathy O'Connor, Denne Osgood, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple;

**Excused:** Susan Bryson, Jerry Freeman, Art Koster, Jim Laethem, Jerry Thiel, Rosemary Wieczorek;

**Guests and Members Present:** Artie Bryson, George Covalle, Linda Schoonover, Joanne Shirkey.

Denne Osgood brought the meeting to order at the Lion's Hall at 9:04 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The June 2017 meeting minutes were presented. **Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the June meeting minutes, David Martin seconded to approve; motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

### Executive Committee Reports

**Treasurer Report:** Harold Stieber presented the treasurer's reports for July 2017. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for July 31, 2017 was \$41,438.55, with total cash on hand being \$64,398.30. A tax-exempt Amazon.com account has been created with authorized purchasers in order to acquire items for the association more easily. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at stiebha@gmail.com.

**Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the June 2017 treasurer's report, Leonard Verlinden seconded to approve; motion carried, reports to be placed on file.**

**Secretary Report:** Neva Covalle reported that raffle ticket sales for Field Day are coming in already, and receipts of memberships have slowed to a stop as of late. There have been 110 car show pre-paid entries.

Communications: Nothing new to report at this time.

Government Affairs: As a follow-up to the special Town Hall Meeting last month, the feedback has been pretty well-received and the ship captains have slowed their speeds when they move past the island. In fact, the ship captains have been calling the Sheriff's office when a pleasure craft is riding too close to the shore resulting in a high wake.

There are new signs that can be seen in various locations stating that the county road commission owns various easements and road-ends. Technically the county owns the property in several instances, whether the homeowners maintain the land or not.

Concentration on ditching projects will be coming up soon on Bar Harbor and other locations on the island. The county can only do so much, so the township is going to be focusing on some of these projects to get them outsourced to be taken care of appropriately. Golf Course Road will be focused on in the coming years with chip seal, and Cottage Lane will be done at that time as well. In the past years, stone had gone on top of the gravel roads every other year, but lately it has been every year and then an additional cover as required.



The St. Clair County Sheriff's office is starting to ramp up wake enforcement, but there is still more that can be done. Mike Hilla stated he witnessed a Sheriff boat in his canal near his home watching boaters go by to enforce the wake laws.

FEMA did a large-scale re-mapping of the Clay Township area to push the cost back onto the township to cover the cost of the studies, and since Artie collected homeowners' information regarding their flood insurance information and discussed it with FEMA, now it seems like they won't raise our rates. As a point of fact: Clay Township pays \$680,000 per year in flood insurance premiums. Artie told the senate that he got a quotation from Lloyd's of London and asked them what they would charge Clay Township for a \$2,000,000 deductible and their response was approximately \$180,000. Artie then told the government that they would just collect the \$680,000 in a fund until it reaches \$2 million and then the township would cover everyone under that plan. Now the government is scrambling as a result of that discussion. Nothing is set at this moment.

Browne's Field (upkeep and future development): Lawn care is scheduled ahead of the car show next weekend (July 15) to make sure it will be ready on Thursday so setup can commence on Friday. The addition to the pavilion has been completed and looks great.

Pickleball: Items have been purchased for the tennis / pickleball courts and will be worked on in the coming weeks.

Browne's Field Rental: There are no new rentals scheduled at this time. The Harsen's Island Militia (H.I.M.) games are scheduled for July 23 and September 17, 2017.

Scholarship Committee: There is nothing new to report at this time.

Delta News: Barbara Crown stated that The Delta News is being laid out right now and the committee is looking at proofs right now and hopes to have it wrapped up this week.

Car Show: The date for the second annual car show is Saturday, July 15, 2017. There was discussion about how to handle selling beer at the event. Dennis will be purchasing cases of beer to sell at the event next weekend. Jerry Thiel will be interviewed on live radio on Monday morning, July 10<sup>th</sup> to help advertise for this event.

Field Day: Neva Covalle stated that there is a dire need for volunteers including kitchen, cooking, and children's games. She stated that things are moving along and there is a committee in place handling everything for the event on Saturday, August 5, 2017. Raffle tickets have been printed and distributed. Susan Bryson submitted that she is planning on running the Silent Auction again this year with the assistance of Kathy O'Connor. Dennis Szymanski stated that the beer is all set and lined up for the event.

Bonfire and Pig Roast: The date for this event will be Saturday, September 16, 2017. The liquor license application has been approved through the State of Michigan.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- *HISCFA Shirts*: The shirts have arrived and are available for pickup. Please pay Harold Stieber if you purchased a denim shirt.
- *Website*: Melanie Most is now an administrator for the HISCFA Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/HISCFA](http://www.facebook.com/HISCFA)) and has been regularly posting updates for upcoming events and other pertinent information. Todd Brady is going to provide information to Melanie to help her get logged in for the website to start poking around, and Todd will get together with Melanie to help her update the layout.



- *Great Lakes Islands Coalition*: Harold Stieber sent some information from the DNR, and the DNR would like to form a coalition of inhabited islands around Michigan and would like information from the HISCFA. There is a meeting for this Coalition on September 25 and 26, 2017 on Beaver Island. More information is available about this project at: <https://www.northland.edu/sustain/crc/great-lakes-islands/>
- *Donated Boat & Trailer*: Specs on the boat have been collected, and the boat has been listed on Nextdoor, Facebook, and Craigslist. Denne Osgood stated he has received a single phone call with an offer to purchase the boat but that fell through. Neva Covalle stated someone is coming to look at the boat today.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- *Browne's Field Rental for DNR*: The DNR has requested a rental for September 30, 2017 for a swap meet and duck-calling contest, and the DNR have specifically requested a waived fee for this event since the proceeds for this event will be going towards the hunting areas on the island. Additionally, the DNR is requesting a sponsorship from the HISCFA for this event. **Patrick Feighan made the motion to waive the fee for the rental of Browne's Field to the DNR for September 30, 2017 but to request a \$150 refundable deposit, and sponsorship for this event is the HISCFA's allowance of using the field, Dennis Szymanski seconded; all in favor, motion approved.**
- *Silent Auction during Field Day*: Susan Bryson has provided envelopes to pass out to the directors which include cards for the Silent Auction. Susan has asked that the directors take those cards and ask around for people (themselves, neighbors, etc.) to donate prizes for the Silent Auction. This is a very important fundraiser for the HISCFA.
- *Clay Township Meeting*: There is a township meeting Monday night, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the township offices on the mainland.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ There's an interesting project going on with black tern nesting areas which happens to be one of the largest in the country. The DNR (funded by Canadian government) is doing some banding of these birds, and installing telemetry and installing a new nesting area on Bruckner Island and will start going in in about 2-3 weeks. Additional information about this important geographical area can be seen here: <http://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/st-clair-flats-harsens-island>
- ✓ Linda Schoonover asked whether she could get a list of the previous vendors for Field Day so she can contact them for their participation this year.
- ✓ In Clay Township, Ainsworth Rd. has officially been renamed Muskrat Run, which is the road that leads to the school.

Next meeting will be Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

**Patrick Feighan made the motion to adjourn; Neva Covalle seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary