



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes August 12, 2017

Directors Present: Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Patrick Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Mike Hilla, David Martin, Melanie Most, Denne Osgood, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel, Lois Whipple;

Excused: Todd Brady, Susan Bryson, Art Koster, Jim Laethem, Kathy O'Connor, Harold Stieber, Leonard Verlinden, Rosemary Wieczorek;

Guests and Members Present: Craig Baloga, George Covalle, John Darling, Linda Schoonover.

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

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

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Denne Osgood presented the treasurer's reports for July 2017. Denne reported that the balance in the checkbook for July 31, 2017 was \$38,862.20, with total cash on hand being \$61,821.95. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at stiebha@gmail.com.

Neva Covalle made the motion to approve the July 2017 treasurer's report, Dennis Szymanski seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Neva Covalle reported that there were nine additional members who joined from Field Day: six were brand new members and three were renewals. Three additional renewals are also going to be processed. The current number of members is 689, which is not including The Old Club. Around 805 labels were printed for the Delta News, so that should be a good approximation of the number of current members.

Communications: A Thank-You note from Elizabeth Mack was received by the Association and Neva read it to the meeting attendees.

Government Affairs: Patrick Feighan reported that Harold Stieber will be attending the upcoming meeting at the Great Lakes Islands Coalition on Beaver Island during the weekend of September 25-26, 2017. Patrick Feighan also mentioned that the St. Clair County WINS system (Warning Information Notification System) has been working well with notifying residents of impending severe weather lately. WINS is a free service provided by the county. If you are not already signed up to receive WINS notifications and you may do so here: https://www.stclaircounty.org/Offices/emerg_mngmt/wins.aspx . The next township meeting will be on Monday, August 21, 2017 at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 7:30 pm.



OLD BUSINESS

- *Field Day:* Neva Covalle stated that the final numbers are not in yet, but she plans to have all of that wrapped up by the September meeting so a full report can be provided at that time. An estimated profit of around \$900 was reported on the beer and wine sales alone, which is more than last year. The State Liquor Control Board sent enforcement personnel to this event and the Association was cited for allowing participants to consume alcoholic beverages outside of the fenced-in area designated for consumption. The adult cherry pit spitting contest was an unexpected huge hit this year, and lots of praise was received about the Cake Walk and the improved Closest-to-the-Pin game. Many compliments were given to association directors about yet another outstanding event this year.
- *Donated Boat and Trailer:* Denne Osgood reported that the donated boat and trailer sold for \$1,600.
- *Delta News:* The Delta News has been completed and printed and were available to pick up at Field Day. The cover photo of last year's Car Show turned out really well and many compliments were received. Barbara Crown asked if people could try to get the word out for members to come by the Waterfront Shoppe to pick up their copies of the Delta News. It would be a big help to save on the cost of mailing them out. Please try to pick up copies by Sunday, August 20, 2017 at the Waterfront Shoppe, 3061 South Channel Drive.
- *Fall BBQ:* Plans are underway to finalize the details for this Bonfire and Pig Roast event taking place on September 16, 2017. An update will be provided at the September meeting.
- *Website:* Melanie Most reported that she has finally gained access to the hiscfa.org website and she plans to start learning how to modify the contents so she can overhaul the look of it and update the information once it is ready. Melanie also stated that there has been increased engagement on the HISCFA Facebook page so that is positive news. Neva Covalle stated she knows someone who is putting together a proposal for computer services, including the mail service the Association uses, who may be interested in assisting with the website and she will provide that information once she has it.
- *Award:* Jerry Thiel awarded Denne Osgood a special trophy for being the Most Valuable Volunteer during this year's Car Show event. Jerry stated that so many people commented on the wonderful things about that show, that he felt it was deserving of an award to Denne for making it possible.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Concert at Browne's Field:* The Concert in the Park series put on by Algonac & Clay Township has many concerts throughout the summer. In an effort to include Islanders, the township has graciously planned to bring a concert to Browne's Field on Thursday, August 24, 2017 from 6pm – 8pm.
- *Browne's Field Walking Path:* Patrick Feighan has been working with Peak Asphalt about the proposal that was put together for a walking path around Browne's Field. There was a 6-foot-wide path which the proposal for that came to around \$38,000. Pat stated that he suggests the Association hire a grant writer dedicated to working on whether funding might be available for these large projects the Association wishes to address. **Dennis Szymanski made a motion to pursue a grant writer for large projects including (but not limited to) the walking path and the water station / restrooms at the pavilion; David Martin supported. All in favor; motion carried.** A committee has been identified to tackle this project over the coming months.
- *Browne's Field (upkeep and future development):* Signs stating that Browne's Field and surrounding areas on the property are under surveillance are being ordered and will be posted around the premises when they arrive.



- *Donation of a stainless steel sink:* A large, commercial-grade stainless steel sink has been donated to the Association by Chuck and Doreen Miller. Unfortunately, this sink is much too large for use in the pavilion and there is no viable place for it at this time. The Association thanks Chuck and Doreen for their generosity.
- *Lending out the sound system:* At the Browne's Field pavilion there is a sound system which is the actual unit with microphone which provides the entertainment for events, and then there is the electrical system for the pavilion that can be plugged into. For any future rentals, the Association maintains that renters may not use the sound system but they may bring their own if they choose and are permitted to plug into the speakers at the pavilion. Patrick Feighan mentioned that he would like to get an electrician to assist with a schematic and/or labeling that shows what type(s) of power are located within the pavilion so that the system is not overloaded and adequate power is available where it is needed.
- *Annual Meeting:* The annual HISCFA meeting is going to coincide with the September Association meeting at 9am on September 9, 2017. Previously the annual meeting coincided with the October meeting, but it has been moved up to September so that those who have closed up their cottages will still be around to attend the meeting. Refreshments will be available and all (members and non-members) are welcome to attend.
- *Auxiliary Water Station (Bates Cut):* The recirculating pressure pump was removed in an act of vandalism at the Bates Cut water station. Jim Laethem ordered replacement part(s) and they are on their way. The station will be repaired once the parts arrive. There was some discussion on whether or not to continue service at this station unless there is interest and volunteers to keep it active. **Jerry Freeman made a motion to notify all potentially-affected members and hold a separate meeting (outside of the regular Association meetings) that would address whether there was interest and/or volunteers to maintain the Bates Cut water station; David Martin seconded. All in favor; motion carried.** The Communications committee will determine signs and other literature to publish to get the word out and to prepare members. The target is to hold this meeting sometime in the spring of 2018.
- *Phragmites removal on Krispin Drain:* When the Krispin Drain was opened up, the original contractors were supposed to come back to maintain the phragmites within the drain to keep it open. John Darling from the DNR was present at the meeting to discuss what he knows about this. John mentioned that he has spoken to the contractors a number of times, and during the early summer he is aware that they were doing some electroshocking and doing a fish survey which will again be conducted in September. Additionally, there are survey stakes that can be seen in the drain and those stakes mark out points for a bottom topography survey that is underway to see whether the drain has maintained its shape since it was dredged. Right now is not the time for phragmite treatments, but the next window will be a little later this fall. John stated he was asked permission for access to treat phragmites last fall so he is aware that treatment took place last year and expects it to occur again this year. Crews were out as recent as last week doing inspections on the drain.
- *John Darling (DNR):* September 1st is the date where the DNR switches over to permits to be on the wildlife refuge property. This will be the first full year that the DNR has been going through this seasonal refuge changeover. John mentioned that he and the rest of the team are thankful for the HISCFA waving the fee for the duck calling contest. Cabela's is a happy sponsor because of this, as well as all of the other vendors. Bill Tackonis is getting the security deposit together for the HISCFA, and it is anticipated to be quite a large turnout for this event on Saturday, September 30th, 2017. As an FYI, August 27th is the Heritage Days event at the Huron Pointe Sportsmen's Association. The DNR is hosting a Fall Open House on the island this year on Wednesday, October 11th, 2017 at 6:00 pm. This open house includes a tour of the flooded refuge, a mock draw, and all of the staff will be on hand to answer any questions. The location of the DNR office is 3857 Columbine, Harsens Island, MI 48028. As a reminder, waterfowl season opens on September 14th this year. Early goose and teal season starts on September 1st, 2017.



Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Craig Baloga introduced himself and expressed interest for himself and his wife to get involved and volunteer.
- ✓ Linda Schoonover asked whether there would be another Trunk-to-Trunk Sale this year. Barbara Crown confirmed there would only be one event, which occurred back in June.
- ✓ Patrick Feighan challenged all members to try and recruit at least five of your neighbors and friends to become members of the HISCFA. The more people we have involved, the better our Association will be.
- ✓ Patrick also stated that while other members are honorary directors representing other organizations on the island, he suggested appointing John Darling as an honorary director representing the DNR.

Next meeting will be Saturday, September 9th, 2017 at **9:00 am** at the Sans Souci Landing (across the street from the Waterfront Shoppe). This is also the ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING and refreshments will be provided.

David Martin made the motion to adjourn; Neva Covalle seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary