



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes September 9, 2017

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Directors Present: Barbara Crown, Patrick Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Mike Hilla, Jim Laethem, Melanie Most, Kathy O'Connor, Harold Stieber, Leonard Verlinden, Rosemary Wiczorek, Lois Whipple;

Excused: Todd Brady, Susan Bryson, Neva Covalle, Art Koster, David Martin, Denne Osgood, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel;

Guests and Members Present: Christine Baloga, Craig Baloga, George Covalle, Kathy Galvin, Linda Schoonover, Donna Stieber, Jim Steiber, Bill Tackonis.

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

The August 2017 meeting minutes were presented. **Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the August meeting minutes, Leonard Verlinden 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 August 2017. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for August 31, 2017 was \$26,380.58, with total cash on hand being \$49,346.73. The largest expense for the month was the printing of about a thousand copies of the Delta News this year at around \$15,000. 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 August 2017 treasurer's report, Donna Halacoglu seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Neva Covalle asked Barbara Crown to report there are currently 796 members in total (including the Old Club), with 38 of those being new members this year.

Communications: There was no correspondence received this month.

Government Affairs: There has been some discussion about proposing a No Wake zone in the North Channel between the Algonac Harbor Club and the public boat launch in Algonac, but that was voted down and will not be proceeding. Many township residents have requested that there be additional enforcement on the water in the zones where No Wake is currently designated.

Browne's Field: Korthals is currently taking care of the lawn care at the field this year and is doing a great job. Pickleball courts have been updated at the field and it is looking wonderful. Most of the work was done by the committee members themselves. Additional signs have been placed around the courts to keep skateboarders off



because there has been an issue with the courts being defaced from that. Several individual contributions have been made directly to the pickleball committee so this work could be completed. The portable toilets are available at the field currently, and they are cleaned on Thursdays. If something is needed with them, please contact someone on the Association and it will be addressed. Ultimately the goal is get a permanent restroom facility at the field but funds are still being gathered for this venture. Additionally, a walking path around the field is being researched. The total cost for this project is estimated to be approximately \$60,000, but the possibility of using grants is going to be explored over the winter months. The goal is to complete this in steps to keep costs down year-to-year and assess the use of it as the project progresses. Additionally, a pavilion has been added this year for storage of tables and chairs and is working out wonderfully as a storage solution.

Browne's Field Rentals: There are currently no new rentals that have been requested.

Car Show: The net profit from this event is going to be allocated directly for the Browne's Field improvement funds. The total amount brought in was \$8,223 this year, which was an improvement over last year's amount of around \$5,700. The net profit for this year was about \$5,300, versus \$3,700 last year. This year there was 220 total vehicles registered, with only around 150 last year.

Field Day (preliminary): This year we had a (preliminary) grand total of \$12,238 gross, versus about \$13,681 last year. Expenditures and raffle prizes were roughly about the same as last year. The overall net profit was about \$6,400 this year versus about \$7,700 from last year. Neva wanted to thank everyone for their support and assistance with making this year's event a great success. This event is the Association's biggest fundraiser of the year. Linda Schoonover mentioned that the free vision screening service for children may be available next year if they are asked in advance.

Water Station (main): The main station requires some new plumbing at some point soon. The card usage is up over 100 cards this year and seems to be working efficiently. The card system has reduced the Association's water bills to approximately \$5,000 per year (down from as high as around \$8,000 in years past). The fee to use this service is included in your HISCFA membership. There is no money made for the Association by providing this service.

Water Station (Bates cut): The volume compensator had to be replaced on the Bates cut water station because vandalism occurred such that it had been disassembled to accommodate bulk use. In this act, the pump was also damaged and needed to be replaced. A sign was posted on August 15th and neither Patrick Feighan nor Jerry Freeman have received any responses. This station is closing November 1st and will reopen April 1st, 2018. A few suggestions were made to perhaps be a bit stricter about its usage and change the sign. Several suggestions were made about how to handle this situation in the future, but additional discussion is necessary to get a clear plan in place.

Nominating Committee: The Association is looking for new directors! **Patrick Feighan made the motion to nominate Craig Baloga as a director for a 3-year term; Rosemary Wiczorek seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS

- *Great Lakes Islands Coalition:* Harold Stieber will be attending the upcoming initial organizing meeting at the Great Lakes Islands Coalition on Beaver Island during the weekend of September 25-26, 2017. Harold read the objective of the summit to the attendees of the meeting. This event brings together island community leaders from all around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River regions. The goal is to share the problems of our Island community and the hope is to bring back solutions to implement.



- *Delta News (mailing)*: There were 381 copies of the Delta News that had not been picked up in person and needed to be mailed, it was discovered that the Harsen's Island Post Office is not capable of properly handling bulk mailing. Six people from the USPS came in to our post office to handle the bulk mailing of the Delta News, but it seems to have been a blessing in disguise because it appears that more attention is going to be placed on the building and perhaps open the hours back up to six hours per day instead of four. The total cost for mailing this year was \$763.60 which included a \$225 bulk mailing permit (which we used to have but had lapsed), as well \$538.60 for postage. The Island Post Office building is actually property of the Novaks (on the island) and is leased back to the USPS. A representative from the USPS will be available to come to our site next year while we are packaging and labeling to instruct us through the process to insure that it is done properly.
- *Fall Bonfire and Pig Roast*: This event is taking place next weekend on September 16, 2017. Tickets are \$25 apiece and there are only a limited number available. Heaters will be available to be placed around the pavilion to keep people warm if the night turns cooler than expected.
- *Concert in the Park*: This event was a good success for the first time on the Island. There are plans to include additional events during this series on the Island next year.
- *Sportsman's Swap Meet & Duck Calling Contest*: This event is taking place at Browne's Field on Saturday, September 30, 2017. Bill Tackonis was present to discuss this event. He mentioned Cabela's is sponsoring the duck calling contest and there will be vendors available to sell their items. Additionally there will be a dog retrieving demonstration and a swap meet if anyone wants to participate with their own goods. If a decent profit is made for this event, a donation will be made back to the Association for our generosity of letting them use Browne's Field.
- *DNR Fall Open House*: 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.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Nomination of the Executive Board (2018)*: The annual meeting is mainly for the nomination of the executive board. The current executive board is as follows:
 - *President*: Denne Osgood
 - *Vice President*: OPEN (*Jim Laethem has decided to withdraw from this position*)
 - *Executive Secretary*: Neva Covalle
 - *Treasurer*: Harold Stieber
 - *Chairperson*: Barbara Crown

Patrick Feighan stated that he would take on the role of Vice President if no one else volunteered. **Barbara Crown nominated Patrick Feighan as Vice President of the HISCFA beginning 2018, Rosemary Wieczorek seconded; all in favor, motion carried. Patrick Feighan made the motion to accept the above-named persons as the Executive Board for the HISCFA beginning 2018, Donna Halacoglu seconded; all in favor, motion carried.** Directors Barbara Crown, Patrick Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, and Lois Whipple, whose terms expire December 31, 2017, have communicated to the board they were willing to remain on the board. **Patrick Feighan made the motion to appoint the above directors: Barbara Crown, Patrick Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, and Lois Whipple to new three year terms, expiring December 31, 2020; Donna Halacoglu seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**



Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Bill Tackonis suggested to the Association that they set up a tent/table at the upcoming Sportsman's Swap Meet and Duck Calling Contest (and perhaps at the Turkey Shoot next year) to do a membership drive to spread the word about all of the things the HISCFA is involved in to possibly get new members to join.
- ✓ Donna Halacoglu suggested that Melanie Most should publish a few facts about the HISCFA from time-to-time on the Association's Facebook page and Nextdoor. Melanie asked that the members on the board please provide her with information that she can post on behalf of the Association.
- ✓ Mike Hilla asked whether the Association might consider food trucks as an option for selling food during events like Field Day. The Association does not make a very big profit for selling food, but there is still some profit to be made handling it ourselves.
- ✓ Christine Baloga inquired about whether a database is kept of the members' names, addresses, and email. The executive secretary keeps this information on file and it is kept private and not available to anyone except the board. Christine mentioned that there may need to be additional email communication made to the members to keep everyone updated with what is going on with the Association.
- ✓ Christine made mention of perhaps polling the members to see how much interest or usage there is with things like the water station and the field and other benefits to memberships that seem to be underutilized.
- ✓ Rosemary Wieczorek asked who won the float in the Lions' Turkey Shoot parade (unknown). The HISCFA participated with decorating one of the floats for the parade this year.
- ✓ Mike Hilla wanted to congratulate Barbara and George Crown on the 25th anniversary of their Waterfront Shoppe being in business on the Island.

Next meeting will be Saturday, October 14th, 2017 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Patrick Feighan made the motion to adjourn; Leonard Verlinden seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary