



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes April 11, 2020

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Jerry Freeman, Jim Laethem, David Martin, Melanie Most, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Rosemary Wiczorek, Lois Whipple;

Excused: Susan Bryson, Lucy Burby, Donna Halacoglu, Kathy O'Connor, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden;

Guests and Members Present: George Rose, Linda Schoonover, Skip Tornow, Sue Tornow.

George Covalle brought the meeting to order at 9:31 am. The pledge of allegiance was not recited due to the fact that this was a teleconference meeting and all meeting attendees were participating via phone.

The March 2020 meeting minutes were presented. **Dennis Szymanski made the motion to approve the March 2020 meeting minutes, David Martin seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the March 2020 Treasurer's Reports. Barbara reported that the balance in the checkbook for March 31, 2020 was \$27,591.50, with total cash on hand being \$84,697.07. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

Dennis Szymanski made the motion to approve the March 2020 treasurer's reports, David Martin seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Neva Covalle reported that there were 800 membership letters that were sent out. A total of 50 of those were new potential members received from new members on Nextdoor. About 130 letters were sent to those past members whose memberships have lapsed over the last year or two. There are 356 renewed memberships that have been received this year so far. Unfortunately, membership has declined over the past couple of years, with only 595 total members last year. Additional generous donations surpassing \$5,300 has been received with many of the membership renewals this year so far, with the bulk of additional donations being dedicated to the permanent restrooms fund.

Communications: No communications have been received this month.

Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski stated that the directional boring has begun as of last month to get the pump sorted out in order to keep Browne's Field drained. Aside from the ditch, the lines that are currently draining the pond seem to be working flawlessly. The final draining is anticipated to be completed in the next few weeks. Lawn-mowing cannot take place at this time due to the saturation of the field. Barbara Crown stated that member Christine Knight has volunteered to keep up with cleaning the dog waste disposal bins and keeping bags loaded at the stations.

Government Affairs: Craig Baloga reported that Governor Whitmer finally signed Michigan House Bills 5401, 5402, and 5463. House Bills 5401 and 5402 are laws that can be extended an additional two weeks at a time, with effective dates between September 1 through June 20. House Bill 5463 is an all-zone no-wake law for six months,



but it cannot be effective for consecutive years (can't be in place back-to-back years). Craig will be talking to Supervisor Bryson, to see how he's going to roll these out and when they will take effect. Craig stated he will be putting out letters to the local marinas to remind them of these laws so they can post these things to keep the awareness out there in the boating community. Links to the aforementioned House Bills are listed below.

Michigan House Bill 5401 (2020): <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2020-HB-5401>

Michigan House Bill 5402 (2020): <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2020-HB-5402>

Michigan House Bill 5463 (2020): <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2020-HB-5463>

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: Chief Rose stated that due to COVID-19 it's been a very busy month working some long hours, putting an action plan into effect for the Clay Township Fire Department Stations 1 and 2, purchasing equipment and disinfecting both the fire department and the police department. They are working with both the police and fire department to make sure they are protected while they're doing their job protecting the citizens of the township. The township has received several donations including hand sanitizer from the Harsen's Island Distillery, and 250 full-face shields from Ford Motor Company. Chief Rose would like to remind residents to make sure to continue proper hand-washing techniques, stay home if you're sick, and continue practicing social distancing. Please wear a mask if you must go out in public, and if you need a mask you can contact the fire department who can provide you one as supplies last. There are 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Clay Township, and zero cases on Harsen's Island at this time. For Islanders, if you need a prescription picked up and delivered, please contact the fire department or the police department and they will assist with bringing it to your residence.

OLD BUSINESS

- *HITA Nominees:* Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, Dennis Szymanski stated that it has been difficult to get the HITA Board together to meet to discuss anything. They hope to have something to report by next month. Barbara Crown asked whether there were any updates to the rebuild of the ramp at the ferry. Dennis Szymanski stated that he knows there was an application extension request filed for his work, and it was declared that the ramp is expected to be finished by the end of April 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Conflict of Interest Policy:* Neva Covalle stated that she has every director's Conflict of Interest document with the exception of a couple people. Neva will work with them directly to make sure those are signed and returned to her so they can be placed on file.
- *Denne's boat sale:* Back in 2017, the Association received a donated boat, which the HISCFA sold to an individual. The individual placed the boat in storage in Marine City but defaulted on the storage payments. When the storage unit began researching the owner of the boat based on the title, it was determined that the individual never re-titled the boat to their name and it was still showing the HISCFA as the owner. George Covalle sent an official letter to the storage place explaining the situation which should close the issue.
- *Adopt-a-Highway:* Dennis Szymanski received an email from the Michigan Department of Transportation, and they have cancelled this event for 2020. Their statement reads, "In accordance with Gov. Gretchen



Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' [recommendations designed to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#), MDOT is cancelling the spring pickups previously scheduled for April 18-26 and May 9-17." It is not known at this time whether the HISCFA will be able to participate in the Adopt-a-Highway summer event, but that information will be communicated once it is received.

- *Event Licenses:* Harold Stieber will be applying for the liquor license through the State of Michigan for Field Day and the Bonfire / Pig Roast. **Dennis Szymanski 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 1, 2020 and September 12, 2020; both events to take place at Browne's Field on Harsen's Island, Michigan. David Martin seconded. Ayes: 12. Nays: 0. Absent: 6.**
- *Raffle Prizes for Field Day:* Barbara Crown announced the raffle prizes for 2020 Field Day: First Prize \$750 cash, Second Prize \$300 cash, and Third Prize will be a Yeti cooler donated by Kathy O'Connor. **Neva Covalle made the motion to approve the proposed raffle prizes for Field Day; David Martin seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Harold Steiber stated that he voided a check that was issued last year (and thought to be lost) and re-issued a new one that still has yet to be cashed by the recipient. He will be checking to make sure this re-issued check is cashed in a timely manner.
- ✓ George Covalle mentioned that Barbara Crown had put together a grant application for the Algonac-Clay Community Foundation. George stated that he took the application to the bank and the bank will get it submitted through the appropriate channels. The benefit of this grant (if received) is planned to be the children's swing area at Browne's Field.
- ✓ Barbara Crown stated that The Delta News seems to be shaping up to be a very light publication this year. Advertisers are not coming forward as usual, presumably due to the coronavirus pandemic and small businesses (including many local businesses) are getting hit pretty hard and are unable to financially commit to advertising like they usually do. Additionally, Art Woodford has announced that this will be his last year as the editor of The Delta News, so the HISCFA is looking for an editor to step forward for future publications.

Next meeting will be on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (March)



Clay Township Fire & EMS

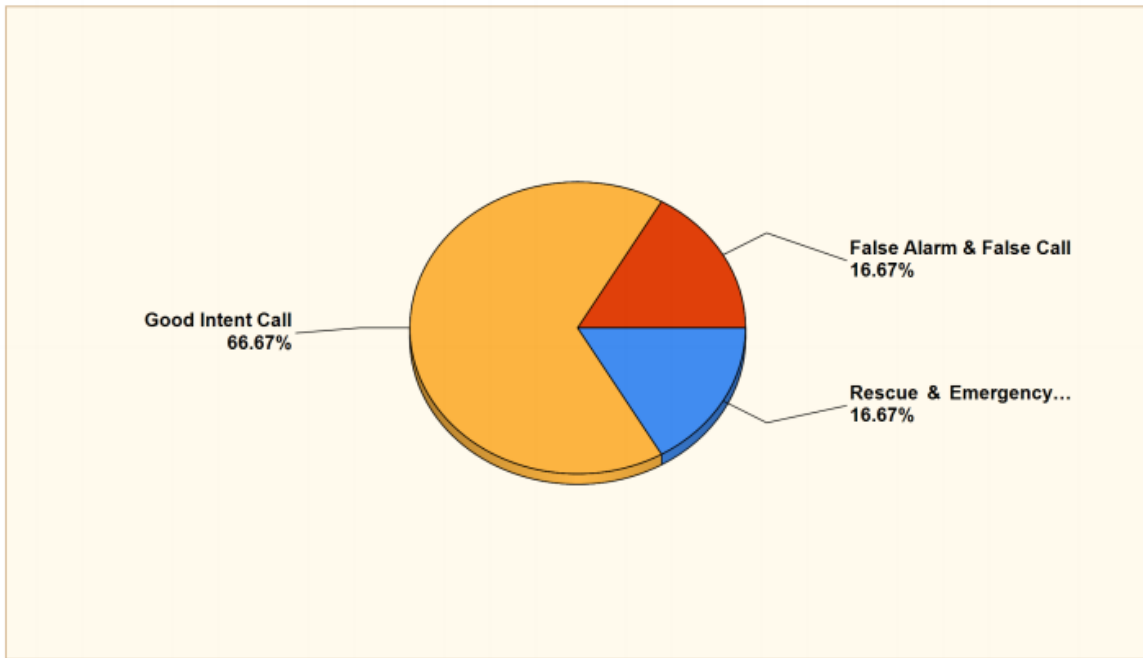
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 03/01/2020 | End Date: 03/31/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1	16.67%
Good Intent Call	4	66.67%
False Alarm & False Call	1	16.67%
TOTAL	6	100.00%