



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes May 9, 2020

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Lucy Burby, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Donna Halacoglu, David Martin, Melanie Most, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple;

Excused: Susan Bryson, Jerry Freeman, Jim Laethem, Kathy O'Connor, Rosemary Wieczorek;

Guests and Members Present: Cindy Pilato, George Rose, Linda Schoonover.

George Covalle brought the meeting to order at 9:02 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 April 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 April 2020 Treasurer's Reports. Barbara reported that the balance in the checkbook for April 30, 2020 was \$38,114.80, with total cash on hand being \$89,250.33. Harold is awaiting the final headcount of The Old Club in order to invoice their membership properly. One member apparently did not recognize the \$50 membership charge on the credit card number the member provided, and called it in as a fraudulent charge which resulted in a \$25 return fee charged to the HISCFA. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

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

Secretary Report: Neva Covalle reported that there have been a lot of mail (a dozen pieces or more) not being able to be delivered to valid addresses. Barbara Crown and Neva will be sending out reminder cards for dues.

Communications: No communications have been received this month.

Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski stated that there has been work completed at Browne's Field recently. Dennis picked up the 420-pound catch basin and delivered it to the field. A hole will be dug with a machine and the catch basin will be carefully rolled and dropped into place. Then the pipes will be laid for the pump, and finally the electrical will be run once everything is in place. The field is nice and dry, and if the Car Show can go on this year it should be very nice. Grass cutting has already been initiated this year, and Dennis has spoken to the lawn service to clean out a ditch and re-grade it in order to get it to drain. Dennis also stated that he has sprayed the field once already, and will be spraying again soon depending on the weather.

Harold Steiber mentioned that the pickleball nets have returned to their position on the courts and people are already playing. Craig Baloga inquired about the status of the proposed walking path around the field. Dennis stated that there has been no movement on this, and Lucy Burby stated that she would like to apply for a grant through her real



estate association to assist with getting the project going again. Due to lack of plans and estimates, there are no official documents at the moment to submit for a grant. Dennis stated he will work on putting something together to submit for a grant. Recently Neva Covalle brought it to Craig Baloga's attention that there is a possibility to get some free species of trees to plant at Browne's Field at a future date. Harold Stieber mentioned to pay attention to the type of trees they are to make sure they don't drop anything on the field to make lawn cutting more difficult, and also that they must be able to survive with a lot of water due to the nature of the field. Barbara Crown mentioned it would be nice to have trees and benches along any walking path. George Covalle stated he would bring a drawing to next month's meeting to illustrate potential locations.

Dennis Szymanski indicated that he will be getting both of the American flags at the field repaired. He stated that would like to allocate \$265 for both flags (total). Dennis will send the information to Harold Stieber so he can call in the payment, and David Martin will handle delivery.

Government Affairs: Craig Baloga indicated that the complications brought about by COVID-19 have been challenging for everyone. We are currently in Phase 3 of a 5-Phase Plan to reopen the State of Michigan according to the governor. The stay home order has been extended from May 14 to May 28, 2020 in order to continue to "flatten the curve" on the number of COVID-19 cases. Craig is staying in tune with the Executive Orders and how they might pertain to Island residents.

The work on the ferry on the mainland side has been completed and the load restrictions have been lifted. Champion Auto Ferry continues to work on the new ferry ramps on the mainland side. With respect to high water and the new wake laws, Supervisor Bryson is apparently having difficulty getting the trigger pulled on getting the new no-wake laws into effect. The government approved all of the laws, but working with the DNR to enact the laws has proven difficult. In the meantime, Craig will be sending letters to key marinas in the area to remind boaters to follow the new laws and educate the boaters about them. The Army Corps of Engineers have stated that the water levels will hold steady at 577.5 and hold there until around July-August and go down from there.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: Chief Rose reported that due to COVID-19, residents are requesting the fire and police departments to do birthday parades for their children, and we have had numerous requests. Chief Rose indicated that if any Island children on the Island are having a birthday, please get with the Fire Department and they will be more than happy to do a parade for them. Fire Boat #1 came back from being painted, and Fiberglass Specialist did an excellent job painting the boat. Fire Boat #2 is already in the water in case there are any water calls. He also reported that he has been purchasing equipment and disinfectant when he can find it for both the fire department and police department, keeping them both stocked. For Island Cleanup Days, latex paint will not be accepted, but other oil-based paints will be accepted. At the time of this meeting, there was only one active case of COVID-19 in the Township, zero cases on the Island (31 total cases in the Township), and only one death in the Township as a result of the virus.

OLD BUSINESS

- *HITA Update:* Harold Bain has been trying to get a virtual meeting together for HITA to meet, but due to COVID-19 they have been unable to get it organized.



NEW BUSINESS

- *Bates Water Station:* George Covalle reported that Brad Spencer has gotten the Bates Water Station going for the season.
- *Orlo McLane Scholarship:* On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, Susan Bryson would like to award Emma Frank, a Harsen's Island resident and Algonac High School senior this year, the Orlo McLane Scholarship. Emma holds a 3.6 GPA and qualifies for this award, including outstanding references from her teachers and community. She will be attending Northern Michigan University this fall. **Barbara Crown made the motion to award the 2020 Orlo McLane Scholarship to Emma Frank, Jerry Thiel seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.**
- *Browne's Field usage:* Island Cleanup Days have been rescheduled from the first weekend in June to June 27-28, 2020. Dianne Huber is also doing Shred Day on June 13, and Barbara Crown has asked Dianne if she wouldn't mind if we hold the Trunk-to-Trunk Sale on the same day due to a scheduling conflict with Island Cleanup Days.
- *The Delta News:* The Delta News articles that have been received are all proofread and being sent in to the printer, and Barbara Crown thanked Melanie Most for her proofreading skills and assistance. There is one outstanding article that needs to be received and it should be all set. Barbara Crown indicated that \$6,245 has been paid by advertisers this year, and we will be invoicing another \$5,000 shortly. There have been some cancellations, but for the most part we've done a fantastic job holding onto our advertisers for The Delta News this year. We are moving along nicely with seeing a layout soon.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Jerry Thiel has mentioned that all car shows in the area have been cancelled through the beginning of July. Not just car shows, but many other festivals and community gatherings in the Metro Detroit area. With everything shut down, there is extreme difficulty obtaining donations for prizes for fundraising. Since many of the participants in classic car shows tend to be elderly, they are somewhat hesitant to gather in large groups until there is a clear sense of security from avoiding the virus.
- ✓ Barbara Crown needs to get the license number from Harold Stieber to get raffle tickets printed. Harold indicated he will follow up with Barbara with that information.

Next meeting will be on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

David Martin made the motion to adjourn; Lucy Burby seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

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



Clay Township Fire & EMS

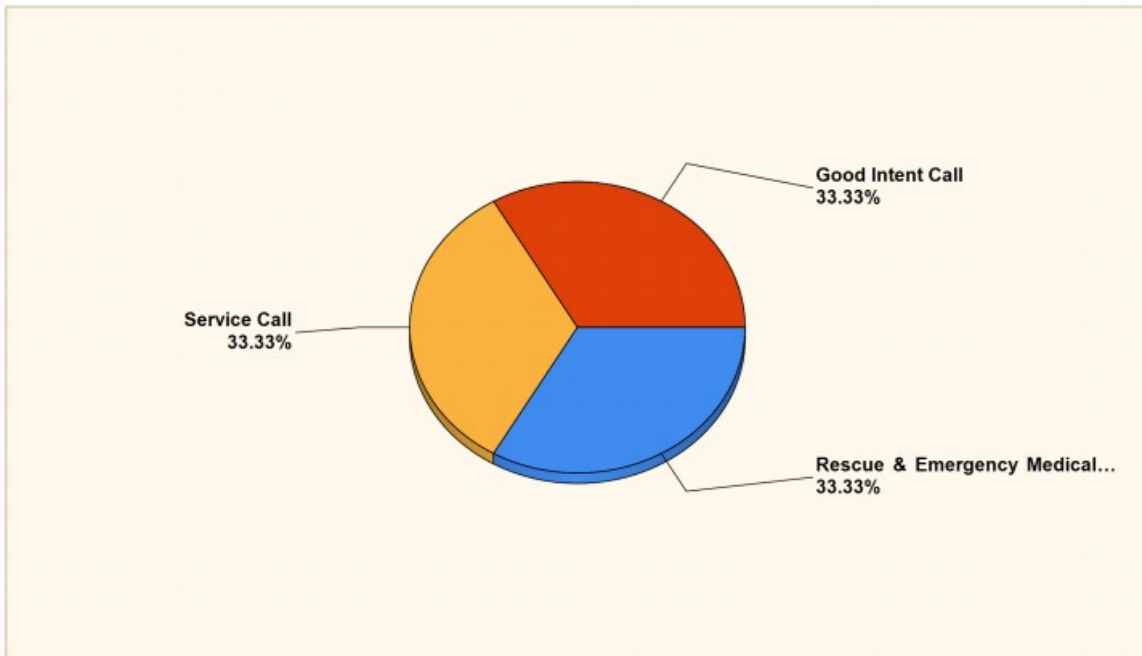
Clay Township, MI

This report was generated on 5/5/2020 1:34:56 PM



Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 04/01/2020 | End Date: 04/30/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1	33.33%
Service Call	1	33.33%
Good Intent Call	1	33.33%
TOTAL	3	100.00%