



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes October 10, 2020

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, George Covalle, Barbara Crown, Donna Halacoglu, David Martin, Melanie Most, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wieczorek;

Excused: Susan Bryson Lucy Burby, Jerry Freeman, Jim Laethem, Kathy O'Connor, Leonard Verlinden;

Guests and Members Present: George Rose, Linda Schoonover, Joanne Shirkey, Stephanie Spencer.

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

The September 2020 meeting minutes were presented. **Jerry Thiel made the motion to approve the September 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 September 2020 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for September 30, 2020 was \$28,916.23, with total cash on hand being \$90,456.08. Harold also presented a profit and loss report he created for a year-to-date comparison between 2019 and 2020 (January through September). Even due to the pandemic situation, the HISCFA is positioned nearly the same financially this year as it was last year, even without hosting the major events that are usually held. 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 September 2020 treasurer's reports, Jerry Thiel seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: There was nothing to report this month.

Communications: There were no communications received this month.

Browne's Field: Barbara Crown stated that the picnic tables need to be removed off the grounds and pulled into the barn for protection from the elements over the winter. Rosemary Wieczorek inquired about removing portable toilets from Browne's Field over the winter months. The garbage can was removed from the field to eliminate excessive dumping, but then some people began dumping their trash into the portable toilets. After much discussion, it was decided to put the garbage can back out for now, and leave one portable toilet over the winter at the field, and one on the mainland at the ferry for residents to use while they're waiting for the ferry during the winter months.

Government Affairs: Craig Baloga discussed some emails he has received regarding legislative activity within the State of Michigan and also on a federal level that may be of interest to Islanders:



- Governor Whitmer's office has announced an initiative to increase high-speed internet across the state of Michigan. For more information about the CMIC Broadband Grants, visit www.michigan.gov/cmigrant. For more information on the Connecting Michigan Taskforce visit www.michiganbusiness.org/broadband. An article regarding this subject can be found here: <https://www.michiganbusiness.org/press-releases/2020/10/gov.-whitmer-announces-initiatives-to-increase-high-speed-internet-across-michigan/>.
- Regarding the COVID-19 situation, the governor's executive orders were ruled unconstitutional and as a result there's a debate as to whether they're enforced through the end of the month or immediately. The director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) can incorporate an emergency order if the health of the people is at risk or in jeopardy. Public Health Code (Excerpt) Act 368 of 1978 located at [MCL.333.2253](http://mcl.legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx/mcl-333-2253) addresses this issue. There are several restrictions in place, and some of them are as follows: outdoor gatherings are limited to 30 people per 1,000 sq. ft. if there are no assigned seats, indoor gatherings of 10-500 people are restricted to 20 people per 1,000 sq. ft. in each room inside a building, restaurants are to remain closed indoors where alcohol is served (i.e. bars), masks are required indoors/outdoors when people are gathering from multiple households. Initial COVID-19 symptoms include fever, dry cough, achiness, and loss of taste and smell. As of October 9, 2020, theatres and bowling alleys are now open. There are 133,000 cases in the state of Michigan currently, and 6,800 deaths. In St. Clair County there are 90 active cases total at the moment.
- Governor Whitmer also passed a historic \$500 million investment to rebuild Michigan's water infrastructure, according to a press release issued on October 1, 2020. "MI Clean Water" will provide clean, affordable water to Michiganders, direct investments into communities, and support over 7,500 clean water-based jobs; Governor Whitmer calls on the legislature to work together to improve water quality Michigan that's going to help with the PFAS contamination, lead service lines, and \$35 million to failing septic system elimination. Additional information can be found within the press release located here: https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90640-541156--,00.html
- Regarding the water levels, as of October 9, 2020 the water level was recorded at 576.54 which is showing an 8-10 inch drop from the high this summer. The six month forecast shows maybe going down another 11 inches by springtime. It appears that the water level will be trending down beyond that, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: Chief Rose reported that during the month of September he attended a meeting with the St. Clair County Fire Chief's Association and also the HISCFA meeting. The Clay Township Fire Department also participated in two parades: the Peter Henkel Boat Parade and the Harsen's Island Lions Parade. The Fire Department has been doing weekly football game standbys, along with weekend TAFL Game standbys. Fire Department personnel have been working on department boat trailers, doing some preventive maintenance replacing bunks, tires, and assuring lights are working on the trailers. Chief Rose stated that he would like to thank the men and women of our department for their outstanding job during the COVID-19 pandemic and the day-to-day operation of the fire department. Last month the CTFD responded to some above average calls and the personnel of this department performed with the highest integrity and professionalism. Chief Rose would like to also thank George Crown for his efforts on designing a new patch for the CTFD which appears on the sides of the Fire Chief's pickup truck.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Music in the Park / Raffle Monies:* This event took place at 6:00 pm on Saturday, September 12, 2020. Ticket Sales revenue was \$3,971 in ticket sales, and the HISCFA paid out \$1,050 in cash prizes (first and second prize) as well as a donated YETI cooler; the raffle license was \$50, and it cost \$460 for ticket printing and \$330 for ticket mailing. There was a total of \$2,290 in expenses for the raffle, with a net profit of \$2,081. In comparison, the HISCFA showed \$1,800 less in profits last year when it was not possible to mail out the tickets. The cost of printing tickets and mailing them is absolutely worth it for the approximate \$2,000 in profit. George Covalle suggested doing a major raffle at the Car Show as well. David Martin suggested that we might be able to find a sponsor to help offset the cost in the future. Jerry Thiel mentioned that it might be difficult to do an additional raffle at the Car Show due to the two raffles that are already done. It was decided to revisit this topic at a later date.
- *Browne's Field / Permanents Restrooms fundraiser:* George Covalle stated that he met with Bob Williams to revisit the floor plan, add the janitor's closet, and provide an elevation for the facility. Images from the newly-revised plans can be found in the Appendix of this document. George was hoping to create some kind of a fundraiser to get funds going to support this project. The design for the septic field is completed, so that can be priced out soon. At this time, there is no estimate for the cost of the total project, so the first step is to get the project quoted. David Martin suggested forming a committee in which he would like to participate. Work on this fundraising effort / project committee will be conducted over the winter so that the project can be rolled out to the public in the spring and included within the membership letter. **David Martin made the motion to approve this project to work on it during the winter to associate a cost to it, and publish the plans to the membership in the spring; Dennis Szymanski seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**
- *Water Stations:* George Covalle, Harold Stieber, and Craig Baloga met at the main water station to discuss the state of the building following the plumbing updates that took place. For the building itself, some updates need to take place: paint the interior and exterior, get an epoxy floor put down, re-roof it and replace the wood roof edging (fascia and soffits), install a new entry door, and get new light fixtures both inside and out. Additionally, the coin box will be replaced with something electronic, based on the information Todd Brady shared last month. A rough estimate for the physical repair and maintenance of the building (not including the technology upgrades) is going to be around \$5,000. **David Martin made a motion to go forward with the water station repair, not to exceed \$5,000. Barbara Crown seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**
- *Wild Apricot (Membership Software):* Craig Baloga reported that there was an introductory tutorial meeting that took place a couple weeks ago to show how the program works. The website is pretty intuitive but the HISCFA needs to decide when we would like to go live with this project. It was thought this might be a good project to get started on over the winter. Contingent on rolling it out, it would be helpful if the Executive Secretary can send Christine Baloga the membership list in order to migrate it into the new database to get it started. Christine offered to get the ball rolling on this project until it can be officially handed off to the Executive Secretary and Recording Secretary for maintenance. This new site will also be helpful for fundraising electronically in the future.
- *New Directors:* George Covalle solicited feedback from persons who willingly volunteered for the HITA as to whether or not they would be interested in becoming board members for the HISCFA. George sent letters to about two dozen people. The individuals who have returned interest as new directors to the HISCFA board are as follows: Steve Gartland, Steve Lawrence, Margaret Marchwinski, Jane Mount, and Terry Wiggins. Terry is a member of the Harsen's Island Historical Society and he currently handles their membership electronically. This particular skill set may be of assistance to achieve some goals of the HISCFA. Jane Mount is also currently a Lioness, but unfortunately the Lioness organization is going to be



terminated nationally so she wishes to remain engaged within the community and the HISCFA is a great opportunity for her to do so. Furthermore she is a grant writer so she has possibly volunteered her skills for this endeavor. Steve Gartland keeps his boat on the Island but lives off the Island. Regardless, he still expressed interest in participating and becoming more involved. Steve Lawrence keeps up-to-date with the HISCFA and seemed genuinely interested in becoming a member of the board. Margaret Marchwinski is an Island resident and seemed energetic, enthusiastic, and eager to participate. **David Martin made a motion to nominate Steve Gartland, Steve Lawrence, Margaret Marchwinski, Jane Mount, and Terry Wiggins as HISCFA Board members, and officially welcome them at the next meeting; Dennis Szymanski seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

- *Executive Secretary Resignation:* George Covalle reported that Neva Covalle officially submitted her resignation as Executive Secretary for the HISCFA. Her resignation statement reads: *“To the HISCFA Executive Board, Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from the HISCFA Board of Directors and also as Executive Secretary effective immediately. I sincerely apologize for the abrupt timing, however, due to unforeseen circumstances, I have decided to resign. I will be happy to assist with the training of a replacement. Please let me know how I may be of assistance with this transition period. Sincerely, Neva Covalle.”* **David Martin made a motion to regretfully accept Neva’s resignation; Jerry Thiel seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**
- *Executive Secretary Replacement:* Rosemary Wiczorek mentioned that she is interested in taking over the role of the Executive Secretary position. **Jerry Thiel made the motion to accept Rosemary Wiczorek as Executive Secretary; David Martin seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**
- *Directors’ Christmas Party:* Barbara Crown discussed that if there is interest in holding this event, everyone would need to participate with bringing a dish to pass and having a cocktail hour. Barb stated that she would offer the Sans Souci Landing again for use for the party. The date for this party would be Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Lois Whipple and David Martin offered to assist with the setup of this party. Barb mentioned that she would coordinate the invitations to collect the RSVPs. The newly-appointed directors will be invited to the party as an on-boarding / welcoming.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Barbara Crown stated that she would like to make a nomination for a lifetime membership for Art Woodford and his wife Mary. Barb’s statement reads as follows: *“I would like to nominate Art Woodford and his wife, Mary, as lifetime members of the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Association for their outstanding 20 years of volunteer work. Art as the editor of our Delta News Magazine and Mary as editorial assistant to Art. Art has been able to bring to this yearly magazine organization, cohesiveness, pertinent articles, and a comprehensive annual report to our members year after year. Art’s tireless volunteer work on The Delta News has made it one of the top reasons our members keep coming back every year. It has been my pleasure to work with Art for these past 20 years. Even with some of the production frustrations, Art has made this an enjoyable project for me. His leadership is outstanding, not only with me but with our printer and their art staff. It has been a great honor to work with Art and his wife Mary. Art’s leadership will be greatly missed.”* **Barbara Crown made a motion to approve a lifetime membership to Art and Mary Woodford; Jerry Thiel seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**



- ✓ Barbara Crown proposed a new Browne's Field sign to be posted at the entrance to driveway. The design has been completed by Norman Rhodes and he will be erecting the sign when it is ready.
- ✓ David Martin stated that there is a trailer still missing out of the barn since the beginning of this summer. There was no license plate on it, and the trailer was purchased to move the large water tank around the field to use for power-washing the pavilion. If anyone knows its whereabouts, please inform a board member and return it immediately.
- ✓ The Bates Cut water station will be seasonally shut off as of October 31, 2020. After this point, anyone who needs access to water must purchase a card to use the main water station. Instructions to this effect are located on the door to the main water station.

Next meeting will be Saturday, November 14, 2020 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Dennis Szymanski made the motion to adjourn; Jerry Thiel seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:21 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

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

Revised Plans for Permanent Restrooms Facility at Browne's Field



Clay Township Fire & EMS

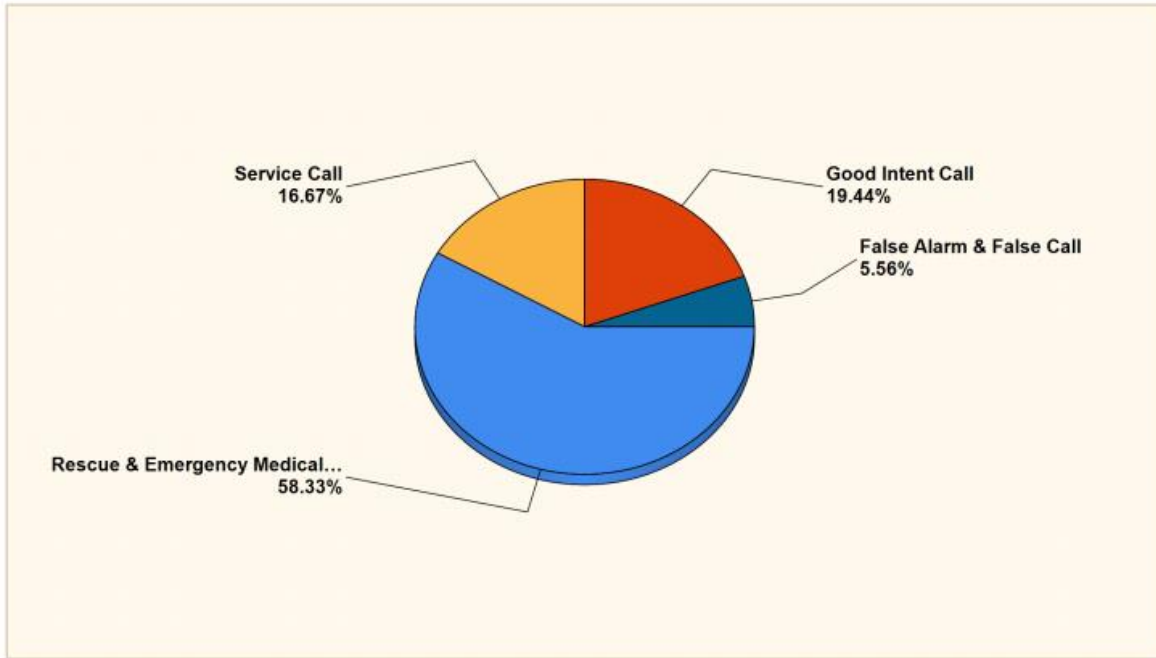
Clay Township, MI

This report was generated on 10/6/2020 2:17:10 PM



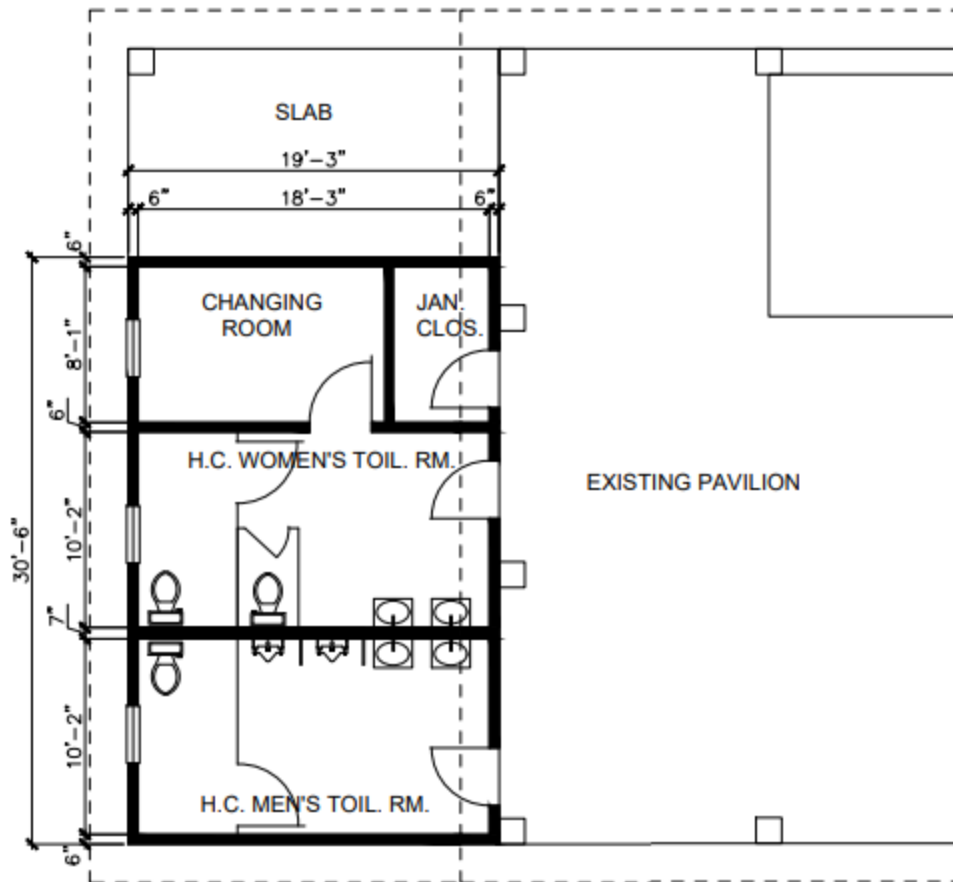
Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 09/01/2020 | End Date: 09/30/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	21	58.33%
Service Call	6	16.67%
Good Intent Call	7	19.44%
False Alarm & False Call	2	5.56%
TOTAL	36	100%

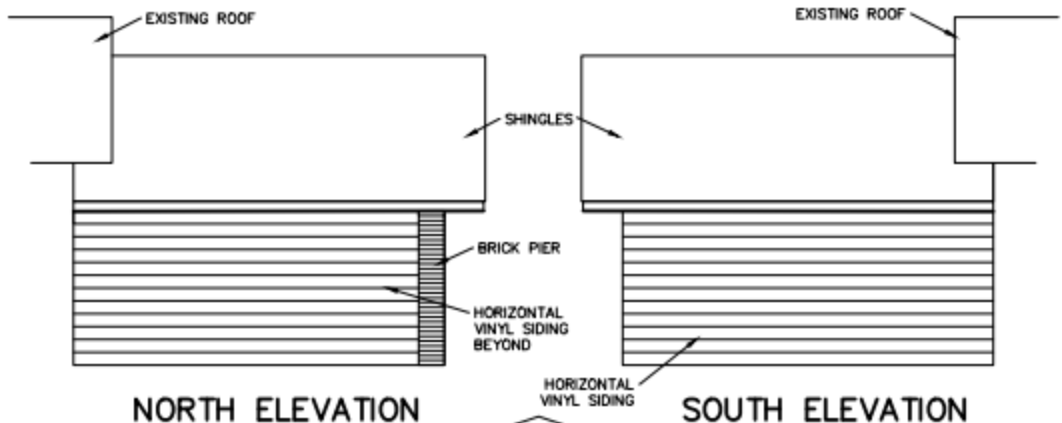
Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	6	16.67%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	15	41.67%
500 - Service Call, other	1	2.78%
550 - Public service assistance, other	1	2.78%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	4	11.11%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	6	16.67%
671 - HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	1	2.78%
700 - False alarm or false call, other	1	2.78%
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1	2.78%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	36	100%



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 9-30-20	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 2

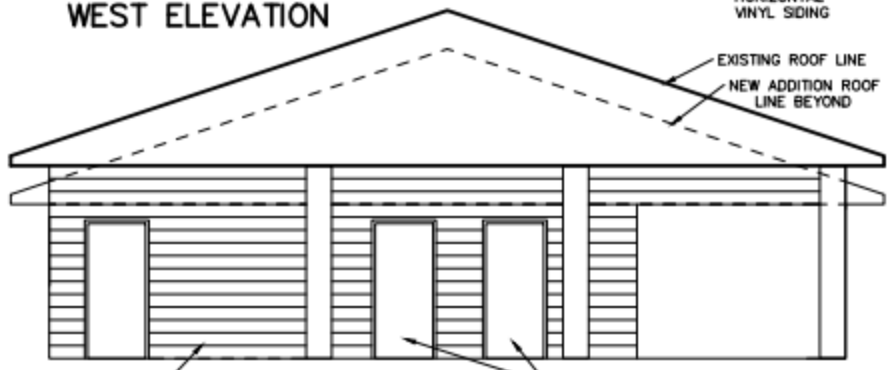


NORTH ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



TOILET ROOM ADDITION TO BROWNE FIELD PAVILION HARSENS ISLAND, MICHIGAN 48028	
ELEVATIONS	
PRELIMINARY 9-30-20	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 2 OF 2