



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes August 8, 2020

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

Excused: Susan Bryson, Rosemary Wieczorek;

Guests and Members Present: Artie Bryson, David Bryson, Pete Bryson, Kathy Harrison, Chris Knight, Linda Schoonover, Joanne Shirkey, Jim Stieber, Skip Tornow.

George Covalle brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the July 2020 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for July 31, 2020 was \$44,216.04, with total cash on hand being \$101,515.75. One of the larger expenditures this month was replacing batteries and tires/wheels on the golf cart at Browne's Field. 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 July 2020 treasurer's reports, Lois Whipple seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Neva Covalle reported that there are currently 561 members this year not including The Old Club. Harold added that The Old Club memberships will be invoiced as only families now, as opposed to adult sons/daughters separate from the parents. This will drop the number of memberships from The Old Club going forward.

Communications: There were no communications received this month.

Browne's Field Committee Report: Dennis Szymanski discussed the water mitigation plan at Browne's Field to maintain the level of the pond which, in turn, levels out the water at the entire field. It was incorrectly reported (previously) that this project was completed, but there are two full days of work left to finish off the work at the Field to complete this project. The lawn and the ball field are looking great.

The Delta News Committee: The Delta News has been published and the printer will be mailing out the copies next week that were not already picked up last weekend at the Trunk-to-Trunk Sale. Barbara Crown expressed a suggestion that there will need to be a committee next year focused specifically on advertising to try to pick up new advertisers. Art Woodford has officially retired and will no longer be the editor of this publication. Barbara also stated she is pulling away from working on The Delta News, so someone will need to step forward to fill this



position(s) to coordinate the publication. Regarding the electronic signboard, most of the advertisers have paid, and Norman Rhodes is working on a new sign for next year.

Charity Car Show Committee: Jerry Thiel anticipated (save for aftermath of the coronavirus) that the annual car show should be able to go on, and the HISCFA should be able to hold a car show next year. There have only been a handful of car shows in the area this year, but the majority of the shows were cancelled throughout the state.

Great Lakes Islands Alliance: Three years ago, the HISCFA joined a consortium of islands called the Great Lakes Islands Alliance (GLIA). Harold Stieber stated that this organization is basically *for-islands-by-islands*, helping out one another. There are regular phone conferences and virtual meetings between the 15 islands that are represented, in addition to a yearly meeting at a different Great Lakes island each year. The issues that *we* have on Harsen's Island are small by comparison because other islands have a lot of tourism issues that we don't have. Harsen's Island is more of a neighborhood, and we actually share many similarities with Neebish Island. There is no cost to belong to this organization and it has been a great tool for helping solve some of the issues that each island faces. The steering committee meets every month to keep topics active and to keep progress moving. Supervisor Bryson asked Harold whether or not this group meets or discusses with the International Joint Commission, and Harold stated that they do have different committees to deal with things like high water. The committees provide guidance for whom to speak when issues like this arise.

Government Affairs Committee: Craig Baloga reported out that there is an extended state of emergency in the State of Michigan until September 4th. Persons with the virus will possibly be extended medical leave from work if they are unable to work as part of this extension of the state of emergency. President Trump may also sign an executive order to extend unemployment benefits and cut payroll taxes as part of the relief. Supervisor Bryson has been re-elected for Township Supervisor and another Islander Maureen Boury has been elected as Township Trustee. The water level updates have been provided by Paul Wargo and Jan Zboril on Nextdoor. There are fluctuating amounts of cases of COVID-19 within the county, but there remain about 3 cases in the Township but zero cases on the Island. Craig also discussed how the schools are planning to reopen, whether in-person or virtually. Chris Knight asked whether the Algonac Schools had a plan in place to restart the school year, and Supervisor Bryson stated that they do have a plan in place and they have rolled back the start date from August 25th to September 8th this fall. Melanie Most stated that the district is keeping parents updated. They have communicated to parents that if the state continues in Stage 4, parents can choose to send their children to school for in-person learning or they also have the option to keep them home and attend a virtual learning plan. If Michigan regresses to Stage 3, all learning will be done virtually and no in-person learning will be conducted. A survey was sent to parents back in June to gauge how the parents were feeling about sending children back to school amidst the COVID-19 situation, and another follow-up survey is being sent out next week to determine a final decision from parents about needs for learning (whether in-person or virtual) and whether they would require bussing for their children.

Conservation Committee: Jerry Freeman reported that he discussed with John Darling about the fact that the DNR facility on the Island has been receiving a lot of visitation from people using the property by hikers and bikers. John is also seeing a lot of young ducks and geese on the property now. The crew was able to get all the crops in by June 1st this year. The DNR Field Office on the Island has been closed since March 31st and it will remain closed. The workers hardly ever even go into the building (as they have been ordered) because of the pandemic, so if you need to communicate with the DNR on the Island, please email John Darling at darlingj@michigan.gov. John checks his email regularly but the public can't expect a prompt phone message response. Plans for property use are subject to the circumstances with the stages of the State of Michigan. Between September 1st and January 1st the property is not open to the general public since it's used for hunting operations. The DNR is looking at different ways to operate the draw this coming year.



Transportation Committee: George Covalle reported that Clay Township has approved all five of the nominees to the Harsen's Island Transportation Authority (HITA). They held their first meeting a week ago at Browne's Field and got legally constituted. Skip Tornow has been named the Secretary of HITA, and he reported that Dennis Szymanski is also on the committee; Margie Baldwin is the Chairperson, Harold Bain is the Vice Chairperson, and Gary Beaulac is the Treasurer. The next meeting will take place on August 16th at 6:00 pm at Browne's Field. Skip noted that there are ongoing discussions of how to go about publishing the minutes: for now it is on social media, but they are looking at options for websites and the timeframe for publishing them. HITA Articles of Incorporation came out of the Township in 1997, so Skip noted that there may be some changes that need to be made to those articles.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson: Supervisor Bryson discussed that the Raft Off event taking place today is very well-attended so far and the event hasn't even officially started for the day. There was already an emergency call around 2:00 am. There are road projects going on in the township that have been put off a week to accommodate the use of the road for the election. Additionally, he discussed that the fire department will be budgeting for a new airboat and that they will also be receiving two new fire engines this coming spring (one for the mainland and one for the Island). On Monday, August 17, 2020 at 6:00pm will be the Clay Township Board meeting held at Browne's Field (slightly earlier to avoid too many mosquitoes). Clay Township recently adopted the International Property Maintenance Code which will give the township the authority to fight blight better. There are a lot of weak spots in the ordinances since the planning commission needs to approve them, then it has to go through the county, and if the township is not satisfied with it when it comes back, the entire process has to start all over again.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Trunk-to-Trunk Sale*: Barbara Crown stated that the second Trunk-to-Trunk Sale was very well-attended and the Association collected \$240 for this event, and over 200 copies of The Delta News were handed out in-person. Raffle Ticket sales received \$850 already. Tickets will also be collected at Jane's Sans Souci Market for those who didn't get any tickets yet or didn't turn them in yet. The drawing for the tickets will be held at the Music in the Park event on September 12th at 7:00 pm.



NEW BUSINESS

- *Directors Terms Ending 2020:* George Covalle mentioned that the following Directors have terms ending in 2020: Craig Baloga, Barbara Crown, Jerry Freeman, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, and Lois Whipple. All have agreed to re-up for the next term, with one notable exception: Barbara Crown has announced her retirement effective December 2020. Melanie Most read Barbara's retirement letter to the group, which is available in the Appendix of this document. George Covalle noted that this leaves a significant hole in the HISCFA's support group. Barb has done so much for the Association that it's almost impossible to comprehend what she does and how she gets it all done. Barbara Crown will be missed from the Association greatly, and George mentioned that some Directors will need to step up to help out. **Jerry Thiel made a motion to accept Barbara Crown's resignation; Kathy O'Connor seconded. All in favor; motion carried.** Additionally, **Donna Halacoglu made the motion to include Barbara Crown and her husband George as Lifetime Honorary Members; David Martin seconded. All in favor; motion carried.** Next month there will be a ballot for new members to elect new officers.
- *Nominations for New President:* George Covalle's term is ending in 2021, but he would like to see where there is interest in someone else stepping in. The Board will need to decide ultimately who to elect, but George agreed to move into the Chairperson position.
- *Browne's Field Restrooms:* George Covalle introduced the initial schematics of a proposed restroom at Browne's Field. These professional drawings were performed by Islander Bob Williams. Lowell Cameron designed a septic system for the HISCFA for the facility as Bob drew it. The thought is to attach the new permanent restrooms to the existing pavilion at the west end (closest to the tennis courts). Electrical and water service already exists at this end and will need extension. As drawn, this facility is code compliant for 260 people. For reference, there is currently a one-inch water feed to the field, and there is a two-inch feed to the water station. Additional discussion will take place at next month's meeting with respect to incorporating a water station at a later date, and discussion on specifics of the restrooms will be followed up later. These initial drawings can be found in the Appendix of this document.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ George Covalle stated that Jane Cihon expressed interest about reinstating the brick paver program in downtown Sans Souci, specifically a 25'x15' area in front of Jane's Sans Souci Market. Jane stated that she needs help with advertising and selling the bricks for this effort. Neva Covalle reported that it will be some additional work to facilitate this effort, but HISCFA would be in charge of receiving donations for the bricks (so it doesn't have to go through her) and she would pay for installation. Any profits made from this effort will benefit the HISCFA directly. There are limitations to the number of letters and lines, but this is very similar to what was done in the past.
- ✓ Joanne Shirkey mentioned that she has been re-elected as a Clay Township Trustee and wanted to personally thank everyone for their continued support.
- ✓ Kathy Harrison mentioned that when she went to clean the water station there was about half an inch of water inside the station.
- ✓ Supervisor Bryson expressed his thanks for everyone's support for his re-election as Township Supervisor.
- ✓ Supervisor Bryson stated that for the Music in the Park event on September 12, the stage will be brought in for this event. He also stated that he will be looking at possibly bringing in a food truck for the event as well.



Next meeting will be Saturday, September 12, 2020 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Jerry Thiel made the motion to adjourn; Kathy O'Connor seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:14 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

Barbara Crown's Retirement Letter

Initial Drawings – Permanent Restroom Facilities at Browne's Field

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



July 28, 2020

To Board of Directors:

This is to let you know that this will be my last term on the board of directors, effective December 2020. It has been my pleasure to have served for 25 years. If I had not felt as strongly about what our organization does for our Island, I would not have served on the board for so many years.

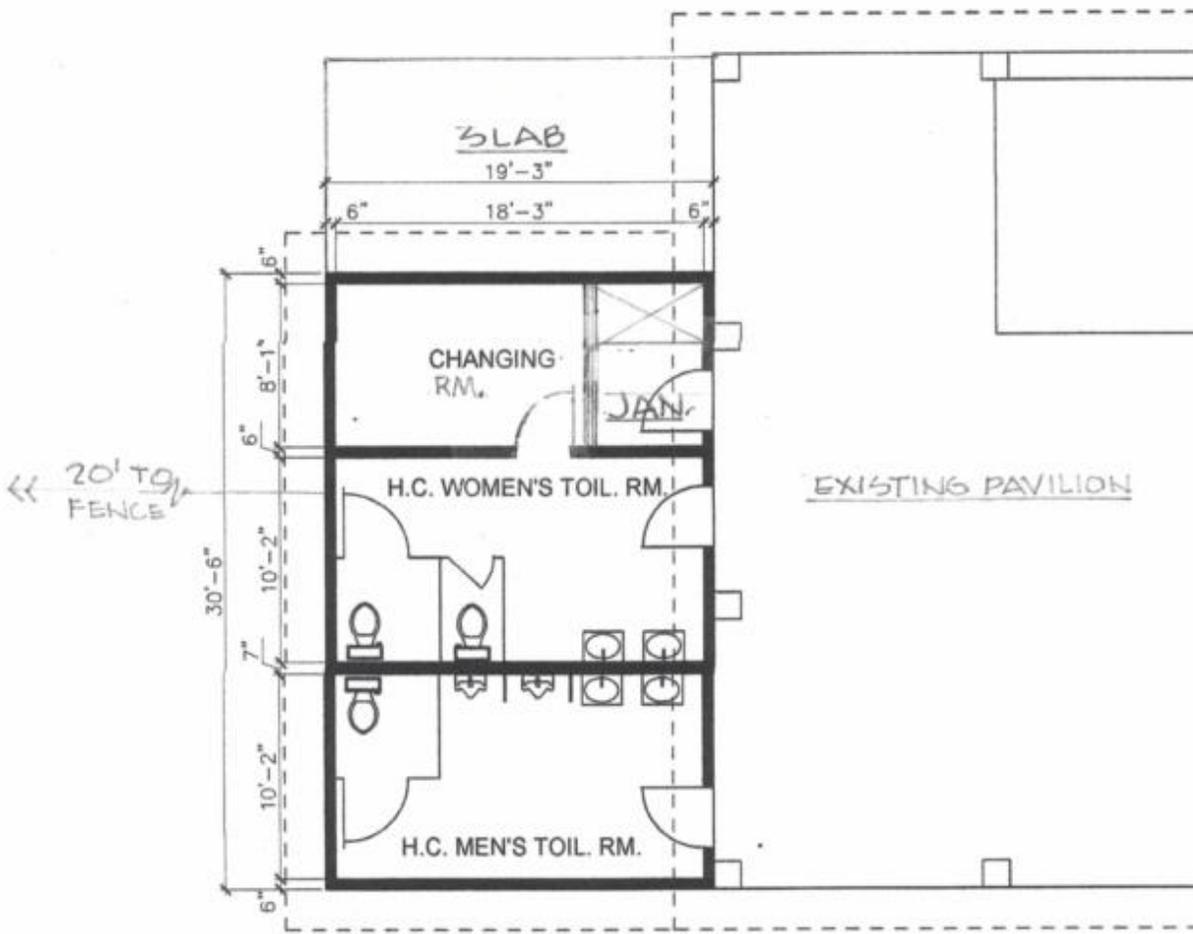
With my leaving the board, there are many areas of my responsibilities that need to be filled by other board members. I must admit, I just kept raising my hand when these areas became vacant, and now I am left with many that need replaced with other directors. If the responsibilities are spread out, they will not be as time consuming.

1. Delta News & Delta News Advertising - this is a major responsibility, and one that I have been in charge of for the total of my 25 years on the board. I would suggest that the Association go back to the Delta News run by a committee. A committee can dole out the many facets that are required to put out this magazine. I will have a comprehensive outline available for the next members who agree to take it on. If George and I are still on the island next year, I will be more than happy to assist the committee in this task.
2. The Advertising Sign board – again a job description will come with this responsibility.
3. The Water Station – water cards –a job description, and assistance. I am currently working with Todd and International Controls on an upgrade of the security into the water station.
4. Browne’s Field Rental – Rosemary Wieczorek and I have worked on this together, and she has taken this responsibility of rental and maintaining the calendar of events.
5. Field Day Children Games - I hope that these games will continue, this is certainly a fantastic draw of our families to the event.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the executive board, and part of the decision making for the Association. It has been fun as well as rewarding.

Sincerely,

Barbara Crown



TOILET ROOMS SHOWN COMPLY WITH
 CODE FOR 260 PEOPLE. ADDING
 ONE MORE WATER CLOSET IN THE
 WOMEN'S ROOM WILL INCREASE
 CAPACITY TO 390 PEOPLE.



TOILET ROOM ADDITION TO BROWNE FIELD PAVILION HARSENS ISLAND, MICHIGAN 48028	
PLAN	
PRELIMINARY 10-6-19	SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"
	PROJECT NO. 670A
ROBERT A. L. WILLIAMS, ARCHITECT 1920 ROBINA AVE., BERKLEY, MI 48072 248-388-0465 EMAIL@ROBERTALWILLIAMS.COM	SHEET 1 OF 1



Clay Township Fire & EMS

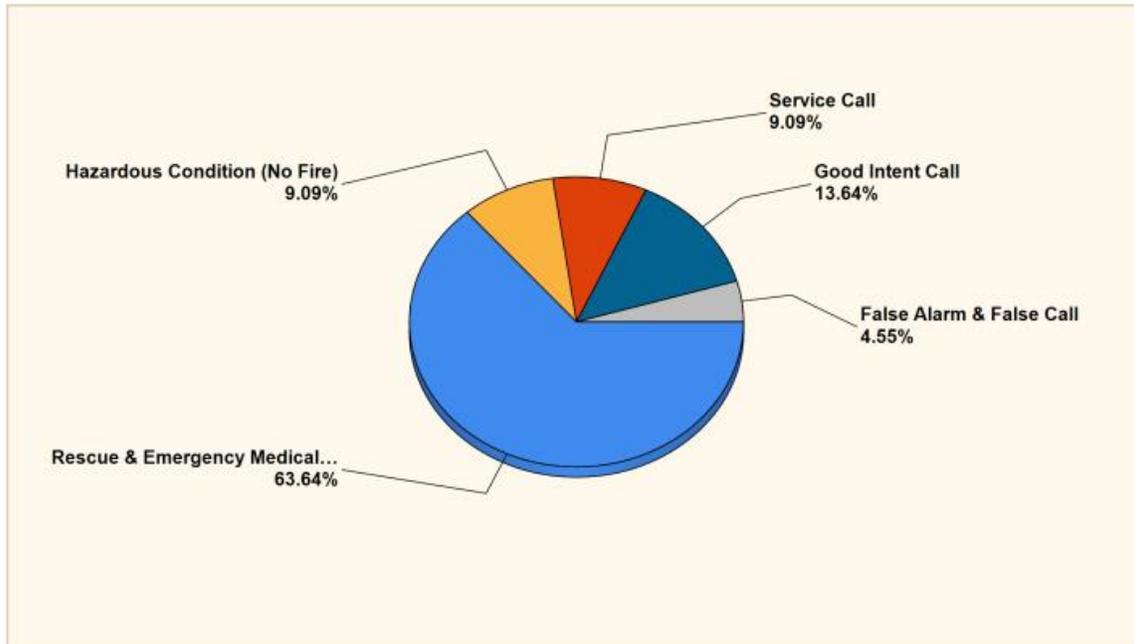
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 07/01/2020 | End Date: 07/31/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	14	63.64%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2	9.09%
Service Call	2	9.09%
Good Intent Call	3	13.64%
False Alarm & False Call	1	4.55%
TOTAL	22	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	3	13.64%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	10	45.45%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	1	4.55%
444 - Power line down	2	9.09%
500 - Service Call, other	1	4.55%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	4.55%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	1	4.55%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	2	9.09%
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1	4.55%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	22	100%